



FAQs ON THE FEDERAL VACCINE MANDATE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

The Georgia Chamber continues to prioritize the lives and livelihoods of all Georgians and encourages vaccination, mask-wearing and adherence to CDC guidelines. As businesses navigate recovery, the Chamber is researching and gathering information on the recent news out of Washington and has compiled some baseline details regarding the vaccine mandate.

WHAT IS THE MANDATE?

On September 9, 2021, President Biden issued an executive order to require all federal workers to be vaccinated. In addition, the rule is forthcoming around specific private employers, as further defined below, needing to require employee COVID-19 vaccinations or weekly testing. [**CLICK HERE**](#) to read the existing executive order.

WHO DOES IT AFFECT?

- All federal workers and contractors must get vaccinated, with limited exceptions.
- Private employers with 100 or more workers will have to require their workers to be vaccinated or tested weekly. Employers must provide paid time off (PTO) for vaccination. The rule is expected to be issued by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration ([OSHA](#)) and will carry penalties for violations.
- All healthcare workers in hospitals, clinics and other facilities that accept Medicare and Medicaid payments must get vaccinated. The rule will be issued by [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#).
- Employees of Head Start early childhood education and other federal education programs must get vaccinated. The rule will be issued by the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS).

WHAT ABOUT MASK MANDATES AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS?

- Mask requirements will continue for interstate travel and in federal buildings. The Transportation Security Administration ([TSA](#)) will double fines on travelers who refuse to wear masks.
- The number of pharmacies offering free testing will be expanded to 10,000.
- Starting this week, Walmart, Amazon and Kroger will offer at-home COVID tests at-cost. The Defense Production Act will be used to increase the manufacture of at-home tests.

For information on COVID-19 response, please visit the Georgia Chamber website at www.gachamber.com/covid19.

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