

United States District Court
for the District of Columbia
333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

FILED

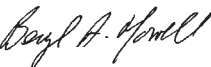
AUG 24 2021

Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy
Courts for the District of Columbia

Chambers of
Beryl A. Howell
Chief Judge

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To: All Employees, Interns, and On-Site Court Contractors of the
U.S. District & Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Columbia
U.S. Probation Office for the District of Columbia

From: Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell 

Date: August 24, 2021

Re: **UPDATE: Vaccination Required by September 23, 2021**

Yesterday, August 23, 2021, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced final approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, which will now be marketed under the name Comirnaty, for prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age or older.¹ The FDA's announcement included a statement by Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, M.D., who noted that: "While this and other vaccines have met the FDA's rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, the public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product." *Id.* Dr. Woodcock added: "Today's milestone puts us one step closer to altering the course of this pandemic in the U.S." *Id.*

Pursuant to this Court's vaccination policy, announced on August 19, 2021, all employees are required to be fully vaccinated or be in the process of becoming fully vaccinated within one month of the FDA's final approval of a widely available COVID-19 vaccine, unless granted an exemption from the vaccination requirement based on a specific medical condition or sincerely held religious belief. Accordingly, all employees and others covered by the Court's policy must be fully vaccinated or in the process of becoming so by **September 23, 2021**, unless granted an exemption.

And as a reminder, every person covered by the Court's vaccination policy, whether already fully vaccinated or not, must submit an attestation form regarding their vaccination status to the appropriate Court Unit Executive or appointing Judge no later than **August 30, 2021**. Requests for exemption must also be submitted by **August 30, 2021**. The Court's policy and attestation form may be found [here](#).

¹ FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (Aug. 23, 2021), www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine.