John Bel Edwards
GOVERNOR

Dr. Courtney N. Phillips
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2021

TO: Medicaid Providers

FROM: Louisiana Medicaid

SUBJECT: Vaccination Requirements to Expand for Healthcare Settings

---

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), announced on September 9, 2021 that emergency regulations requiring vaccinations for nursing home workers will expand to include hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, and home health agencies, among others. The decision was based on the continued and growing spread of the virus in health care settings, especially in parts of the U.S. with higher incidence of COVID-19.

With this expansion of emergency regulations, requiring vaccinations will be a condition for participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The COVID-19 vaccination requirement of staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities will protect both health care workers and patients from the virus and its more contagious Delta variant. Health care workers employed in these facilities who are not currently vaccinated are urged to begin the vaccination process immediately. Facilities shall use all available resources to support employee vaccinations, including employee education and clinics, as they work to meet new federal requirements.

CMS is developing an Interim Final Rule with Comment Period that will be issued in October. CMS expects certified Medicare and Medicaid facilities to act in the best interest of patients and staff by complying with new COVID-19 vaccination requirements.

This new requirement will protect patients of the 50,000 providers and over 17 million health care workers in Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities. CMS will continue to work closely with all Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities to ensure these new requirements are met.

Read more about the announcement here on the CMS website.