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Bi-State Primary Care Association's Statement in Support of COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements for Health Care Staff

New Hampshire's and Vermont's community health centers are dedicated to protecting the health of their patients, staff, and communities they serve. They have an integral role in coordinating an effective public health response to the pandemic and educating their patients and community members around COVID-19 vaccines. Bi-State Primary Care Association supports implementing COVID-19 vaccine efforts, and other mitigation strategies, that ensure all Granite Staters and Vermonters are protected. This is why we support efforts to mandate or encourage COVID-19 vaccines for health care staff.

Both Vermont and New Hampshire Health Departments continue to emphasize that getting vaccinated is the most important action our citizens can take to protect the lives of ourselves and our loved ones. Getting vaccinated is also the most important step that we can take to end this pandemic and the need for mitigation measures. Current COVID-19 vaccines have been evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials, and their record of proven safety and effectiveness is unwavering: they prevent individuals from becoming seriously ill, requiring hospitalization, and dying from the virus. National statistics have shown us in recent weeks that nearly all COVID-19 deaths are in those who are not vaccinated - a powerful demonstration that most COVID-19-related deaths could have been avoided.

We are at a critical point in our battle with COVID-19, with infections dramatically on the rise, largely driven by the Delta variant. COVID-19 vaccines are still estimated to be ~80% effective at preventing infection from the Delta variant and 90-95% effective at preventing severe disease. With cold weather right around the corner and children heading back to school, now is the time for everyone who is eligible to get a vaccine.

To schedule your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, visit your Health Department's website:

- NH: www.vaccines.nh.gov or call 211
- VT: www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine or call 855-722-7878

Or, visit <https://bistatepca.org/centers> to find a community health center near you and call to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine today!

Bi-State Primary Care Association (Bi-State) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, formed by two health and social service leaders in 1986 to expand access to health care in Vermont and New Hampshire. Today, Bi-State represents 31 member organizations across both states that provide comprehensive primary care services to over 300,000 patients at 142 locations. Our members include Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), clinics for the uninsured, rural health clinics, Area Health Education Center programs, and Planned Parenthood of Northern New England.