



American College of Health Care Administrators

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**PRESS RELEASE**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**A Message from ACHCA Leadership**

**Statement regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations**

**Washington, DC – August 24, 2021** – The American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) is grateful for the current administration’s efforts to mandate vaccinations in long-term care settings to protect the elders and older adults we serve each day. We do not believe, however, this course of action is encompassing enough to have the desired effect by targeting only nursing home and skilled nursing facility settings. We believe the approach from the Biden administration and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) should make the vaccine mandatory for all health care employees in all settings along the continuum of care, including other care settings reimbursed through the Medicare and Medicaid programs. We are gravely concerned that this new mandate will only serve to perpetuate and exacerbate the critical workforce shortage the long-term care industry is currently experiencing. Preliminary evidence already suggests a departure of essential caregivers (e.g., CNAs, nurses) who diligently work to care for residents in care settings. Providing high-quality care to our residents requires a substantial and dedicated workforce and we are concerned that this mandate will lead long-term care workers to leave the industry to other health care settings, including those reimbursed through Medicare and Medicaid, where the vaccine has not been mandated. We strongly urge the administration and DHHS to carefully consider a broad vaccine mandate policy to assure the unintended effects of mass staff departures do not negatively affect the care and services provided to older adults in nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities across the country. We would welcome additional conversations on this matter and willingly offer to work with the administration to promulgate new standards to address this very important issue.

**About ACHCA**

Founded in 1962, the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA) is the only professional association devoted solely to meeting the professional needs of today's post-acute and aging services leaders. Focused on advancing leadership excellence, ACHCA provides professional education and recertification to administrators from across the spectrum of long-term care. For more information about ACHCA, contact the national office at (800) 561-3148 or visit [www.achca.org](http://www.achca.org).