

This message is being sent to PIs of all federal contracts and cooperative agreements.

Dear Colleagues:

The legal status of vaccination mandates has now been examined by the federal courts. Based on the latest decisions, we are now required to cease all activities related to vaccine mandates. Please see the message from Deputy Vice President for Legal Affairs Amanda Cochran-McCall (copied below) for further details. Thank you for the effort you have put into preparing to comply with the presidential executive order. I know it was extra work you did not need added to your responsibilities. I will inform you promptly if further twists and turns in the legal situation arise.

Sincerely,
Dan Jaffe

DAN JAFFE, Vice President for Research
[The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Message from Legal Affairs, 12/7/21:

This morning, a federal court in Georgia issued a nation-wide injunction prohibiting enforcement of the President's Executive Order 14042 regarding the federal-contractor mandate requiring COVID precautions by federal contractors. As you may recall, EO 14042 was the legal authority compelling the university to require vaccination and masking in our buildings for covered employees working under our impacted federal contracts. That legal authority is no longer valid legal authority. The governor's executive order now controls. As a reminder, the governor's order prohibits the university from requiring a COVID-19 vaccination, and it does not allow us to require masking in our buildings. (In addition, university policy prohibits inquiring into a person's vaccination status.) Please direct your personnel to immediately cease compliance activities related to EO 14042. This notice does not relate to masking and social distancing requirements in healthcare settings, as permitted by the governor's executive order.