Employers encourage COVID-19 vaccinations but stop short of mandating employees get the vaccine

Findings from the May 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination and Reopening the Workplace Survey

About the survey

Based on responses from 660 U.S. employers representing 5.3 million workers. Conducted May 19 through May 28, 2021.

In brief



Masks in the workplace. A majority of employers require both vaccinated (52%) and unvaccinated (69%) employees to wear masks indoors. Expectations are that employers will relax mask policies as risk decreases.

Actions employers are taking to encourage vaccinations



Make it easy

- 62% provide or are considering providing pay for time spent getting vaccinated
- 58% offer or are considering offering additional leave for adverse reactions to the vaccine
- 59% provide or are considering onsite or near-site vaccine administration



Communicate

82% communicate the value of vaccination



Target underserved populations

40% implemented programs to boost vaccination among populations less likely to get vaccinated



Offer financial incentives

2 in 10 offer or are considering offering financial incentives

72% of employers will not require or plan to require employee vaccinations to enter the workplace. Among the 28% requiring or considering requiring vaccinations, 56% would require proof



Temperature screenings.

60% of employers currently conduct temperature screenings. Of those, 66% plan to continue and 34% discontinue screenings.

Next steps for employers:

- Keep making it easy for employees to get vaccinated
- Sustain communications efforts regarding value of the vaccine
- Keep abreast of latest COVID-19 developments
- Focus on subgroups of employees with lower vacch rates



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