



## GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTIAL VACCINATION STRIKE FORCE

### INTRODUCTION

The Biden administration has stated that it will be sending individuals to private residences as “strike force teams” questioning members of households as to whether they have been vaccinated and to offer vaccinations.<sup>1</sup> Some jurisdictions may call these strike force personnel “community health ambassadors”<sup>2</sup> or “covid surge response teams.”<sup>3</sup> Anecdotally, these can be high-pressure personal encounters at the front doors of homes or apartments. To secure the constitutional rights of the citizens from government overreach, the Pacific Justice Institute’s Legal Department has prepared this guideline to provide members of the general public with practical steps to protect privacy interests. PJI does not advocate for particular medical positions but does take a strong stance on the preservation of fundamental liberties.

### GUIDELINES STEPS

#### *Answering the Door:*

- There is no obligation to answer the door. This is particularly true for unfamiliar persons appearing at one’s home.
- If choosing to answer the door, do not invite strike force personnel inside. Conduct all conversations with the strike force personnel standing outside.

#### *Communications:*

- Strike force personnel will ask if you or members living with you have been vaccinated. Whether you have been vaccinated or not, an individual’s medical information is a private matter between the person and his or her physician. Do not answer the question. You may simply close the door if you prefer not to continue the conversation.

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<sup>1</sup> *Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials* (July 1, 2021) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/press-briefings/2021/07/01/press-briefing-by-white-house-covid-19-response-team-and-public-health-officials-43/>

<sup>2</sup> *Community Health Ambassador Outreach Door Knocking Project to Increase COVID Vaccine Acceptance* (last visited July 13, 2021) <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/39074/CHA-Doorknocking-Info-and-Script?bidId=>

<sup>3</sup> Smith, David (2021 July, 6) Biden announces Covid ‘surge response teams’ amid Delta variant concerns. *The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/jul/06/joe-biden-delta-variant-us-coronavirus-vaccines>

- Instead of answering, ask the following:
  - Who do you work for?
  - Please provide your photo identification?
  - Let me see documentation or other identification that shows who you work for?
  - What is the full name and full contact information of your immediate supervisor?
- Upon refusal to answer any question or provide any of the requested identification or documents, end the conversation and close the door.

*Photographs:*

- Using your phone or other device, scan or take photographs of the ID and government documentation provided.

*Concluding the Encounter:*

- The strike force personnel will likely repeat the demand for disclosure of vaccination status. Remain calm and polite.
- Neither confirm nor deny vaccination status.
- Inform the strike force personnel that the agency that they work for can mail a written request for the information and it will be responded to with the merit that it deserves.
- Do not discuss reasons for or against vaccination, the Constitution, HIPAA or any other matter related to COVID-19 or the propriety of vaccination. Despite their demeanor, strike force personnel have no inclination to be persuaded to your point of view.
- You can end with something to the effect of: “I’m sorry, but without your full cooperation we will need to bring this conversation to a close. Good day.” Or, “I’ll review the written mailed request for disclosure when it arrives and respond according to the merit that it deserves.”

## CONCLUSION

If you have further questions, submit them to [info@pji.org](mailto:info@pji.org).