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COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard Status

1 message

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COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard Status

I know many of you have questions regarding the proposed Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) status to require COVID-19 vaccination or mandatory testing for employers. This federal regulation would be administered through OSHA. AASB has been monitoring the implementation of this ETS, given its controversy and recent court challenges. The original ETS was immediately challenged in the Fifth Circuit Court, and a stay was issued, preventing the implementation of the new rule. The Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit recently dissolved the Fifth Circuit's stay. However, it is doubtful that OSHA will move forward immediately, given several states challenging the rule, including Alaska.

Alaska school districts are obligated to comply with Alaska's occupational safety and health plan, which has not been updated to include a vaccine or testing mandate. Given Alaska's legal challenges to the ETS, we think it will be some time before the plan is updated and promulgated. Therefore, AASB is monitoring the situation closely with legal counsel and our peers across the country that develop school board policy. AASB is working to ensure a policy is ready should a mandate for Alaska school districts go into effect.

Respectfully,

Lon Garrison
Executive Director
Association of Alaska School Boards

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