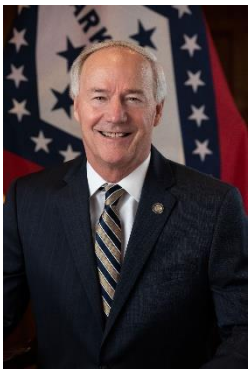




March 16, 2021

DEALERSHIP INFORMATIONAL ADVISORY
COVID-19 Updates #43



**GOVERNOR EXPANDS VACCINATION
ELIGIBILITY TO PHASE 1(C) WHICH INCLUDES
DEALERSHIP EMPLOYEES**

Governor Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Health announced today, March 16, 2021, that vaccine eligibility will expand to include everyone in phase 1(C), effective immediately.

The eligibility now includes all Arkansans ages 16 to 64 with health conditions that increase their risk to covid-19, as well as essential workers in areas that include transportation and logistics.

According to the CDC guidance being utilized by the Department of Health to determine eligibility, [dealership employees fall under this category as "essential workers."](#)

Specifically, Phase 1(C) makes Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers eligible and includes "workers critical to the manufacturing, distribution, sales, rental, leasing, repair and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment (including electric vehicle charging stations) and the supply chains that enable these operations to facilitate continuity of travel-related operations for essential workers." For a complete list of these Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers, [CLICK HERE.](#)

AADA has prepared a sample letter, [CLICK HERE.](#) that a dealership can provide its employees in the event it is necessary to explain to a vaccine provider why they are now eligible to obtain a vaccine.

For information on vaccination clinics and locations, please check out the [Arkansas Department of Health's COVID 19 Vaccination Website](#) or call 1-800-985-6030.

CAN A DEALERSHIP MANDATE AN EMPLOYEE GET VACCINATED?

In terms of a business mandating an employee receive a vaccination, under federal law businesses can require their employees to be vaccinated with some exceptions, such as those objecting because of medical conditions or religious beliefs. Requiring vaccines opens up many issues for dealers, and we would recommend you consult a labor lawyer before embarking on such a program.

For more analysis on this issue, [CLICK HERE](#), for an article by Stuart Jackson with the law firm Wright Lindsey Jennings from earlier this year.

Also, it should be noted there is a bill pending in the Arkansas Legislature that will prohibit mandatory vaccinations by employers. As a result, dealers should be diligent in insuring all state and federal laws are followed.



COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESS

As a reminder, Governor Hutchinson and the Arkansas Department of Health announced on February 26, 2021, that all previous COVID-19 directives were now considered guidance through a renewal of the executive order.

This distinction removed the legal mandates of the directives, and instead provided guidance as strong recommendations from the medical community. Additionally, the Governor announced that Arkansas's mask mandate will end March 31 if the 7-day rolling average of testing positivity rate remains below 10 percent after an average of 7,500 people tested daily.

Yesterday, March 15, 2021, the Arkansas House of Representatives approved [SB 379](#) which is a bill designed to allow Legislative leadership or a majority of members in each chamber to convene to consider ending a governor's emergency declaration. The legislation would also give lawmakers the authority to block executive orders issued by the Governor during an emergency and to deny the extension of an emergency declaration beyond 60 days. The Governor has stated he will sign this bill which is now on its way to his office for signature.

As a result of this legislation, it is possible the executive order and mask mandate may end sooner than March 31, 2021. AADA will keep you updated.

ADDITIONAL AND HELPFUL LINKS

For additional information related to maintaining your dealership as safe, we would recommend monitoring updates from the [CDC](#), [OSHA](#), and the [Arkansas Department of Health](#).

Please go to our website for links to information your dealership needs at [AADA coronavirus update](#).

As a reminder, NADA has produced a tremendous amount of resources to help dealers and their operations during the coronavirus pandemic. The site and the links will be updated continuously; bookmark the address, and click on the links as you need them for the latest versions of everything CARES Act, SBA, PPP, Tax Relief and more. Please check it out here: <https://www.nada.org/coronavirus/regulatory/>.

AADA will work to keep you updated on this situation, but a firm commitment to maintaining a safe and clean work environment for your employees and customers will help you navigate this health crisis.

If you have any questions about this bulletin please don't hesitate to call, 501-372-2596, or email Greg Kirkpatrick greg@arkautodealers.com.
