



DOL COVID-19 Connection

LET'S GET VACCINATED

November 4, 2021



Monday, November 8th, 2021

is the **final day** to obtain your second dose in a two-dose series OR your first dose in a one-dose series to be fully vaccinated by the November 22nd vaccine requirement deadline. You must also **upload proof of vaccination documentation** in [VaxTrak](#) **within five business days** of receiving a vaccine dose. If you get a required vaccine dose during your tour of duty, you must [use duty time rather than administrative leave](#).

Did You Know?

[COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective](#), and they have undergone and continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from COVID 19, especially severe illness and death, including from variants of the virus currently circulating, such as the Delta variant.



You may have side effects after vaccination, but these are normal signs that your body is building protection. People can sometimes get COVID-19 after being fully vaccinated. However, this only happens in a small proportion of people, even with the Delta variant. When these infections occur among vaccinated people, they tend to be mild. Regardless of whether you have already had COVID-19, you should get vaccinated. [Evidence is emerging](#) that people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19.


Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, including the vast majority of your DOL colleagues.

“There was no question in my mind that my family and I would get vaccinated as soon as it was available. And when that time came, I made sure I registered all of us. Unfortunately, in the midst of both vaccines, I tested positive. I was thankful that I had already received the first dose when it happened, as I only had a little bit of downtime and did not have any severe problems. As Americans, we often take for granted what we have. There are countries who are still waiting for vaccines, and if they are available, they are never free. For some, it is a choice between their daily living allowance or the vaccination cost. Please, let’s get vaccinated so that we can at least return to what normal used to be.”

— **Gerichel Escueta, OWCP**

Get your vaccine today.

[Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) | Text your ZIP code to 438829 | Call 1 800 232 0233

If you would like to provide a testimonial about your vaccination experience or have ideas about how we can promote vaccination, please email  with “Testimonial” or “Vaccine Encouragement” in the subject line.

Vaccines Available for Children Ages 5-11



On October 29, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine shot for children ages 5 through 11. Following the FDA’s approval, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended on November 2, 2021, that everyone ages 5 years and older should get a COVID-19 vaccination to help protect against COVID-19. This will protect the children and will also slow the spread of COVID-19 across the country.

DOL employees are granted administrative leave to accompany family members who are receiving any dose of a COVID-19 vaccination. Employees may use up to four hours of administrative leave per dose – for example, up to a total of 12 hours of leave for a family member receiving three doses – for each family member the employee accompanies.

The Latest on Booster Shots

Federal employees are required to be fully vaccinated (defined as two weeks past one's second shot in a two dose series or two weeks past one's first dose in a single dose series) by November 22, 2021. At this time, the CDC definition of "fully vaccinated" does not include or require any booster shots or additional doses. However, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) announced](#) that certain people are now eligible to receive a COVID 19 booster shot, including those who received Moderna and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. If you and your medical professional determine a booster shot is right for you, you may use [administrative leave](#) to obtain one, and you do not need to record it in [VaxTrak](#) at this time.



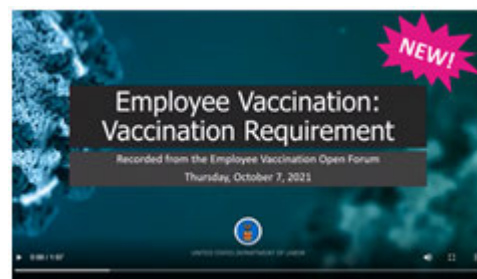
Booster shots work to increase your immune response. If you plan to receive or have previously received the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, you can select any of the FDA approved vaccinations to include an mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) as a booster shot after two months.

New Video Resources

You asked, and we answered!

Q: Who does the vaccination requirement in the [Executive Order](#) apply to?

A: The requirement applies to all DOL employees, including those who are not currently performing onsite or in-person work, but does allow for exceptions, as required by law, for reasonable accommodations for a qualifying medical condition or a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance. [See DOL's Chief Human Capital Officer \(CHCO\), Sydney Rose, explain the vaccination requirement further \(1 min\).](#)



Q: When should I use duty time vs. administrative leave for vaccination-related activities?

A: If you get your vaccine during your tour of duty, please charge to [duty time](#) rather than administrative leave. However, [administrative leave](#) should be used for time spent obtaining an additional dose (including a booster shot) or taking a family member to a vaccine appointment.

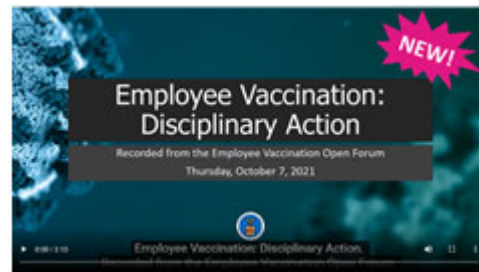
[See DOL's CHCO Sydney Rose explain time charging guidance related to the vaccination requirement \(2 mins 30 sec\).](#)



Q: What are the consequences for noncompliance with the vaccination requirement?

A: If a DOL Federal employee continues to refuse to be vaccinated or provide proof of vaccination, absent being granted a reasonable accommodation for a qualifying medical condition or a sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance, DOL will pursue disciplinary measures, consistent with OPM guidance

and up to and including removal from Federal service. [See more about disciplinary action related to the vaccination requirement from CHCO Sydney Rose \(3 min\).](#)



For questions about the vaccine requirement, please reach to your [DOL VaxTrak Agency Point of Contact](#). For more FAQs, visit the [DOL COVID-19 FAQ LaborNet page!](#)

Check out these and other resources on the [DOL COVID-19 LaborNet page!](#)

- [VaxTrak Info Page](#)
- [Vaccine Info Page](#)
- [DOL VaxTrak Agency Points of Contact](#)
- [State-specific COVID-19 Vaccine Records](#)
- [DOL Workplace Safety Plan](#)
- [DOL Reentry and Post-Reentry Plan](#)

Questions? Please email us at

