




STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**SERVE WASHINGTON**

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August 23, 2021

TO: AmeriCorps Programs in WA  
FROM: Amber Martin-Jahn, Executive Director   
RE: **COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for AmeriCorps Members**

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Summary: The Washington State vaccine mandate for employees, contractors, and volunteers is inclusive of AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps members must follow the designation of their service location.

**[PROCLAMATION 21-14](#) and **[PROCLAMATION 21-14.1](#)****

On August 9, 2021, Governor Jay Inslee issued a proclamation that some Washington workers be fully vaccinated, or received a reasonable accommodation, by October 18, 2021. The proclamation applies to Cabinet Agency worksites and employees and Health Care employees in private sector health care and in long term care settings. This includes most contractors, volunteers, and other positions that have any onsite presence in a workplace setting.

For the purposes of this order, “worker” includes: a person engaged to work as an employee, independent contractor, service provider, volunteer, or through any other formal or informal agreement to provide goods or services, whether compensated or uncompensated, but does not include a visitor or patron.

Additionally, on August 18, 2021, Inslee announced expanding the requirement to public and private K-12 schools, school districts, charter schools, educational service districts, higher education, and most childcare and early learning settings. This includes staff, coaches, bus drivers, school volunteers and others in such facilities. This does not apply to state-tribal education compact schools or to students.

For the purposes of this order, “worker” includes: a person engaged to work as an employee, on-site volunteer, or on-site contractor. Visitors and patrons are not “workers.” Students of, persons attending, and persons receiving services at or from an educational setting are not “workers.” On-site contractors are not “workers” if they do not work in places where students or persons receiving services are present. Family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) childcare providers are not “workers.”



**AmeriCorps**  
Washington

## [FAQs \(general\)](#) and [FAQs \(schools\)](#)

In addition to the FAQs that accompanied Proclamation 21-14 and 21-14.1, Serve Washington has added this clarifying FAQ.

**How does this impact AmeriCorps members who are neither employees nor volunteers, but instead are legally defined as national service participants (42 USC 12511 30) in an approved national service position?** AmeriCorps members will follow the COVID-19 policies and protocols of their assigned service location. If this service location is at a Cabinet Agency service site, school setting, or other setting covered by the Governor's emergency Proclamation 21-14, 21-14.1, and subsequent directives, such members will need to be fully vaccinated, or receive a reasonable accommodation from their service site, by October 18, 2021 as a condition of continued service. If neither of these conditions are met, the AmeriCorps member's service will be suspended until they are either fully vaccinated or receive a reasonable accommodation. If neither of these conditions are met, and the member has not communicated their intentions, and the member's service has been suspended for longer than 30 calendar days, the AmeriCorps program may exit the member from service.

## [AMERICORPS FAQ](#)

The federal agency, AmeriCorps, directs programs to follow state guidance.

**Can a grantee, sponsor, or subsite require me to receive a vaccine for COVID-19 to serve onsite?** AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors do not mandate vaccination for our members and volunteers to serve. However, whether a grantee, sponsor, or subsite may mandate vaccination for members or volunteers to serve on site is a determination for the sponsor to make, consistent with federal, state, and local law. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) provide guidance applicable to the COVID-19 vaccination at the links provided below. If a grantee or sponsor does mandate vaccination, there may be medical or religious exemptions. Generally, grantees and sponsors are encouraged to follow state and local law, and CDC and EEOC guidance around workplace vaccination plans. Updated as of March 5, 2021: [CDC: Workplace Vaccination Program](#).