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**AAAHC Board of Directors to Mandate COVID-19 Vaccination for Surveyors**  
*New Policy Helps Ensure Health and Safety of Those on Frontline of Accreditation Process*

(Skokie, Ill.) September 15, 2021 — The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) Board of Directors and executive leadership team have adopted a new COVID-19 vaccination requirement for its community of surveyors.

Effective October 15, all AAAHC surveyors – whose frontline role in the accreditation process may place them at greater risk of COVID-19 infection – must comply with this new guidance and have received either two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The decision aligns AAAHC with many of the health care organizations it serves, including all facilities that receive Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement.

“Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 requires using all the tools we have available,” said Noel Adachi, MBA, president and CEO of AAAHC. “In making this decision, we reviewed CDC recommendations and considered the variety of local, state, and facility requirements regarding the vaccination.”

“We truly care about our surveyors, their health and the health of their families, friends, and communities at large,” said AAAHC Board Chair, Timothy Peterson, MD. “This policy will help reduce risk, as conducting surveys may require close interaction with unvaccinated patients and others who may be immunocompromised and at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic, ambulatory care facilities have continued to provide safe, quality care, while navigating safety protocols and ensuring effective implementation of safety measures. AAAHC surveyors – the majority of whom are already fully vaccinated – have continuously provided support and education to ensure sufficient safety measures and adherence to standards.

For more information on AAAHC, please visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org).

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**About AAAHC**

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,100 organizations accredited. We accredit a wide range of outpatient settings, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery facilities, endoscopy centers, student health centers, medical and dental group practices, community health centers, employer-based health clinics, retail clinics, and Indian/Tribal health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high-quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally recognized standards. We provide a valuable survey experience founded on a peer-based, educational approach to onsite review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation, along with specialized programs including Advanced Orthopaedic Certification and Patient-Centered Medical Home Certification, demonstrates an organization's commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation cycle. AAAHC Accreditation and Certification Programs are recognized by third-party payors, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC, please visit [www.aaahc.org](http://www.aaahc.org).