



STATE *of* NEBRASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LINCOLN

**Executive Order No. 21-16**

**Federal Government's COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate Interference in State Government Operations**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Nebraska in 2020 implemented a mass vaccination program to combat the spread of the novel COVID-19 virus and over 73% of Nebraskans who are 12 and older are either fully vaccinated or partially vaccinated;

**WHEREAS**, I have continued to encourage all eligible Nebraskans to get vaccinated against COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the State further recognizes that Nebraskans have individual responsibility and personal freedom over their healthcare decisions and that the decision to receive a COVID-19 vaccination is a personal choice involving medical, religious, and other personal factors;

**WHEREAS**, individuals are not, nor should they be, mandated by Nebraska state statutes to receive a COVID-19 vaccine;

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has announced that it will unilaterally impose new vaccination mandates on federal employees, federal contractors, healthcare workers, and those businesses with 100 or more employees; and

**WHEREAS**, these vaccination mandates demonstrate massive overreach on the part of the federal government, are legally suspect, and should not, in any manner, be construed to flow through to any state government agency contract or those companies with whom state government enters into contracts.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Nebraska, do hereby order and direct the following actions in order to oppose the federal government's COVID-19 vaccine mandate overreach:

1. No Cabinet executive branch agency shall be a party in any agreement, any contract, any contract amendment, contract renewal, contract addendum, contract modification, grant agreement, lease agreement, memorandum of understanding or agreement that includes any requirement imposing a duty, obligation, or mandate on any person to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
2. All Cabinet executive branch agencies shall immediately notify the Governor's Office if any federal agency attempts to require a COVID-19 vaccination mandate of any kind with regard to any contracts or funding or lease agreements between the state government agency and the federal government.
3. All other executive branch agencies are encouraged to comply with these directives.
4. This Executive Order shall become effective immediately and shall remain in effect until specifically rescinded or amended by further Executive Order.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 28th day of October, 2021.



Pete Ricketts, Governor  
State of Nebraska

Attest:

Robert Evnen, Secretary of State  
State of Nebraska