



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20220105-00549-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Wednesday, January 5, 2022
SUBJECT: Nursing Home Staff Employee Vaccination Testing

STATE HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 41-23-1 et. seq. I, Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health, hereby issue this statewide Order requiring twice weekly testing of all paid and unpaid Mississippi Nursing Home and Assisted Living Facility healthcare workers, staff and employees who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 effective January 5, 2022, until March 31, 2022, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

Mississippi 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 for COVID-19 or receive COVID-19 testing two times weekly.
2. Those with a documented COVID-19 infection in the previous 90 days do not have to test for that 90 day period.
3. Either antigen or molecular testing may be employed for twice weekly testing of unvaccinated healthcare workers, staff and employees.
4. All nursing home healthcare workers, staff and employees who test positive shall be immediately excluded from the setting and remain in isolation per CDC guidelines.
5. 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.

** Staff are considered fully vaccinated if they have completed at least 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or at least 1 dose of Johnson and Johnson per CDC guidelines.

This the 5th day of January 2022.

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

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Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20220105-00549-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00549
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

Message Type:

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- Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded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



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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)).