

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

POLICY

WSBA VOLUNTEER COVID-19 VACCINATION MANDATE FOR WSBA IN-PERSON MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Approved August 21, 2021

Amended March 11, 2022

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in Washington; and on March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency due to the COVID-19 outbreak across the United States; and on February 24, 2021, President Biden continued the national emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Washington has strongly encouraged the Washington State Bar Association to adopt and implement similar vaccination requirements for their Workers as set forth in their order No. 25700-B-669 of August 18, 2021, mandating vaccines for all Supreme Court workers, which includes any “employee, independent contractor, service provider, volunteer, or through any other formal or informal agreement to provide goods or services, whether compensated or uncompensated”; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of every employer to protect the health and safety of employees by establishing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment and by requiring all volunteers who appear in-person at our events or on-site at our facilities, to comply with health and safety measures; and

WHEREAS, the WSBA has regulatory functions and provides services, to the members and the public in every county in our state with the use of volunteers, and many of our volunteers have the potential to interact with the members, the staff, or the public on a regular basis, and they all interact with some portion of the community at large to varying degrees before and/or after volunteer hours;

and

WHEREAS this board has the authority to set policies that are reasonably necessary for carrying out and fulfilling its duties under GR 12, RCW 2.48, and our Bylaws.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following policy applicable to volunteers is hereby ADOPTED:

1. **Prohibitions.** This policy prohibits any volunteer, including the Board of Governors, from engaging in in-person volunteer work for the WSBA, or as a representative of WSBA, if the volunteer has not been fully vaccinated, which includes a booster dose, against COVID-19. A volunteer must either be vaccinated or qualify for an exemption to be eligible to volunteer in-person or on-site.
2. **Exemptions from Vaccine Requirement.**
 - a) Volunteers are not required to get vaccinated against COVID-19 if they are entitled under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD), or any other applicable law to a disability-related reasonable accommodation or a sincerely held religious belief accommodation to the requirements of this order.
 - b) To the extent permitted by law, before providing a disability-related reasonable accommodation to the requirements of this order, the WSBA must obtain from the individual requesting the accommodation documentation from an appropriate healthcare or rehabilitation professional authorized to practice in the State of Washington stating that the individual has a disability that necessitates the accommodation and the probable duration of the need for the accommodation.
 - c) To the extent permitted by law, before providing a sincerely held religious belief accommodation to the requirements of this policy, the WSBA must document that the request for an accommodation has been made and the document must include a statement regarding the way in which vaccinations conflict with the religious observance, practice, or belief of the volunteer.

- d) Reasonable accommodations will be determined by the Executive Director on an individualized basis and, where a volunteer is exempt from this mandate, accommodations may include but are not limited to requirements to wear a mask, obtain viral testing regularly, socially distance, appear virtually, or work remotely.
- e) Like the Independent Contractors mentioned in §4(c) of the Supreme Court's Order this policy applies to volunteers only when their services are performed in person or on site, regardless of frequency, and regardless of whether other staff or volunteers are present.

3. Acceptable Proof of Full Vaccination Against COVID-19: Where required above, volunteers

for the WSBA must provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. Acceptable proof may include:

- a) CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or photo of the card;
- b) Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record;
- c) State immunization information system record;
- d) Other forms approved by Human Resources.

Personal attestation is not an acceptable form of verification of COVID-19 vaccination.

This policy will take effect on 8/22/21 and shall remain in effect until further policy change.

Approved by the WSBA Board of Governors on August 21, 2021.



Kyle D. Sciuchetti, WSBA# 26264
WSBA President, 2020-2021