

The Firehouse Lawyer

Volume 19, Number 8A

Be sure to visit firehouselawyer.com to get a glimpse of our various practice areas pertaining to public agencies, which include labor and employment law, public disclosure law, mergers and consolidations, financing methods, risk management, and many other practice areas!!!

Eric T. Quinn, Editor

Joseph F. Quinn, Staff Writer

The law firm of Quinn and Quinn, P.S. is legal counsel to more than 40 Fire Departments in the State of Washington.

Our office is located at:

**7403 Lakewood Drive West, Suite #11
Lakewood, WA 98499-7951**

Mailing Address:
**20 Forest Glen Lane SW
Lakewood, WA 98498**

Office Telephone: 253-590-6628

Email Joe at joequinn@firehouselawyer.com
Email Eric at ericquinn@firehouselawyer2.com

Access and Subscribe to this Newsletter at:
firehouselawyer.com

Inside this Issue

1. Vaccinations are Mandatory!

August 2021 Extra Edition

Governor Inslee Orders Mandatory Vaccinations

**Proclamation 21-14 applies to all health
care providers**

On Monday, August 9, 2021, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 21-14.¹ The purpose of the proclamation is to require all health care providers in health care settings to be “fully vaccinated” no later than October 18th, or else they are prohibited from working, unless exempted. Due to the broad definitions of “health care provider” and “health care setting,” it is our conclusion that this proclamation requires all DOH-licensed EMTs and paramedics, employed by fire districts, RFAs, cities or towns in Washington to be fully vaccinated by the deadline of October 18, 2021, unless exempted for religious or disability-related reasons.

A person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series of an authorized vaccine or two weeks after they have received a single-dose of an authorized single dose vaccine.

While the FAQ disseminated by the Governor’s office may have referred to health care providers “in the private sector,” the actual proclamation language is not so limited. Furthermore, the

1

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/21-14%20-%20COVID-19%20Vax%20Washington%20%28tmp%29.pdf>

Firehouse Lawyer

Volume 19, Number 7A

August 2021Extra

intent of the proclamation would seem to make it necessarily apply to such licensed or certified EMS workers who are in fact providing health care. Additionally, we note that “health care settings” expressly includes in the definition “mobile clinics or other vehicles where health care is delivered.” In other words, there is no logical reason that this proclamation would apply in a private ambulance but not in a public one.

Public employers should begin to notify their health care workers that the process needs to begin right away, because as we know from personal experience, it may take some time to get the first shot, and it is recommended with Moderna for example that 28 days should expire between shot #1 and shot #2. Besides, you need to allow for the 14-day period (two weeks) after your final shot. Time is of the essence.

We urge you to contact legal counsel with specific questions, as there are more issues that arise out of this mandate than set forth in this article, such as religious and disability-related exemptions from vaccination, and bargaining issues.

DISCLAIMER. The Firehouse Lawyer newsletter is published for educational purposes only. Nothing herein shall create an attorney-client relationship between Quinn & Quinn, P.S. and the reader. Those needing legal advice are urged to contact an attorney licensed to practice in their jurisdiction of residence.