



## **OSF HealthCare to Require All Mission Partners to be Vaccinated Against COVID-19**

### **For immediate release**

**Contact:** Shelli Dankoff | OSF HealthCare Media Relations Supervisor | (309) 655-3897  
Libby Allison | OSF HealthCare Media Relations Coordinator | (309) 308-5015

**(Peoria, IL | July 21, 2021)** - OSF HealthCare continues to follow the science on COVID-19 vaccines and assess the pandemic situation overall. Based on this information and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we have thoughtfully made the decision to require all Mission Partners (employees) to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by the end of September of this year.

"We did not make this decision lightly," said Mike Cruz, M.D., chief operating officer, OSF HealthCare. "As health care providers, it is our ethical obligation to be vigilant about the safety of our patients. Vaccinations are credited with the decline in COVID-19 hospitalizations and cases across the country and throughout our Ministry, and we firmly believe that vaccination against COVID-19 is the best way to keep our patients and Mission Partners safe."

"OSF has been consistent in recommending vaccinations as our best shot to move forward to end this pandemic that has taken so much from so many, but we need everyone on board to make a deep and lasting impact," remarked Shelley Nguyen, vice president of workforce management, OSF HealthCare. "Our communities we serve and our patients depend on us to create a safe, healthy environment. We owe that same commitment to our Mission Partners."

This decision is consistent with existing OSF vaccination policies that require Mission Partners to get a flu shot every year and stay current with other vaccinations like measles, mumps, rubella and whooping cough. Exemptions are available for religious conscience or medical reasons and must be formally requested, documented and approved. Any Mission Partner who does not qualify for an exemption and who chooses not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine may be subject to our disciplinary processes which could result in loss of employment.

OSF HealthCare employs nearly 24,000 Mission Partners in 150 locations throughout the state of Illinois and in Michigan.

# # #

**OSF HealthCare** is an integrated health system owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, headquartered in Peoria, Illinois. OSF HealthCare employs nearly 24,000 Mission Partners in 150 locations, including 15 hospitals – 10 acute care, five critical access – with 2,089 licensed beds, and two colleges of nursing throughout Illinois and Michigan. The OSF HealthCare physician network employs more than 1,500 primary care, specialist and advanced practice providers. OSF HealthCare, through OSF Home Care Services, operates an extensive network of home health and hospice services. It also owns Pointcore, Inc., comprised of health care-related businesses; OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm for the organization; and OSF Ventures, which provides investment capital for promising health care innovation startups. More at <https://www.osfhealthcare.org>.