



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VA St. Louis Health Care System  
#1 Jefferson Barracks Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63125-4199

## DESIGNATION AS CRITICAL APPLICANT/NEW EMPLOYEE

As the Nation comes to together to slow the spread of COVID-19, on March 16, 2020, the President issued updated Coronavirus Guidance for America. This guidance states that:

*"If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as **healthcare services** and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule."* (emphasis added)

The federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provides strategic guidance, promotes a national unity of effort, and coordinates the overall federal effort to ensure the security and resilience of the Nation's critical infrastructure.

On March 19, 2020 CISA listed **ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE** to help State and Local officials as they work to protect their communities, while ensuring continuity of functions critical to public health and safety, well as economic and national security. This list includes "**Healthcare and Public Health Sector employees.**" The complete list is available at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>. This list explicitly designed to inform critical infrastructure community decision-making to determine the sectors, subsectors, segments, or critical functions that should continue normal operations, appropriately modified to account for Centers for Disease Control (CDC) workforce and customer protection guidance.

Because you are a new employee and/or applicant of VA St. Louis Health Care System, you are recognized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as **WORKERS ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE** by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

As a Federal health care enterprise, VASTLHCS is expected to fulfill the Department of Veterans Affairs mission. Although VASTLHCS has purposely paused some aspects of routine or elective care, VASTLHCS must continue operations to support out catchment of Veterans. Additionally, VASTLHCS is a designated Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) as part of the National Disaster Medical System and therefore must remain operational.

Please share this letter with any state or local government officials to confirm your status as a new employee of VASTLHCS, and the critical role you play in maintaining the nation's health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill M. Vaughn".

Jill M. Vaughn  
Human Resources Manager