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## **COMMUNITY HEALTH OF SOUTH FLORIDA, INC MANDATES ALL STAFF BE VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19**

**MIAMI – August 30, 2021**– The clinical team at [Community Health of South Florida Inc.](https://www.chisouthfl.org) (CHI) has been closely studying and observing the overwhelming benefits to being vaccinated against COVID-19. They have reviewed the scientific evidence and monitored patients and team members and what they found is that those who are vaccinated for COVID-19 are less likely to become hospitalized or die from the deadly illness.

That’s why CHI has taken the position that all its team members will be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19. The healthcare company’s slogan is “patient care comes first.” In order to protect patients and staff and help move communities out of this pandemic, CHI leaders believe this change is critical. Its board recently voted to approve a policy requiring all staff, students training in its facilities, and volunteers to be vaccinated by September 30, 2021.

“We have lost far too many patients, community members, and even team members to a lack of protection from the virus,” said Brodes H. Hartley, Jr. CHI CEO. “Our local hospitals and healthcare institutions are overrun by the unvaccinated falling seriously ill. We need to take action.”

As the CHI team continues to serve during this tumultuous period of healthcare, its President has a message for his team and the community. “Healthcare is what we do. We take the responsibility of serving as a medical home very seriously,” said Blake Hall, CHI President. “We have the compassion and expertise to help change and save lives and that is the path that we will follow. We are grateful to the team at CHI for their dedication and hard work over the past two years. We know it has never been harder to work in healthcare. We thank them for devoting themselves to caring for all of us when we need it the most.”

Community Health of South Florida, Inc. was the first to jump into action at the start of the pandemic and offer drive-through testing in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Its leadership team has continually evolved and enhanced its testing and vaccination options for the community. That includes going above and beyond with actions such as taking its teams into homeless and migrant camps to test and vaccinate hard-to-reach, underserved populations.

CHI continues to offer the COVID-19 vaccine and testing to anyone. To make a vaccination appointment go to [www.chisouthfl.org](http://www.chisouthfl.org) or call (786) 272-2100.

### **About Community Health of South Florida, Inc.**

CHI celebrates its 50-year anniversary in 2021 with a legacy of excellence in healthcare. Since 1971, CHI has been a beacon of hope providing access to high-quality healthcare for all regardless of insurance status, income level or background. The non-profit federally qualified health center offers comprehensive healthcare services including primary care, pediatrics, OB/GYN, dental, urgent care, behavioral health, vision, radiology, pharmacy, transportation and more. CHI has 11 health centers and 36 school-based sites. CHI is a recipient of the Florida Governor's Sterling Award. It is accredited by the Joint Commission and is also designated as a patient centered medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. CHI is also designated as a behavioral health medical home. In addition, CHI is home to the Brodes H. Hartley Jr., Teaching Health Center, training the next generation of doctors in family medicine and psychiatry. CHI is currently building the first Children's Crisis Center in southern Miami-Dade County. It will service kids with severe behavioral health problems from Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties.

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