



# THE WANADA BULLETIN

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR AND ABOUT FRANCHISED NEW CAR DEALERS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA

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## COVID FDA Approval and What It Means for Employers

On August 23, the US Food & Drug Administration approved the first COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has been known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, and will now be marketed as Comirnaty for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

This approval comes on the heels of [updated COVID-19 for guidance employers that was issued by OSHA on August 13](#) and means that many more employers will be grappling with the decision to mandate vaccinations or not. OSHA's guidance, which preceded full FDA approval, now notably recommends the following:

- Employers should consider policies that would require workers to get vaccinated and require unvaccinated workers to undergo regular COVID-19 testing, wear masks and practice physical distancing.
- Fully vaccinated workers in areas of the country with substantial or high community transmission should wear masks to protect unvaccinated workers, vendors and customers. See the [COVID-19 Integrated County View Data Tracker](#) for updated metrics on our region.
- Fully vaccinated workers who experience a known close contact exposure to COVID-19 should wear masks for at least 14 days or until they receive a negative result for a COVID test taken at least three days after the known exposure.

While crafting a vaccination policy should include consultations with your counsel to ensure legal compliance, the Harvard Business Review, in [an article from July](#) that was later adopted by the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), outlined the following seven steps of a successful vaccination policy process:

1. Establish an ethical framework and hierarchy;

2. Conduct a risk-benefit analysis compliant with professional standards;
3. Ensure that policies for religious and medical exemptions are consistent with state and local laws;
4. Provide a robust educational campaign;
5. Combat misinformation;
6. Lead by example;
7. Monitor the vaccination rates

The District of Columbia, along with Baltimore City and Montgomery, Prince George's and Charles Counties in Maryland, currently have an indoor mask mandate still in force. The state of Virginia has not statewide mandate, nor do any of the Commonwealth's counties at the time of this writing.

For more information, note that WANADA is regularly updating its COVID-19 resource page [here](#) and NADA has prepared a helpful guide titled [FAQs: Dealership Health and Safety Concerns During a Pandemic](#).

## Annual Space Draw for DC Auto Show to be Held Sept. 14



WANADA is scheduled to host the Space Draw for the 2022 Washington, DC Auto Show on Tuesday, September 14. The Space Draw is where manufacturers and their representatives select their floor space for the upcoming DC Auto Show. This year's Space Draw will be held virtually with manufacturer representatives joining from around the country, with the auto show staff hosting the event from WANADA headquarters.

Planning for the 2022 Washington, DC Auto Show is in full swing. The 2022 show will be open to the public from Friday, January 21 through Sunday, January 30. With the Space Draw less than two weeks away, this would be a good time for WANADA dealer members to check in with their OEM representatives to make sure they are lined up to participate in the 2022 Washington, DC Auto Show.

WANADA will be providing members with more information on the show as the event gets closer, including details on the WANADA Member Reception, Public Policy Day, and more. For additional information, please visit [www.washingtonautoshow.com](http://www.washingtonautoshow.com).

## Process Reminder: DC Leases Pay Use Tax (Not Excise Tax)

When it comes to processing the tag and title work for leases to DC customers, there can be a lot of confusion in your tag & title office. This is understandable, given that your staff is generally acquainted with dealing with DC DMV and the tax associated with leases is a “sales and use tax” that is collected by the DC Office of Tax & Revenue (OTR), not DC DMV.

You may also have knowledgeable electric vehicle (EV) customers who believe that their lease is exempt from all taxes since the DC DMV exempts EVs from the excise tax associated with a purchase. On a lease, however, there are no exemptions: regardless of the gas mileage or powertrain, a leased vehicle in the District is always subject to the use tax.

For further reference, the code section that specifies that leases are exempt from excise tax, but subject to the use tax is [D.C. Code § 50-2201.03\(j\)\(3\)\(F\)](#). The leasing or rental of vehicles, as defined in [D.C. Code § 50-1505.01](#), is subject to District sales tax at a rate of 10.25 percent as specified in [D.C. Code § 47-2002\(a\)\(4B\)](#).

If you, your staff, or your customers have any questions on these matters, please contact Joe Koch, Vice President of Operations, at 202-821-5824 or [jk@wanada.org](mailto:jk@wanada.org).

## Save the Date: WANADA Annual Meeting Scheduled for Nov 4

WANADA's 2021 Annual Meeting & Luncheon has been scheduled for Thursday, November 4 at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner in McLean, VA. The luncheon will begin at 12:00 noon, preceded by a networking reception for registered attendees starting at 11:30 am. Ticket information and a link to register will be sent to all WANADA members as the event gets closer.

Please look for an announcement in the coming weeks about this year's keynote speaker, who will report on the latest political and economic developments and what it means for the auto industry.

Any WANADA kindred-line members who are interested in sponsoring the 2021 Annual Luncheon should contact Bob Storin at 301-335-8289 or [RS@wanada.org](mailto:RS@wanada.org).

## Register for the Cox Automotive Fall Expo

WANADA Kindred member Cox Automotive will be holding a virtual Fall Expo on September 27-30, 2021. The program promises to offer unique insights into consumer behavior, dealership operations and the digital trends that will help shape the future of the automotive industry. The impressive speaker lineup includes Mike Stanton, CEO of NADA, Bill Himpler, the CEO of the American Financial Services Association (AFSA), and Jamie Butters, the Chief Content Officer for Automotive News. [Click here](#) to register or get more information.

## In Memoriam: Virginia Martens

WANADA has recently learned of the passing of Virginia Martens, spouse of the late Harry Martens, Jr., on August 27, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Martens family during this time of mourning. We have yet to receive additional information regarding arrangements, but will distribute details as we learn of them.

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