

# Detroit hospital system sued over COVID vaccine mandate - Axios

[Rebecca Falconer](#) Sep 8, 2021 - [Health](#)

About 50 Detroit health care workers have filed a lawsuit against a hospital system, claiming its upcoming COVID-19 vaccine mandate violates the Fourteenth Amendment's protection of "personal autonomy and bodily integrity."

**Why it matters:** This is the second major legal test concerning vaccine mandates in the health care sector, after [an unsuccessful lawsuit claiming](#) a Texas hospital's policy requiring all staff be vaccinated against the virus was unlawful.

- Dismissing the lawsuit against the Houston Methodist Hospital in June, [the judge noted](#) that the federal government has said [companies can require](#) workers to get vaccines.

**Driving the news:** The [suit filed against](#) Henry Ford Health System cites unverified reports from the CDC's [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System](#) (VAERS) — claiming that in the U.S. over 13,000 vaccinated people have died from the virus and more than 30,000 others have been left with permanent disabilities and life-threatening events.

**Of note:** The suit, filed Monday, doesn't mention a July 21 [CDC website update](#) stating that reports of deaths "after COVID-19 vaccination are rare" — with only 6,207 such fatalities recorded from Dec. 14, 2020, to July 19, 2021, after 369 million doses administered.

- "FDA requires healthcare providers to report any death after COVID-19

vaccination to VAERS, even if it's unclear whether the vaccine was the cause," the CDC states.

**What they're saying:** A Henry Ford Health System spokesperson said in an emailed statement Tuesday: "We remain confident that vaccination is the most powerful tool we all have against the COVID-19 pandemic.

- "Beyond that, we cannot comment on pending litigation."

**What to watch:** The hospital system's vaccine requirement is due to take effect Friday.