

GOVERNMENT

## Biden ramps up corporate vaccine requirements

September 10, 2021



*The FDA approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in August. Image credit: U.S. Center for Disease Control*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

President Joseph Biden announced a new, stricter six-point plan to fight the COVID-19 virus in an address on Sept. 9, with implications for businesses with more than 100 employees.

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The president issued two new executive orders requiring vaccinations for all **federal employees** and **contractors**, and will require corporations to mandate vaccines or regular testing for workforces. As COVID-19 cases continue to climb among the unvaccinated population in the U.S., there have been signs the country's economic recovery has stalled including weaker than expected jobs numbers and a stumbling stock market.

"If we raise our vaccination rate, protect ourselves and others with masking and expanded testing, and identify people who are infected, we can and we will turn the tide on COVID-19," President Biden said in the address.

"It will take a lot of hard work, and it's going to take some time," he said. "Many of us are frustrated with the nearly 80 million Americans who are still not vaccinated, even though the vaccine is safe, effective, and free."

### New vaccine orders

The White House's six-tier approach includes: vaccinating the unvaccinated; protecting the vaccinated; protecting children and keeping schools open; increased testing and mask mandates; protecting economic recovery; and improving care for those who test positive for COVID-19.

In discussing his plan to protect vaccinated Americans, the president discussed the highly anticipated booster shots.

"The decision of which booster shots to give, when to start them, and who will give them, will be left completely to the scientists at the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control," he said. "We have bought enough booster shots and the distribution system is ready to administer them.

"As soon as they are authorized, those eligible will be able to get a booster right away in tens of thousands of sites across the country, at your nearby drug store and for free."

We are going to protect the vaccinated workers from unvaccinated coworkers.

[pic.twitter.com/QMuEz9ynis](https://pic.twitter.com/QMuEz9ynis)

President Biden (@POTUS) [September 10, 2021](#)

The president also announced that the Department of Labor is developing an emergency rule to require all employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workforces are fully vaccinated or show a negative test at least once per week.

This new regulation will impact several luxury businesses operating in the United States, including conglomerates such as LVMH and Kering many of which have not been public about their corporate policies around COVID-19 vaccinations. Several corporations including United Airlines, Disney and large media outlets have already required vaccines.

President Biden also addressed the fear and anxiety surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine, saying the immunization is safe and effective, especially since the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in late August ([see story](#)).

To increase COVID-19 testing, the president said he will use the Defense Production Act to increase production of rapid tests, including at-home tests.

"While that production is ramping up, my administration has worked with top retailers, like Walmart, Amazon and Kroger's," he said. "No later than next week, each of these outlets will start to sell at-home rapid test kits at cost for the next three months.

"This is an immediate price reduction for at-home test kits for up to 35 percent reduction."

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