



Hello

CommonSpirit Health announced on August 12, 2021 a requirement that all staff will be required to provide verification of full COVID-19 vaccination by November 1, 2021.

CommonSpirit Health had previously announced that verification of full influenza vaccination would also be required beginning in Fall 2021. St. Joseph's will use November 1, 2021 as a due date.

CHI St. Joseph's Health students follow the same requirements as employees as outlined through local policy. To support documentation of these 2 new requirements I have updated the student information form I use to document requirements of the Educational Affiliation Agreement (EAA) and local policy regarding your student. Please use the attached Student Information sheet for any future student onboarding.

Students who are actively onboarded or in rotation at St. Joseph's and have not received their influenza vaccine for the 2020/2021 year may wait until the 2021/2022 vaccine is available in September 2021. These students will need to provide verification of vaccination to me by November 1, 2021 to continue in a clinical rotation.

I have spoken with the employee health nurse regarding exemptions. She does not anticipate that we will allow exemptions to students, but we can have that conversation if needed. We need to learn more about how exemptions will impact our employees.

Our Community Health department in Park Rapids is able to provide COVID-19 vaccines to anyone interested. I know that they were offering Johnson & Johnson (1 dose) and Moderna (2 dose) vaccines. They can be reached at 218.237.5464.

I do NOT anticipate that we will have enough influenza vaccine doses for students. If that changes I can let you know.

Please follow up with me about any questions you have. I appreciate that this may be short notice for some schools/students and I want to work to make this as easy as possible.

Additional information from the CommonSpirit Health announcement on 8.12.2021 follows:

We are charged with caring for the most vulnerable among us. Our greatest defense against the pandemic is vaccination, and that is what we must do to protect one another and our communities, though this decision was not made lightly. We are safer vaccinated than we are unvaccinated.

We are not the first to prioritize the importance of COVID-19 vaccination for employees. States across our footprint are now requiring COVID-19 vaccination for health care workers. Today, we stand strong, linked arm-in-arm, with our medical community and other health care providers to champion COVID-19 vaccines for health care workers.

Since the pandemic began, as a health ministry and as individuals, we have taken every available precaution to help protect the health and safety of one another in our workplace, and our communities.

As an organization, CommonSpirit has made data-driven decisions. We have worn masks, remained physically distanced from each other, performed symptoms check upon facility entry, reported to work when others could not, and stayed home when unwell so others could safely perform their duties. We did this all through an unwavering call to serve, despite exhaustion and despite fear. But we are far from being finished.

Due to the highly-aggressive Delta variant, over 1800 patients are currently being treated for COVID-

19 infection across our ministry, quadrupling in just one month. We expect the rate to continue to increase in the coming weeks.

Thank you, Janine

Janine Brostrom, BSN, RN, NPD-BC

Education Coordinator

CHI St. Joseph's Health

600 Pleasant Avenue, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Phone (Office): 218-616-3385

Fax: 218-616-3378

Email Address: janinebrostrom@catholichealth.net

janine.brostrom@commonspirit.org

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.” ~ Albert Einstein

CHI St. Joseph's Health Vision . . . A great place to work, A great place to practice, A great place to receive healthcare.