

Oregon healthcare workers to get COVID vaccine or be tested

By Sara Cline
The Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon healthcare workers will be required to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing, Gov. Kate Brown announced Wednesday.

Officials say the new rule will apply beginning September 30 — giving time for employers to prepare for implementation and for unvaccinated health care workers to become fully vaccinated.

“The more contagious Delta variant has changed everything. This new safety measure is necessary to stop Delta from causing severe illness among our first line of defense: our doctors, nurses, medical students, and front-line healthcare workers,” Brown said.

Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority to issue the new rule, which applies broadly to personnel in healthcare settings who have direct or indirect contact with patients or infectious materials. The rule requires weekly COVID-19 testing for personnel and can be waived with proof of vaccination.

A state law enacted in 1989 prohibits employers from independently mandating vaccines for certain

limited categories of workers, including healthcare workers. But a spokesperson from the governor’s office says the new rule does not conflict with the law.

“This is not a requirement for vaccination, rather, the OHA administrative rule gives healthcare personnel a choice between weekly testing or providing proof of vaccination,” said Charles Boyle, Brown’s deputy communications director.

In addition, Brown says she intends to work with stakeholders and lawmakers to address the existing law during the February 2022 legislative session.

As COVID-19 surges across the State,

leading health organizations — including the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems — have been pressing State leaders to open the door for healthcare organizations to enact vaccination mandates.

The Oregon Nurses Association and Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems applauded the governor’s directive.

“This is a reasonable and sensible approach, which respects the individual choices of healthcare workers while also protecting public health,” the Oregon Nurses Association said in a statement.

On Monday, officials at Kaiser Permanente, one

of Oregon’s largest private health systems, announced that healthcare workers, along with the rest of its staff, would be required to get vaccinated. The only exemptions are for medical or religious reasons.

“Making vaccination mandatory is the most effective way we can protect our people, our patients, and the communities we serve,” CEO Greg A. Adams said in an online statement.

Kaiser serves approximately 12.5 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia. So far nearly 78 percent of the 216,000 employees have been vaccinated and 95 percent of Permanente Medical Group’s

23,000 physicians.

In a statement sent to Oregon Public Broadcasting, Kaiser’s Director of Integrated Communications Michael G. Foley acknowledged Oregon’s 1989 law, but said “because of the growing seriousness of the current situation, the new risks and increased cases caused by the Delta variant, as well as the priority to keep patients and employees safe, we will act to apply the vaccination requirement in the Northwest region.”

Kaiser is working with state health officials and the governor to “support vaccination to the fullest extent permitted by law and any future guidance,” Foley said.

RV STORAGE RENTAL



Fully fenced facility
Well-lit driveways
Professional onsite management
Self storage pricing at
SISTERSRENTAL.COM

541-549-9631
331 W. Barclay Dr., Sisters
Mon-Fri: 7 a.m.-5 p.m.;
Sat: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.





- Large organic produce selection
- Huge organic & natural selection storewide
- Meat cut & ground fresh daily
- Huge bulk-foods department
- All your favorite local brands & items
- Only 20 minutes from Sisters
- Proud to be 100% locally owned & operated

Local is what we are. Local is who we love.

FOOD 4 LESS

Located in the Cascade Village Shopping Center, Bend
Open every day, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Isolated shopping hour: 6 to 7 a.m.

BUILDING BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

Imagine a different type of visit to the dentist. Something better, more interactive and relaxing.

Dr. Gilmore utilizes a co-diagnostic method. Simply put, he will discuss his findings with you and show you visually what is happening in your mouth. He will give you his professional recommendation so you can make informed decisions moving forward. Your experience with our team is our top priority.

- Same Day Crowns-Bridges
- Metal - Free Dentistry
- Safe Removal of Metal
- Aesthetic Enhancement
- Highest Sterilization Protocols

“Gilmore Dental was recommended on Next Door. We are new to the area and looking for a dentist. I was SO impressed from the reception to my dental hygienist to Dr Gilmore. They were all thorough, took their time, friendly, informative and knowledgeable. I highly recommend them.”
Linda P.



NO INSURANCE - NO PROBLEM

Healthy Mouth Membership - a plan for anyone!

284 Google Reviews



541-504-5707

WWW.GILMOREDENTAL.COM

834 SW 11th St, Redmond