

**Nationwide Halt of Vaccine Mandate for Federal Contractors  
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As of December 7, 2021, the Biden administration's vaccine mandate for federal contractors has been halted nationwide. On December 7, 2021, Judge R. Stan Baker for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia issued an [Order](#) blocking the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all federal contractors. President Biden issued Executive Order 14042 on September 9, 2021, thereby requiring all contractors to ensure that their workers received the COVID-19 vaccine and to continue to follow social distancing and masking policies. The upcoming compliance deadline, originally set by the White House for December 8, 2021, was set for January 4, 2022. However, Judge Baker found that President Biden likely exceeded his authority under the Federal Property and Administrative Act when he issued the mandate and therefore enjoined its enforcement for the time being.

Previously, U.S. District Court Judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove of the Eastern District of Kentucky issued an order on November 30, 2021 blocking enforcement of the vaccine mandate in the states of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio, who were the only states party to that litigation. Judge Baker's December 7, 2021 Order blocks enforcement of the mandate nationwide although only Georgia and six other states originally brought the litigation before Judge Baker. However, Judge Baker subsequently permitted Associated Builders and Contractors Inc. ("ABC"), a trade association with membership spanning across the country, to intervene in the case.

Judge Baker found that "[g]iven the breadth of ABC's membership, the number of contracts plaintiffs will be involved with, and the fact that EO 14042 applies to subcontractors and others, limiting the relief to only those before the court would prove unwieldy and would only cause more confusion." Noting the extensive economic and political impact, Judge Baker noted that the mandate will "have a major impact on the economy at large, as it limits contractors' and members of the workforce's ability to perform work on federal contracts."

Therefore, during the pendency of the litigation before Judge Baker, the Biden administration is precluded from enforcing the vaccine mandate for federal contractors and subcontractors in all covered contracts in any state or territory of the United States of America.