



The President
Palikijr, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

**Decree to implement mandatory vaccination pursuant to
Congressional Resolution No. 22-33
adopted by the 22nd FSM Congress on July 28, 2021**

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2021, the 22nd FSM Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia adopted Congressional Resolution No. 22-33, which further amended the President's Public Health Emergency Declaration dated January 31, 2020, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid Congressional Resolution mandated the vaccination for the COVID-19, stating in part, as follows:

“(12) The Task Force is mandated to intensify the nationwide vaccination efforts with a view towards achieving herd immunity across the nation through a diligently coordinated nationwide public awareness and information campaign on the merits of a timely COVID-19 vaccination. All FSM citizens residing in the FSM, are required to undergo COVID-19 vaccination subject to the protocol of the Task Force. Any employee of the National Government and its offices or agencies who fails to comply with this requirement within 30 days, absent reasonable justification, shall be placed on leave without pay.”

NOW THEREFORE, I, David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, pursuant to the authority vested upon me by Article X Section 9(a) of the FSM Constitution empowering the President to issue appropriate decrees during a declared state of emergency, in accordance with laws of this Nation including in particular Chapter 8 Title 11 and Chapter 7 Title 41 of the FSM Code, and for the sake of protecting the public health and maintaining the safety of our citizens and residents throughout the nation, do hereby DECREE as follows:

- (1) The National Task Force, in collaboration with State Task Forces and all partners, is instructed to expedite the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination efforts, including house-to-house outreach and outreach to churches, workplaces, schools and communities.
- (2) I am further instructing that, given that other countries are beginning to vaccinate adolescents aged 12 to 17, the Task Force shall determine when, and how, the Nation can begin vaccinating this age group.
- (3) Given the Congressional mandate of COVID-19 vaccination, it is our responsibility to uphold and implement it fully. While the Task Force considers how to enforce the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, I am issuing the following instructions to be carried out as we attempt to enforce the mandate at the National Government:



- a. From Monday, August 9th, 2021, all individuals and organizations receiving financial assistance from the FSM National Government must provide evidence that they and every person in their organization has been vaccinated subject to Protocol of the Task Force. Recipients shall be conduits of the National Government to encourage vaccination in the communities.
- b. From Monday August 30th, 2021, all recipients of FSM Social Security checks throughout the Nation must provide documentation of their completed vaccination status to receive their check.
- c. The Office of Personnel, with cooperation from the FSM COVID-19 Task Force, shall develop a simple database of all FSM National Government employees—in all capacities, from public servants to appointees, for the purpose of recording who is vaccinated or not.
- d. From Monday August 30th, 2021, all individuals who work for the National Government in any capacity—as public servants, as political appointees, as elected officials, as consultants—must provide evidence of their COVID-19 vaccination to the FSM COVID-19 Task Force and Office of Personnel. If such documentation is not present, then all individuals not vaccinated shall be placed on Leave Without Pay until such a time that they become vaccinated.
- e. This should help us ensure that public servants are accountable to our own mandate, that businesses are accountable for their employees' behaviors by making it compulsory to get vaccinated as a condition of employment, and that public money is being used in accordance with Nation-wide requirements. Further, this should help us ensure our most vulnerable population is vaccinated, as we move from our status of COVID-19 free to COVID-19 protected.

SO ORDERED.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. W. Panuelo", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Panuelo
President

Date: 8/10/21