



**STATE OF WYOMING
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
GOVERNOR DIRECTIVE**

STATEWIDE DIRECTIVE PROHIBITING VACCINE PASSPORTS

WHEREAS, vaccines are a critical tool that protect the health and well-being of the public and are so effective in the management of lethal communicable diseases that their broad use has eliminated certain illnesses, like smallpox and polio, from the United States; and

WHEREAS, the widespread access to vaccines in the United States has allowed our country's citizens to live free from diseases that remain prevalent in other countries, such as measles; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration has authorized the emergency use of three COVID-19 vaccines that are safe and effective in preventing COVID-19 infections, a disease that has thus far infected nearly 50,000 Wyomingites and has killed more than 700, and vaccines can help prevent more tragic deaths from occurring; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming's voluntary COVID-19 vaccine program has succeeded in protecting our state's vulnerable, aging, and immunocompromised populations and, as of March 31, 2021, is open to all Wyomingites over the age of 16. Thus far, more than 170,000 Wyomingites have received at least one vaccine dose; and

WHEREAS, widespread vaccination among Wyomingites will move the state forward, protect jobs and our economy, and, most importantly, save lives; and

WHEREAS, some jurisdictions outside of the State of Wyoming have encouraged the development and use of COVID-19 "vaccine passports," as a means of determining who should have access to public spaces and who should be able to participate in their community; and

WHEREAS, while I strongly encourage Wyomingites over the age of 16 to take the opportunity to become vaccinated against COVID-19, I consider it a personal choice based upon personal circumstances. For example, some are unable to receive a vaccine because of their age, medical condition, or religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, I have serious concerns that a mandated vaccine passport program has the potential to politicize a decision that should not be politicized, would serve as a method to divide our citizens at a time when unity in fighting the disease is essential, and would serve to harm those who are medically unable to receive the vaccine.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Mark Gordon, do hereby direct the following to be effective immediately for the State of Wyoming;

- a. State agencies, boards, and commissions shall provide full access to state spaces and state services, regardless of a constituent’s COVID-19 vaccination status;
- b. State agencies, boards, and commissions shall comply with federal protections against the nonconsensual release of private patient information, such as vaccination status, including those protections enumerated under the federal Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and all relevant regulations;
- c. State agencies, boards, and commissions shall only release private patient information, such as vaccination status, upon the explicit consent of the patient or his or her parent or guardian;
- d. Other public entities within the State, including counties, cities, and towns, are encouraged to align local policies with this Statewide directive to continue to provide full access to public spaces and services, regardless of a constituent’s COVID-19 vaccination status;
- e. Private businesses within the State are encouraged to align their practices with this Statewide directive to continue to provide full access to goods and services to all members of the public, regardless of an individual’s COVID-19 vaccination status.

This Directive is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Given under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Wyoming this 7th day of May 2021.



Mark Gordon
Governor