Island Hospital Organizational Position Statement Covid-19 Vaccination Condition of Employment & Provider Privileges

September 14, 2021

Subject: Island Hospital Position Statement

Island Hospital will work to achieve a 100% vaccinated workforce to help protect our patients, our community and our staff working conditions. Our healthcare system has an obligation to provide conditions that are safe to receive and deliver patient care. This focus to provide safe patient care and work conditions stems from our commitment to prevent harm.

Since July 2021, approximately 60 medical groups, have endorsed mandatory, universal vaccination of all public and private health care and long-term care workers, noting that such a requirement is the "fulfillment of the ethical commitment of all health care workers to put patients as well as residents of long-term care facilities first and take all steps necessary to ensure their health and well-being." These organizations include:

- · American College of Physicians
- American Nurses Association
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Medical Association
- American Public Health Association
- Society of Infectious Disease Pharmacists
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- Washington State Society of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
- American Hospital Association
- American Academy of Physician Assistants
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- National Medical Association
- American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Society of Healthcare Epidemiologist of America
- Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Together with our Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA), the Washington State Nurses Association (WSNA) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Island Hospital supports the governor's vaccine mandate proclamation for the need for healthcare workers to be vaccinated.

Within recent CDC studies, unvaccinated people are about 29 times more likely to be hospitalized with Covid-19 than those who are fully vaccinated. In addition, unvaccinated people were nearly five times more likely to be infected with Covid than vaccinated people. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is causing surges in cases across the United States and, because vaccination coverage is uneven within the states, there is higher transmission. New COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to be largely limited to the unvaccinated, and only a small percentage of vaccinated people experience breakthrough infections.

As of September 10, 2021, the overwhelming majority of the 788 employed staff and 198 privileged providers of Island Hospital has committed to protect themselves, our patients and one another. Covid-19 vaccinations save lives, helps prevents severe illness and hospitalizations and lowers your risk of death.

Together with over 200 state and national healthcare systems including many with multiple hospitals, Island Hospital is committed to a timelined immunization of 100% staff and provider vaccination requirement as a condition of employment by October 18. Exemption and accommodations will be considered upon submission of a Medical Disability or Religious Based exemption written request. Please note that approval of exemption request does not guarantee an accommodation can be offered nor does it guarantee continued employment.

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Island Hospital Board of Commissioners, Hospital Leadership team and Provider Leadership teams are committed to achieving a 100% vaccinated workforce to help protect our patients and staff. This commitment will help to ensure our focus remains on eliminating conditions that cause harm to patients, clinical providers, staff and our community.

This unpredictable COVID-19 pandemic crisis is far from over. Island Hospital believes that COVID-19 immunization, masking, and wise decision making saves lives, prevents severe illness and hospitalization and lowers your risk of dying from COVID-19. We ask your support as we work together to provide safe, high quality healthcare to our community who looks to us for leadership.

Charles T. Hall

Caroline Roeder, DO

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