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adapadvocacy.org

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ADAP Advocacy Association Urges the Health Resources & Services Administration to Require Covid-19 Vaccine for All Ryan White Grantees

HHS has already mandated Covid-19 vaccinations for health care workforce

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The ADAP Advocacy Association today called on the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) to require Covid-19 vaccinations for all Ryan White grantees – including staff working under the State AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs). With the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) granting full approval to the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer, BioNTech, it is in the public health interest to require the vaccination for any personnel who could encounter clients living with HIV/AIDS.

“There are numerous vaccination requirements for health care workers and public health personnel at the federal, state and local levels, and the Covid-19 vaccination shouldn’t be treated any differently,” said Brandon M. Macsata, CEO of the ADAP Advocacy Association. “Hepatitis B, Influenza, MMR, Varicella, Tdap are only some of the recommended vaccinations for frontline workforce. The newly-approved Pfizer, BioNTech vaccine is the best tool we have to protect people living with HIV/AIDS from Covid-19.”

In an interview about vaccines with *USA Today*, Dr. Howard Koh, a professor of public health at the Harvard Chan School of Public Health said, "Protecting people's health is part of our mission, whether it's a doctor, a nurse, a nursing home provider or a home health aide. People don't want health care workers to be vectors of transmission when their work is to protect against disease."

In supporting the policy change, Edward Hamilton, Executive Director of the ADAP Educational Initiative argued, “Our clients deserve to know they're receiving care from a program that puts their health and safety first. HRSA and other federal agencies do indeed have the regulatory and administrative authority to require grantee staff to be vaccinated as a mandatory grant condition to protect our vulnerable populations. HRSA cannot expect clients to follow their guidance if they aren't willing to hold grantees and their staff to the same standard. In addition, grant conditions are not impacted by any state law or governor's executive order.”

To learn more about the ADAP Advocacy Association, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, or Covid-19 vaccines, please email info@adapadvocacy.org.

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About the ADAP Advocacy Association: The ADAP Advocacy Association mission is to promote and enhance the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAPs) and improves access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS. **aaa+**[®] works with advocates, community, health care, government, patients, pharmaceutical companies, and other stakeholders to raise awareness, offer patient educational programs, and foster greater community collaboration.