



Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream.

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PRESS RELEASE

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FORWARD LATINO CALLS ON RETAILERS TO REMOVE COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS THAT VIOLATE CDC VACCINE PROGRAM GUIDELINES!

Franklin, WI: Today, Forward Latino, a national non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization with members in 29 states is calling on our nation’s retailers participating in the federal COVID-19 vaccination program to eliminate COVID-19 vaccination requirements that violate the federal vaccination program guidelines.

Forward Latino began investigating complaints in which individuals were either told, handed a form or received electronic guidance stating that a driver’s license or state ID is required to receive the vaccination. Forward Latino has confirmed these complaints regarding two retailers, Walgreens and Pick ‘n Save, a division of Kroger, and is currently reviewing the policies of other retailers participating in the vaccination program.

Darryl Morin, Forward Latino National President stated, “Our retail partners have in important role to play in the distribution of these life-saving vaccines. This being said, they must follow the program guidelines to ensure everyone receives the vaccine. The vaccine is safe, effective and available to everyone regardless of age, socioeconomic condition or immigration status. By requiring a driver license or state ID, these retailers create a dangerous roadblock for those in desperate need of a vaccination, including essential workers.”

Forward Latino has shared these concerns with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and received the following response:

"CDC does not require United States citizenship for individuals to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This aligns with other CDC vaccine programs, including our Vaccines for Children and our discretionary immunization programs. Since COVID-19 immunization is a CDC-administered program with vaccine being provided by the federal government, jurisdictions and providers cannot add United States citizenship requirements or require United States citizenship verification as a condition for vaccination.

In addition, the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program is part of this national vaccination effort and we aim to make clear that pharmacies **will not** require proof of age, occupation, or any other type of credentials; however, they will rely on self-attestation for validating group membership. This assures that no one will be turned away for lack of specific identification documents (e.g., driver’s license) and eases the burden on participating pharmacies and individuals."

Forward Latino has contacted Walgreens and Kroger leadership and is awaiting a response.



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Individuals who have been turned away due to a retailer's driver license or other ID requirement are encouraged to contact Forward Latino's national office at (833)LAT-INO1.

About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy and service organization dedicated to assisting Latinos pursuing the American Dream. Forward Latino fulfills its mission through advocacy, civic engagement, education and service delivery. Forward Latino currently has members in 29 states. Learn more at www.forwardlatino.org .

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