

From: [Tecklenburg, John](#)
Subject: Important COVID Message from the Mayor
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 1:26:16 PM

City team:

The past year and half has been a trying and difficult time. Covid-19 has affected all of us--from wearing face coverings, to social distancing and, most tragically, to grieving the loss of loved ones, coworkers, friends.

The good news is that each of us can do our part to stop the spread and get our lives back to normal. And the way we do this--the way we protect ourselves, protect our kids, protect our family and friends and coworkers--is to get vaccinated.

The FDA has already given full approval for the Pfizer vaccine and others are currently under review. The evidence is unequivocally clear: vaccines are safe and they work.

The city of Charleston has an obligation to our employees and to our citizens to provide a safe environment in which to do business. With that in mind, and in consultation with medical professionals and other neighboring governments, we have decided to require that city employees be vaccinated against Covid-19. As a part of this initiative, we will also be providing additional Covid leave should it be needed.

Certain exemptions will be made available for medical and other limited reasons; however, the general rule is that each employee must be fully vaccinated no later than November 22, 2021.

You will receive another communication from the City's Human Resources Director providing more detailed information, including a full copy of the new policy. I assure you we do not take this decision lightly, but it is the only reasonable option available to us at this time to ensure the safest possible workplace for the benefit of all.

Thanks, as always, for everything you do. I know I speak for our citizens and all our council members when I say that we're deeply proud of your service, and that the health and safety of you and your loved ones is, and always will be, our first concern. – JT

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