

Texas Governor Signs Order Banning Vaccine Mandates in Texas



Texas: In response to Biden's recent call for private companies with more than 100 employees to require vaccinations, Republican Governor Greg Abbott signed an executive order Monday that prohibits any "entity in Texas" from enforcing COVID-19 vaccine mandates. Abbott's order states that businesses in the state may not require proof of vaccination from those employees or consumers who object to the shots for "any reason of personal conscience." He also directed the state legislature to take up the issue to pass it into law during the next session, and his order will be revoked when a law is in place. Monday's executive order comes after former US Rep. Allen West, who is running as a candidate for Abbott's position, said that he is "dedicated to fighting against vaccine mandates." -GEG

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"The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, & our best defense against the virus, but should always remain voluntary and never forced," Abbott said in a statement.

This comes after President Joe Biden announced last month that all employers with at least 100 employees must mandate that their workers be vaccinated or undergo regular coronavirus testing.

Violators of the new order will face the maximum fine allowed under a section of the Texas Government Code.

Abbott also sent a message to chief clerk of the state House and the secretary of the Senate, directing them to add the ban on vaccine mandates to the agenda of a third special legislative session. The executive order will be revoked once a similar piece of legislation is passed.

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