



## **Statewide Policy on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination**

### **Statement of Policy**

In keeping with a commitment to patient safety and aligned with hospitals' ongoing role in protecting public health from COVID-19, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) has adopted a consensus, statewide policy endorsing mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for hospital and health system employees and clinical staff. The adoption of the policy reflects a commitment by Connecticut's hospitals to implement it in their organizations.

### **Background**

Connecticut hospitals and health systems have been on the front lines of the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitals and health systems quickly expanded capacity, including critical care capacity, to care for more than 36,000 COVID-19 patients since the spring of 2020. They also assumed a significant public health role, collaborating with state leadership, administering tens of thousands of COVID-19 tests, and, most recently, leading the successful effort to administer hundreds of thousands of COVID-19 vaccines.

The available COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Data show high levels of efficacy of all CDC-recommended vaccines. Hospitals and health systems have aggressively promoted the vaccine as the most effective way to curb the spread of COVID-19, reduce hospitalizations, and protect public health.

The effort to vaccinate Connecticut residents began with hospitals and health systems offering the COVID-19 vaccine and encouraging vaccination of all of their employees and clinical staff. That access remains available.

Protecting patients, visitors, and healthcare personnel from COVID-19 continues to be of paramount importance, as is public health leadership. The most effective way to meet these commitments is to require hospital and health system employees and clinical staff, regardless of position, to be vaccinated against COVID-19.