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Superintendent Update 9-21-21: Mandated COVID-19 Staff Vaccinations

2 messages

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To: BPS-Staff <BPS-Staff@barringtonschools.org>

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Barrington Public Schools
Empowering All Students to Excel

September 20, 2021

Good afternoon,

I hope that everyone's school year is off to a great start! I would like to inform you of various health and safety measures that the School Committee has taken regarding vaccinations.

On August 24, 2021, the Committee adopted amendments to its policy pertaining to COVID-19, including a mandate that all employees be "fully vaccinated" by no later than November 1, 2021. A copy of the Policy can be found [here](#). "Fully vaccinated" within the meaning of the policy means that you have received all recommended dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or World Health Organization. It does not mean that two weeks have elapsed since your last vaccine dose. We ask that you provide proof that you have received the requisite number of doses by November 1, 2021, to Director of Administration and Finance Douglas Fiore through our vaccination portal linked [here](#). Please be aware if you chose not to comply with the policy Barrington Public Schools may have no choice but to take employment action to end your service with the District.

The November 1 mandate is subject to "certain exemptions to be implemented in accordance with federal and state law." We shall evaluate any requests for a "religious exemption" in accordance with federal and state law. If you believe that your sincerely held religious belief and/or bona fide religious practice conflicts with the Policy's vaccine mandate, kindly submit in writing your request to Director Fiore at your earliest opportunity. This will ensure sufficient time for our office to review in advance of the November 1st deadline.

We shall evaluate requests for a medical exemption by following the definition set forth by the Rhode Island Department of Health at 216-RICR-20-15-8. This means that you may be medically exempt from being required to be vaccinated provided that a licensed physician, physician assistant or advance practice registered nurse signs a medical exemption in which they attest that you are so exempt from the COVID-19 vaccine because of medical reasons, in accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines. We shall make available a form [here](#) for you to use and present to your licensed physician, physician assistant or advance practice registered nurse if you believe that you may qualify for such medical exemption. Please contact Director

Fiore for further information.

Finally, in addition to the Committee mandate set forth in its Policy, those employees who hold a license from the Rhode Island Department of Health may be a "health care provider" with the meaning of emergency regulations recently issued by the RIDOH. Several Barrington Public School employees, including social workers, nurse-teachers, physical therapists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, and some school psychologists, typically hold such licenses. The RIDOH regulations, which can be found [here](#) include a mandate to receive the requisite number of vaccine doses by October 1, 2021. If you are a health care provider and violate any provision of the regulations, including the vaccine mandate, you may be subject to administrative action by the RIDOH, among other consequences. Please be aware, moreover, that if your license is revoked or suspended, Barrington Public Schools may have no choice but to take employment action to end your service with the District.

We thank you for your attention to this important information. Please contact us with any questions and concerns.

We are working hard to ensure a safe, healthy, and productive 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you.

Mike

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