

May 18, 2021

Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
United States Department of Health and  
Human Services

Martin J. Walsh  
Secretary  
United States Department of Labor

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH  
Director, Centers for Disease Control and  
Prevention

James Frederick  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for  
Occupational Safety and Health  
Occupational Safety and Health  
Administration

Jeannette J. Galanis  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for  
Mine Safety and Health  
Mine Safety and Health Administration

### **Urgent Clarification Needed for Workplaces on CDC Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People**

Dear Secretary Becerra, Secretary Walsh, Director Walensky, Acting Director Frederick, and Acting Director Galanis:

The undersigned organizations urge the CDC and U.S. Department of Labor to clarify what the CDC's May 13, 2021 update to its [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) means for workers and employers, and how they could implement it.

Currently, the guidance states that "fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance". This vague language, combined with public messaging from Federal officials indicating that fully vaccinated people can largely abandon COVID-19 protection protocols, has caused significant confusion among employers, workers, and worker health and safety professionals.

To relieve this confusion and protect workers, businesses, and communities, we urge you to work with our organizations to clarify the CDC's guidance for fully vaccinated people.

Sincerely,

American Board for Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (ABOHN)  
American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)  
Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America (LHSFNA)  
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (National COSH)  
National Employment Law Project (NELP)  
National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA)  
SafeWork Washington  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)  
United Steelworkers (USW)