



August 24, 2021

Re: Vaccination Recommendation (#KeepSTLWorking)

Dear Recipient:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been with us for well over a year. It has impacted each of us individually, and as a society, in ways one would never have expected. Many of our jobsites were impacted or came to a complete stop while leaders and organizations tried to determine and find the best path forward for our region. As people began getting the vaccination, we saw community case rates of COVID-19 fall. Then projects came back strong, providing opportunity for nearly everyone working in construction. Your resiliency and commitment throughout this time continues to be appreciated.

Unfortunately, we are watching the case rates in our communities rise again. Many have chosen to delay getting the vaccination, or to forego it all together. However, those decisions are contributing to the exponential rise in hospitalizations. The risks associated with exposure continue to impact our community and our project sites. Many organizations have considered, or chosen to, make vaccinations a requirement for their employees and workers on their premises.

There is overwhelming evidence regarding the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine. Across the country, 171 million Americans are already vaccinated. The peer reviewed scientific data shows the available COVID-19 vaccines to be safe and effective. The most important thing any of us can do to protect our family, friends, coworkers, colleagues, and community is to get vaccinated. And with fortunate good news, the FDA approved the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine on August 23, 2021.

By protecting yourself and others through COVID-19 vaccination, you can help keep our project sites safe and active, while also improving the safety and health of our entire community. We respect that the choice to get vaccinated is a personal decision. We strongly encourage you to consider the safety and health of our entire community as you make that decision.

Sincerely,

Michael Hargrave
Safety Manager, BJC HealthCare
SLC3 Health & Safety Chair/Board Member