

Local 130 has been working with COUPE to bargain a COVID-19 vaccination policy with the City of Chicago. The City's last, best, and final offer is being implemented. COUPE did not agree to this policy. City employees who are fully vaccinated by October 15, 2021 will receive a Personal Day that must be used by June 30, 2022. If you are vaccinated, please use the City's online portal to report your vaccination status as soon as possible to ensure you are able to take advantage of this Personal Day.

If you are not vaccinated, you will need to comply with the City's testing requirements. You must be tested every 3-4 days and submit those test results through the online portal. The online portal can be accessed through any computer, tablet, or smartphone. If you have any difficulty uploading vaccination status or testing results through the online portal, please contact your City HR liaison. Failure to comply with uploading your vaccination status or testing results, or submitting false information, may result in discipline up to and including termination. Delays that are not the employee's fault will not result in discipline and will be treated on a case-by-case basis. Free testing sites can be found here: <https://data.cityofchicago.org/Health-Human-Services/COVID-19-Testing-Sites-Map/j2wj-wjrp?referrer=embed>. Additionally, CDPH continues to support community-based testing by Rush in Little Village (Second Federal/Self-Help Credit Union Bank, 3960 W26th Street), and through Esperanza at Brighton Park (4700 S. California Ave). The state continues to operate community-based testing at Northeastern Illinois University (3601 W Bryn Mawr Avenue). COVID-19 testing is currently covered at 100% with no member cost share under the City's healthcare plan.

The City's policy currently requires all employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 on or before December 31, 2021. Exemptions will only be granted for medical or religious reasons. Failure to comply will result in being placed in a non-disciplinary, unpaid leave status effective January 1, 2022. If you wish to seek a religious or medical exemption please contact your City HR liaison.

COUPE is evaluating all of its legal options to challenge this policy. I do not want to give you false hope – these legal challenges may not work. For example, a similar policy implemented by the CTA was upheld by an arbitrator last month. I will keep you updated on COUPE's progress.

Fraternally Yours,

James F. Coyne