Update to AABB’s Vaccination Policy

AABB is evolving its COVID-19 response to include mandatory vaccination for all AABB staff and volunteer assessors. The policy applies to COVID-19 vaccinations that have been authorized for use, including those that have received an Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Effective **January 4, 2022**, AABB will require that all AABB volunteer assessors be fully vaccinated according to the most current guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (and where applicable, WHO guidelines). No exceptions will be made for unvaccinated assessors to perform in-person assessments.

To ensure compliance, all AABB volunteer assessors assigned facilities in the first quarter of 2022 are required to provide proof of current vaccination status, as detailed below. For those volunteers scheduling assessments in the second quarter of 2022, we are investigating software applications for secure and convenient tracking, which we plan to implement in early 2022. Information about the tool will be provided as soon as it is available.

In the interim, volunteers with assessments in the first quarter are required to provide the AABB Accreditation Department with one of the following to provide proof of vaccination:

1. A QR code from the health insurance company used by the volunteer assessor;
2. A QR code or other comparable information from a vaccine-tracking application (e.g., Bindle, CLEAR, Apple Health, Vaccine Pass, a state app); or
3. A photo of your vaccination card. Additionally, upon request, AABB volunteer assessors will be required to show proof of vaccination to the member facility they will be assessing.

All volunteer assessors travelling on behalf of AABB must be vaccinated according to the most current guidelines issued by the CDC or WHO. Additionally, individuals may not travel if they are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. AABB assessors based outside of the United States should use the [Direct Travel Traveler Intelligence Tool](#) to identify and comply with potential travel requirements and restrictions related to COVID-19.

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about AABB’s Vaccination Policy**

**Why is AABB implementing a Volunteer Assessor Vaccination Policy?**
Consistent with AABB’s duty to provide and maintain optimal safety in all blood and biotherapies facilities, as well our dedication to the health maintenance of our member institutions, we are adopting this policy to safeguard the health of all AABB assessors and members.

**How did AABB develop this Policy?**
This policy was developed, and will be updated as needed, according to current federal, state and local laws and regulations, as well as in accordance with emerging best practices regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

**What is the effective date of the Policy?**
The effective date of the policy is **January 4, 2022**. This will allow time for AABB volunteers who have not been fully vaccinated to do so.

**What should I do if I have a medical or other reason for not being vaccinated?**
AABB volunteers who have such a reason to remain unvaccinated should contact the [AABB Accreditation Department](mailto:AABB-Accreditation-Department) and provide this information. Volunteers who are not vaccinated will be eligible to participate in virtual assessments only.

**If I previously had the COVID-19 virus, do I still need to get vaccinated?**
Yes. CDC research indicates that full vaccination provides additional protection against COVID-19 among those who previously contracted the infection. In addition, it would be impossible to accurately predict which assessors who previously were infected maintain sufficient antibodies to prevent them from reacquiring or transmitting the disease. Therefore, the AABB Policy requires all assessors need to be vaccinated in order to perform on-site assessments.

Volunteers with additional questions should contact the [AABB Accreditation Department](mailto:AABB-Accreditation-Department).