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SSM Health urges the public to get vaccinated against COVID-19; requires all team members to be vaccinated by late September

MADISON, WI (June 28, 2021) – As the new, highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus spurs another wave of infections throughout the U.S., SSM Health urges all eligible individuals to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as quickly as possible.

“These vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective at providing long-lasting immunity to COVID-19,” said Matt Hanley, MD, SSM Health Wisconsin Interim Regional President. “However, we haven’t yet reached a level of vaccination that provides herd immunity, which is why we’re continuing to see dangerous surges in many communities.”

We know these vaccines are safe and effective, with a nearly 100 percent efficacy rate in preventing severe disease, hospitalization and death. In the seven months since administering its first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, SSM Health’s Wisconsin Region has administered more than 263,000 doses to employees and community members.

As a health care system, SSM Health believes in leading by example and will now require all its nearly 40,000 employees, providers and volunteers across the System’s four state service area to be fully vaccinated by the end of September – ahead of the annual cold and influenza season, which could lead to a rapid rise in respiratory viral infections. To date, 77 percent of employees in Wisconsin have been vaccinated.

“As health care providers, we’ve seen the devastating impact of this disease firsthand,” said Dr. Hanley. “The fight against COVID-19 is not yet over. We must continue to be vigilant in doing everything we can to protect our team members, patients and communities.”

In announcing the move, SSM Health joins numerous health systems across the country in making the vaccine mandatory.

SSM Health team members can request an exemption for medical or religious reasons, which is consistent with the health ministry’s practice for other required vaccines.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Hanley or Mo Kharbat, SSM Health Wisconsin Vice President of Pharmacy Services, please call or email Lisa Adams at (608) 206-5628 or lisa.adams@ssmhealth.com.

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About SSM Health

SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit health system serving the comprehensive health needs of communities across the Midwest through a robust and fully integrated health care delivery system. The organization's nearly 40,000 employees and 11,000 providers are committed to providing exceptional health care services and revealing God's healing presence to everyone they serve.

With care delivery sites in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, SSM Health includes 23 hospitals, more than 290 physician offices and other outpatient and virtual care services, 10 post-acute facilities, comprehensive home care and hospice services, a pharmacy benefit company, a health insurance company and an accountable care organization. It is one of the largest employers in every community it serves. For more information, visit ssmhealth.com or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).