



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 2, 2021

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PRESS ADVISORY:

Missouri's Largest Nurses Association Supports Workplace Mandates and Strongly Encourages All Healthcare Workers to Get Vaccinated

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, AUGUST 2, 2021 –

With the vaccine rollout beginning in December 2020, Missouri's nurses were the first in line to receive these lifesaving vaccines. Now, eight months since those first nurses rolled up those sleeves, the Missouri Nurses Association (MONA) stands with employers that are requiring all their nurses and healthcare workers to be vaccinated. MONA also supports the American Nurses Association's updated statement on Immunizations and recommends all nurses be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus to protect themselves, patients, and family members.

As nurses, we advocate for our patients and for public health by getting vaccinated and by educating the public with evidence-based facts about the benefits and safety of the COVID vaccines. We, as individual nurses and as a profession, have an ethical responsibility to our patients, and to all Missourians, that when it comes to fighting this pandemic, one of our strongest weapons is getting everyone vaccinated who are eligible in order to avert avoidable deaths.

Our Association did not come to this stance lightly, we have heard and observed the uneasiness of many who have chosen to not be vaccinated. However, it is the view of the Missouri Nurses Association, that out of respect for the many nurses who did their ethical duty of getting the vaccine and are now caring for increased numbers of COVID-19 positive patients and vulnerable populations, to strongly encourage those healthcare workers who have not been vaccinated to get vaccinated.

MONA continues to ask all everyone eligible or compatible with vaccination to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and follow the recommendations of public health officials as new cases of the highly contagious Delta variant surge in many communities. Vaccinations are one of our greatest public health achievements and are critical to continue stemming the spread and resulting disease, disability, and death related to COVID-19.

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