

DOL Reentry Update – Phase 1 Date Moved to February 28

This message is intended for all DOL employees and contractors.

Colleagues,

I hope you and your loved ones are having a safe and healthy start to the new year.

Based on various factors, including operational considerations and current COVID-19 case trends and transmission rates, the Coordination Team is adjusting the timeline for increasing the return of Federal staff, onsite contractor staff, and visitors to DOL workspaces. **Phase 1 will now begin no earlier than Monday, February 28, 2022** (rather than the previous planned reentry date of January 31, 2022). Mission critical onsite work will continue. Thus, employees performing essential work that cannot be completed from an approved telework site should continue to work onsite as determined by their agency.

Agencies should ensure that staff identified for Phase 1 reentry who are not currently performing onsite work but were planning to return beginning January 31 are informed of the changed timing of Phase 1. Agencies have been planning for a future state of their workforce, including increased use of telework. Consistent with that planning, managers and employees should engage in discussions about telework agreements regardless of Phase.

- As a reminder, the current Resumption of On-Premises Work MOU which includes expanded Work Schedule flexibilities, is in place through the first business day of Phase 1.

Additional details about our reentry schedule, including dates for Phases 2 and 3, can be found on [LaborNet](#). Recently released guidance on testing and other helpful resources can also be found on [LaborNet](#).

We strongly encourage all eligible individuals to receive a COVID-19 booster dose as soon as possible. Medical experts continue to stress that the best way to protect yourself and others is by being fully vaccinated and receiving a booster as soon as you are eligible. The CDC has a new page with helpful information on [staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccine](#).

Employees will continue to be granted administrative leave to obtain an [additional dose](#) of the COVID-19 vaccine and/or a COVID-19 booster, or to accompany a family member who is receiving any dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Full guidance on the Department's leave policies related to the vaccine, including administrative leave for employees who experience side effects, can be found on [LaborNet](#) under Employee Messages.

Please be assured that our commitment to employee safety and health is our priority. We will continue to communicate with you about our plans and any further changes. As always, please visit the [DOL COVID-19 page on LaborNet](#) for more information and reach out to [REDACTED] with questions.

Thank you,

Rachana Desai Martin (she/her)

Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management

U.S. Department of Labor

Questions? [View the LaborNet page](#) or email us at covid19questions@dol.gov

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