



DATE: August 16, 2021

TO: Assemblymembers and Assembly Staff

FROM: Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon

SUBJECT: New COVID Vaccination Policy

Entering the last few weeks of legislative session, I want to acknowledge the incredible work Assembly staff has done.

Your work has kept the Assembly functioning in the face of COVID, its restrictions and its ever-changing demands. The pandemic has taxed you and your families, sometimes with terrible costs.

I'm grateful for what we have accomplished, and I want to do whatever I can to make our workplace even safer than it has been.

The great majority of staff – more than 80 percent - has already been fully vaccinated against COVID. I'm proud that this rate is far above the state rate – about 54 percent. It makes our next step clear.

I am requiring, with the support of Assemblymembers, that by September 1 every Assembly employee begin the process of getting fully vaccinated. That gives us two weeks to begin maximum protection for our staff and for visitors to the Capitol. If we can take more steps to protect staff, we will.

Employees who are unable to be vaccinated for medical or religious reasons should contact Assembly Rules Committee Human Resources at (916) 319-3700 for guidance on exemptions.

Having a fully vaccinated staff will make the California State Assembly a national leader in COVID safety. We cannot end COVID alone, but we can take steps to move us in the right direction and to lead by example. Acting together offers a way to get beyond this pandemic.

Memo to Assemblymembers and Assembly Staff  
August 16, 2021  
Page 2

By doing this, the Assembly will also be providing additional protection for anyone entering the Capitol, including lobbyists, delivery people, tourists, and Senate and Administration employees. Even during recess, visitors tallied hundreds of people each day. Vaccination is our best bulwark against transmission, even in the face of the Delta variant.

Therefore, this requirement is mandatory and violations may be subject to adverse action, up to and including termination of employment. All unvaccinated employees working in the Capitol or the Legislative Office Building (LOB) are required to have daily testing for infection until they have completed the vaccine regimen. Vaccinated employees whose job requires floor and committee hearing participation will be tested twice a week. Once tested, staff must not report to their work stations until they receive a negative test result.

This policy will create a safer workplace and support the four out of five employees who have already taken the important step of vaccination. We will continue to help those who have not been vaccinated to comply, including appropriate leave for vaccination and vaccination reactions, which Assembly employees are already entitled to.

The Assembly will sponsor vaccination clinics on several upcoming workdays for the convenience of employees. For those working in district offices and elsewhere, the Capitol Health Services Clinic or Assembly Rules Committee can provide referrals for the most convenient local vaccination locations.

Again, I want to thank staff for what you have done already, and thank you in advance for joining me on this effort to stamp out COVID. It is how we can again show California's leadership, and demonstrate our high standards of public service.