Statement Regarding Vaccination Status in Relation to Oregon’s Facial Covering and Social Distancing Requirements

Consistent with the May 18, 2021 document from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) entitled “Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals” and based on the requirements of OAR 437-001-0744, Oregon OSHA expects employers to ensure that the physical distancing and facial covering requirements of the rule are enforced as reflected by the OHA guidance.

As outlined in the OHA document, if the employer chooses to allow either employees or visitors to the workplace to make use of the vaccine exemption, the employer does not need to enforce the physical distancing and facial covering requirements in relation to those individuals provided that the employer verifies the vaccination status of such individuals. An employer who requests and reviews verification of vaccination may permit fully vaccinated individuals with such proof of vaccination to go without a mask, face covering or face shield, and does not need to enforce physical distancing requirements for such individuals.

If an individual who claims to be vaccinated but refuses to provide verification of vaccination status, the employer need take no further action but must enforce the physical distancing and facial covering requirements without regard to the exemption.

The requirements of OAR 437-001-0744 (Rules Addressing COVID-19 Workplace Risks), other than those related to distancing and the use of facial coverings remain in place and are not affected by the vaccination exemption.

The requirements of OAR 437-001-1115 (COVID-19 Workplace Requirements for Employer-Provided Labor Housing), other than those related to distancing and the use of facial coverings remain in place and are not affected by the vaccination exemption.