

PeaceHealth requires COVID-19 vaccination

Unvaccinated caregivers with qualifying medical exemptions subject to heightened masking, distancing, and regular testing protocols

VANCOUVER, Wash. – PeaceHealth announced that starting Aug. 31, 2021, all caregivers will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit a qualifying medical exemption. Unvaccinated individu-

als will be subject to regular COVID-19 testing, as well as additional masking, potential reassignment to non-patient care settings, and other safety protocols. The policy will apply to all caregivers, including providers, students, contractors, vendors, and volunteers.

“Though nearly 80 percent of PeaceHealth caregivers have already been vaccinated, the rise in hospitalizations in our communities is a stark reminder that

we are facing a public health emergency and we must do more,” said Dr. Doug Koekkoek, PeaceHealth’s Chief Physician Executive. “We believe all healthcare workers who are medically able should get a COVID-19 vaccine to keep themselves, our patients, and our communities safe. Doing so is part of our mission to promote personal and community health and our vision to make sure that every person receives safe, compassionate care.”

While the organization has had high rates of voluntary caregiver vaccination, after thoughtful deliberation and a formal ethical discernment, PeaceHealth joins many health systems across the country, and professional organizations including the Catholic Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, and others in ensuring public health by requiring

vaccination.

Dr. Bob Pelz, PeaceHealth’s system medical director of Infection Prevention, noted that “New variants of COVID-19 pose a critical threat to those unable to be vaccinated, including children and the medically vulnerable. It is our moral obligation to first do no harm and act for the common good. COVID-19 vaccines are proven to be the best way to protect ourselves and reduce the likelihood of

harming others.”

This new policy is a reflection of the organization’s shared commitment to ensure every patient receives safe care at PeaceHealth, the organization stated, and is part of a multi-measured approach to protect caregivers and patients, along with the supply of personal protective equipment, routine testing, masking, social distancing, diligent hygiene, contact tracing and proper quarantining.

Oregon Elks and the Elks National Foundation announce scholarship program

PORTLAND, Ore – All high school seniors in Oregon who are U.S. citizens are welcome to apply to the Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Program.

The entire MVS application process is handled online with applicants being judged on academics, leadership and community engagement, and financial need.

Applicants will be judged at four levels with the opportunity to earn scholarships at the local,

district, state, and national level.

The top male and female students will advance from the local lodge level to the district level, and from there onto the state and national competitions.

At the national level two first-place students of \$50,000 each, two second-place students of \$40,000 and two \$30,000 third-place students will be awarded.

The remaining 14 finalists will each receive

\$20,000 and 480 runners-up will receive scholarships of \$4,000 for a total of \$2,440,000 nationwide.

Students wanting to apply for the scholarships do not have to have an affiliation with the Order of Elks and the deadline to apply for the 2022 application is November 15, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., Pacific Time.

Online applications and additional information are located online at <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/mvs.cfm>.

Also available for those not attending a four-year college or university, the Oregon State Elks Association offers a Vocational Grant Scholarship for those attending a program specific to a trade or profession (nursing, mechanics, hair/nails, construction, etc.).

Adult learners are also eligible to apply for this scholarship. Applications opened August 2 and must be received by midnight on March 1, 2022.

For more information and to apply visit

<https://oregonelks.org/student-contests/scholarship/>.

For more information or assistance, interested

students, families or high schools can

contact their local lodge or the Oregon State Elks Association Scholarship Chair Mary Danca at emjane@opendoor.com.

Startup Bootcamp with SBDC and RAIN

The Startup Bootcamp, an eight-week online program, will be held every Thursday night from 6 to 8 p.m. The program began on Aug. 12 and will run through Sept. 30.

Robert Killen, Director of Lane Small Business Development Center and Ariel Ruben, Lane County Venture Catalyst with Oregon RAIN will be conducting the training for small businesses and solopreneurs.

Participants can learn new skills to boost business in this 16-hour startup

training course.

The program is catered for startups and young businesses alike – and it’s free to Rural Participants in Lane County, including all businesses and startups in Cottage Grove (this does not include Eugene or Springfield).

Even for those who have been in business for a while and would just like to refresh and sharpen business skills, this program will have plenty to offer.

Register at bit.ly/startup-bootcampLANE.





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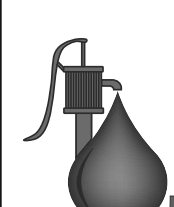
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