

Wilson, Jake

From: Soil & Water Conservation Program
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 1:02 PM
To: DNR.Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff; DNR.SWC Staff
Subject: FW: SWCD / USDA Office Operations

To all Soil and Water Conservation Districts,

As you know, the White House announced a six-pronged plan to advance the fight against COVID. It included an Executive order creating a vaccine mandate for **Federal employees**. Specifically, the President has ordered all Federal employees to be vaccinated against COVID by November 22, 2021.

At this time the program office has **not** been told that vaccination is required for district employees housed in federal offices or that they are considered contractors. The program acknowledges that this causes concerns to district employees not knowing what will be required. As more guidance is given we will be sure to communicate any changes in the status of district employee's requirements. This also means that district employees should not at this point be asking how to request reasonable and religious accommodations. Those requests are only necessary for Federal employees at this time.

With all this in mind, we would like to encourage district boards of supervisors to be prepared to offer the district employees the option to work remotely. In the past several months many if not all employees have the ability to work outside the USDA offices due to limited staff allowed in the office and rotating time in the office. District staff should plan to continue work under the current USDA office operation guidance until further guidance can be provided.

District staff may have limitations working remotely if they don't have availability to a NRCS laptop. MOSWIMS is available on a public domain and doesn't have to be accessed from the state computer. The address for MOSWIMS is <https://apps5.mo.gov/swims/>. Also district staff can access their state email through <https://webmail.mo.gov> from any internet connection. If you have questions please contact your district coordinator.

Please share this with your District Board of Supervisors. Thank You!

Kurt Boeckmann
Director
Soil and Water Conservation Program
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Office 573-751-7143
Kurt.Boeckmann@dnr.mo.gov

We'd like your feedback on the service you received from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the department's Customer Satisfaction Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MoDNRsurvey>. Thank you.