AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine strongly supports the President’s new order to expand the requirement for COVID-19 vaccination to all employees of Medicare- and Medicaid-certified organizations. AMDA asked the Administration recently to take this action, which, once implemented, will greatly mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection in older adults. Further it will decrease the possibility that singling out nursing home staff for vaccination could cause an even greater staff shortage in nursing homes, a shortage that is already at crisis proportions.

AMDA appreciates the Administration’s recognition that the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over in our post-acute and long-term care (PALTC) setting. During this Delta variant surge, we have seen the rates of cases, hospitalizations and fatalities grow to levels matched only during the worst periods of this pandemic. It has been especially tragic that the very large majority of these new cases are in unvaccinated people, making this devastation almost entirely avoidable.

“As we have learned, this virus knows no boundaries between settings of care, communities, or political and cultural ideologies and belief systems. It has sickened and killed people of every age, ethnicity, cultural background, and geographic location, both here in the U.S. and across the world,” said AMDA President Karl Steinberg. “For most of 2021, we have had safe and effective vaccines available, and since April 19, available to all Americans over age 12. It is past time to ensure that these vaccines are fully deployed if we ever hope to put this pandemic behind us,” he said.

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