



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20210929-00544-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
September 29, 2021
SUBJECT: Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility
Employee Vaccination

STATE HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 41-23-1 et. seq. and the State of Emergency Declaration by the Governor of the State of Mississippi related to the coronavirus COVID-19 issued on March 14, 2020, I, Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health, hereby issue this statewide Order requiring vaccination or twice weekly testing of all paid and unpaid Mississippi Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility healthcare workers, staff and employees effective September 30, 2021 until December 31, 2021, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

Mississippi Licensed Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility Staff/Employee COVID-19 Vaccination/Testing

1. All healthcare workers, staff and employees* of Mississippi nursing homes and assisted living facilities are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19** or receive COVID-19 testing two times weekly.
2. Either antigen or molecular testing may be employed for twice weekly testing of unvaccinated healthcare workers, staff and employees.
3. All nursing home and assisted living facility healthcare workers, staff and employees who test positive shall be immediately excluded from the setting and remain in isolation for at least 10 days after the date of the positive test.
4. If confirmatory testing with a molecular test (e.g., PCR), collected within 48 hours for **asymptomatic** staff who test positive by an antigen test, is negative, no further exclusion or isolation is necessary.

*Healthcare workers, staff and employees include (but are not limited to) physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, security, maintenance, administrative, billing, and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted to and from healthcare workers, staff and employees and patients.

**An individual is considered fully vaccinated ≥ 2 weeks after final dose in a COVID-19 vaccine series (two doses of mRNA vaccination (Pfizer or Moderna products) or one dose of Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine).

This the 29 day of September, 2021.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

570 East Woodrow Wilson • Post Office Box 1700 • Jackson, MS 39215-1700
601-576-8090 • 1-866-HLTHY4U • www.HealthyMS.com

Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services



See [Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#) for COVID-19 vaccine resources.

Infection Control in Mississippi Nursing Homes

1. Continue to adhere to the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic available at [Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) | CDC](#).
2. Adhere to the Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes available at [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes | CDC](#).



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20210929-00544-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00544
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Message Type:

Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).