



M E M O R A N D U M

October 21, 2022

TO: All Extension Faculty, Staff & Volunteers

FROM: Vicki McCracken, Associate Dean and Director

Vicki A. McCracken

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement

Due in part to the success of previous COVID-19 vaccination efforts, Washington State University will eliminate the employee, contractor, and **volunteer** COVID-19 vaccine requirement (in most settings). The requirement will be lifted in coordination with Governor Inslee's [announcement](#) that all remaining COVID-19 emergency orders and the state of emergency in Washington will end by Oct. 31, 2022.

WSU strongly **encourages** the university community to follow the recommendations provided by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [Washington State Department of Health](#). This includes getting vaccinated and receiving an updated, bivalent COVID-19 booster, if eligible, as vaccinations remain the most effective tool at preventing hospitalization and death due to COVID-19.

I realize this mandate created difficulties within our volunteer programs and anticipate the rescission may, additionally, raise concern among some volunteers. Those volunteers who chose a leave of absence in lieu of meeting the vaccination mandate should contact their program coordinators/faculty to initiate the process of becoming fully certified. Volunteers are encouraged to use personal protection interventions (masks, physical distancing, etc.) if they would like. Please keep in mind, the wearing of a mask is a personal decision and should not be questioned or discussed by others.

Thank you to our many volunteers, community partners and program supporters for your understanding and patience as we have faced the pandemic and implemented sometimes difficult policies. We look forward to moving ahead with our programs as we work to assist Washington communities in becoming more resilient.