

Trump Signs Order Barring Federal Funding to Schools With COVID Vaccine Mandates

Trump campaigned on not giving 'one penny to any school that has a [COVID] vaccine mandate or a mask mandate.'

716

265

Save



President Donald Trump, with Secretary of Energy Chris Wright (L) and Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum (R) signs an executive order on halting federal funds for schools and universities that impose coronavirus vaccine mandates in the Oval Office of the White House on Feb. 14, 2025. Saul Loeb/AFP via Getty Images



By [Jacob Burg](#)

2/14/2025

Updated: 2/14/2025

A Print

President Donald Trump on Feb. 14 signed an executive order barring funding to universities and schools with COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

The order, detailed in a fact sheet provided by the White House, will prohibit all federal funding to any schools that implement COVID-19 vaccine mandates and directs the secretaries of Education and Health and Human Services to issue compliance guidelines and plans to end existing mandates. The secretaries will also create a report of non-compliant institutions and a process for blocking funds from supporting any that impose mandates.

The institutions affected include educational service agencies, state education agencies, local education agencies, elementary schools, secondary schools, or any institutions of higher education that require students to receive COVID-19 vaccines to attend in-person educational programs.

“President Trump is committed to protecting personal freedoms and ensuring that Americans’ education isn’t conditioned on unnecessary government mandates,” the White House fact sheet states. “[He] is dedicated to ensuring that American students are not forced to choose between their education and their medical freedom ... fulfilling his campaign promise: ‘I will not allow schools to impose COVID vaccine mandates.’”

In his first week back in office, Trump reinstated service members dismissed for refusing the COVID vaccine, giving them full back pay and benefits. He also revoked former President Joe Biden’s executive order creating vaccine mandates for certain federal workers, federal contractors, and those traveling internationally, although Biden had previously rescinded them himself in May 2023.

Trump campaigned against COVID-19 vaccine mandates during the 2024 election, saying at a rally in Richmond, Virginia, that he would “not give one penny to any school that has a vaccine mandate or a mask mandate.” When asked if that statement intended to include all vaccine mandates, such as polio or measles shots, a campaign spokesperson at the time said Trump meant COVID vaccine mandates.

While some, including Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo, have advocated against receiving the COVID vaccine altogether, Trump has continued to acknowledge the work his first administration did in fast-tracking the research, development, and implementation of the vaccine through his “Operation Warp Speed.”

When Biden championed the vaccine during his State of the Union address last year for helping end the pandemic, Trump took credit for their speedy development in a Truth Social [post](#).

In December 2020, Trump spoke at the “Operation Warp Speed Vaccine Summit” at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, calling the project a “monumental national achievement.”

“From the instant the coronavirus invaded our shores, we raced into action to develop a safe and effective vaccine at breakneck speed,” Trump said. “It would normally take five years, six years, seven years, or even more. ... We’re just days away from authorization from the FDA, and we’re pushing them hard, at which point we will immediately begin mass distribution.”

Trump noted then that the time frame for developing and approving an experimental vaccine like the mRNA shot “could be infinity,” but his administration was able to “get things done at a level nobody has ever seen before. The gold standard vaccine has been done in less than nine months.”

Some critics of the mRNA shot, including those with reported side effects, have suggested that not enough time was spent on research and testing before the vaccine was mass-distributed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has maintained that the shot is safe and effective.

Sign up for the Epoch Opinion newsletter. Our team of Canadian and international thought leaders take you beyond the headlines and trends that shape our world.
[Sign up with 1-click >>](#)



Jacob Burg

Author

Jacob Burg reports on national politics, aerospace, and aviation for The Epoch Times. He previously covered sports, regional politics, and breaking news for the Sarasota Herald Tribune.

Author’s Selected Articles

Helicopter Crew May Not Have Heard Air Traffic Control Instruction Before Midair Crash: NTSB

Feb 14, 2025

NASA Acting Chief Says DOGE Will Review the Agency’s Spending as Hundreds Take Buyout Offer

Feb 13, 2025

Federal Judge Allows Trump Admin Buyout Program to Continue

Feb 12, 2025

Trump to Give News Conference Thursday on DOGE Findings

Feb 12, 2025

Copyright © 2000 - 2025 The Epoch Times Association Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Cookies Settings](#)