

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer and esteemed committee members:

My name is Julie Anderson. I live in Limington with my husband and 3 children and have been a registered nurse for 9 years. I have 2 Bachelor of Science degrees and completed my nursing degree at the University of Southern Maine, graduating while in my 3rd trimester of pregnancy, which was no small feat. I still have thousands to pay back in school loan debt.

I was fired from my job in October 2021, for my strongly held religious beliefs. I worked throughout the pandemic of 2020, utilizing PPE, and safely caring for my patients. I worked as a home health nurse and thoroughly enjoyed my job, knowing I was making a lasting impact on the health of people in my local communities over the past 4 years. Forcing me out has negatively impacted patient care in my local communities.

The vaccine mandate has affected my family's finances greatly. My husband and I were in a position to buy a home this year, but now we no longer can since the loss of my job. Knowing that I was going to be fired, I started training in a completely different line of work, have spent a few thousand dollars on course work and start-up costs, and still have 1.5 years of apprenticeship ahead of me, including 125 more hours of coursework and 1,400 work hours I have to log. I am currently making approximately ¼ of what I was making as a nurse, and it is not sustainable. I am now currently needing to try and find an out of state nursing job that will help supplement my family's income, but this will take precious time away from my family.

Since I lost my job, I tested positive for covid-19, and have fully recovered. The CDC, as of Dec 21, 2021, has given the approval for covid positive healthcare workers, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to work without the need to quarantine, even if they have mild symptoms. How does that make any scientific or common sense with what we have been told over the past 2 years, and the restrictions placed upon us all? Included is the updated info from the CDC related to work restrictions for healthcare workers. [WorkRestrictionsHCP.jpg \(1200×675\) \(cdc.gov\)](#) It is also located on page 2 of my testimony.

I am requesting that this committee vote **ought to pass** on LD867. By doing so, this will not only assure this committee is doing its due diligence in assessing all safety data that will impact the health of Mainers, but will also impact thousands of healthcare workers in Maine, like myself, to be able to be employed again in our great state.

Thank you committee members for your time today and your service to our State.

Julie Anderson, RN, BSN
Limington, ME
1/10/22

Work Restrictions for HCP With SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Exposures

HCP are considered “boosted” if they have received all COVID-19 vaccine doses, including a booster dose, as recommended by CDC. HCP are considered “vaccinated” or “unvaccinated” if they have NOT received all COVID-19 vaccine doses, including a booster dose, as recommended by CDC.

For more details, including recommendations for healthcare personnel who are immunocompromised, refer to Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 (conventional standards) and Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages (contingency and crisis standards).

Work Restrictions for HCP With SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Boosted, Vaccinated, or Unvaccinated	10 days OR 7 days with negative test [†] , if asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic (with improving symptoms)	5 days with/without negative test, if asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic (with improving symptoms)	No work restriction, with prioritization considerations (e.g., asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic)

Work Restrictions for Asymptomatic HCP with Exposures

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Boosted	No work restrictions, with negative test on days 2 [‡] and 5–7	No work restrictions	No work restrictions
Vaccinated or Unvaccinated, even if within 90 days of prior infection	10 days OR 7 days with negative test	No work restriction with negative tests on days 1 [‡] , 2, 3, & 5–7	No work restrictions (test if possible)

[†]Negative test result within 48 hours before returning to work

[‡]For calculating day of test: 1) for those with infection consider day of symptom onset (or first positive test if asymptomatic) as day 0; 2) for those with exposure consider day of exposure as day 0



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cdc.gov/coronavirus