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Subject: SHRM Regulatory Alert: OSHA Officially Withdraws Emergency Temporary Standard

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:25:00 AM

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Today, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) officially <u>announced</u> the withdrawal of its COVID-19 vaccination and testing Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS), effective January 26, 2022.

OSHA's withdrawal of its COVID-19 vaccination and testing ETS, which required employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workers were vaccinated against COVID-19 or underwent weekly testing, nullifies employers' obligations under the standard. The withdrawal would also discontinue the OSHA ETS case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit because OSHA is unlikely to pursue a merits finding for a withdrawn regulation.

However, employers must continue to comply with state or local government vaccination and/or testing requirements, which are not affected by the ETS's withdrawal.

While no longer defending against legal challenges to the temporary standard, OSHA is continuing rulemaking efforts for a proposed permanent COVID-19 standard. Last week, SHRM External Affairs <u>submitted a regulatory comment</u> to OSHA advocating for OSHA to pursue a flexible, industry-specific response to COVID-19 in the workplace.

In case you missed it, watch SHRM External Affairs exclusive webcast on January 14 featuring workplace legal expert Valerie E. Brown, Partner at Holland & Knight, LLP to learn how the Supreme Court's decision affects state policies mandating vaccines or prohibiting employer vaccination mandates. Utilize SHRM's one-pager about the ruling and its implication for state policy. As a member of SHRM's Advocacy Team we want you to be the first to hear about the latest workplace policy updates. We invite you to join us at SHRM's Workplace Policy Conference 2022 (WPC 2022), March 27 – 29 in Washington D.C. WPC 2022 is THE premier insider event for issues affecting the world of work. Explore our premier lineup and reserve your spot today!

Sincerely, SHRM External Affairs

Kenya(Ken) M. Harrison Savannah SHRM Legislative Chair SHRM Advocacy (A-Team) YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

