

Colorado Board of Health
A5 - 0100
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, Colorado 80246

Madam President and Honorable Members of the Board of Health:

On behalf of our more than 100 hospital and health system members statewide, Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) thanks the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the Board of Health's consideration of rules requiring vaccination for staff in healthcare settings.

Hospitals and health systems in Colorado have been actively engaged in efforts to vaccinate communities, starting with staff, and continuing with other front-line workers and the local community population. Science has shown that the vaccines are safe and effective at substantially reducing the risks of becoming infected, spreading the virus to others, and becoming severely ill or dying from the disease.

CHA recently joined with 18 other leading health care organizations to [urge support](#) for the following steps to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- All health care employees should become vaccinated.
- Express support for health care organizations that independently adopt policies requiring COVID-19 vaccination for employees and staff, with local factors determining whether, how, and when such policies are implemented.
- Individuals ages two and older should follow CDC guidelines for mask wearing indoors, especially children returning to in-person learning this fall.

Colorado hospitals and health systems have extensive data reporting requirements that have dramatically increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. CHA urges CDPHE to work with CHA and our members to ensure flexibility and alignment with similar federal reporting requirements, especially with such a short time period in which to come into compliance.

The continued safety of our health care workforce remains a top priority, and COVID-19 vaccines are among the best tools we have to protect staff and patients in health care facilities across the state. Vaccination is the primary way we will avoid overwhelming the health care system in our state and finally put the pandemic behind us.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this rulemaking and for your commitment to strengthening public health in Colorado.

Regards,



Darlene Tad-y, MD, SFHM
Vice President, Clinical Affairs