

United Airlines Set to Terminate 593 Workers for Refusing COVID-19 Vaccine

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[United Airlines](#) is set to terminate 593 of its employees who have chosen to not comply with the company's [vaccine mandate](#), it confirmed to [The Epoch Times](#) on Sept. 29.

The company was the first U.S. carrier to mandate vaccines for all domestic employees, having announced its mandate in August. Employees were required to be vaccinated by Sept. 27 or they would be terminated by Oct. 2. Those who refused the vaccine would be terminated outright.

In a memo sent to employees on Sept. 28 and obtained by [The Epoch Times](#), United Airlines Chief Executive Scott Kirby and President Brett Hart said the company would start the process of firing the employees who refused to be vaccinated against COVID-19, the disease caused by the [CCP \(Chinese Communist Party\) virus](#).

The United Airlines executives told staff that more than 99 percent of domestic employees “chose to get vaccinated, excluding those who submitted for an accommodation.”

“For the less than 1 [percent] of people who decided to not get vaccinated, we’ll unfortunately begin the process of separation from the airline per our policy,” the memo reads. “This was an incredibly difficult decision but keeping our team safe has always been our first priority. The pandemic is now killing more than 2,000 people per day—a 65 [percent] increase in just the past 30 days—and the most effective way to keep our people safe, is to make sure they’re vaccinated.”

Two major unions representing United Airlines workers, the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA and the Air Line Pilots Association, didn’t respond to requests for comment by press time. They had said in previous statements that they supported the mandates.

The memo noted that those applying for a medical or religious exemption have had “the deadline for implementing the accommodations” extended due to a pending court case.

United Airlines officials said people who applied for religious and medical exemptions account for less than 3 percent of the company's workforce of 67,000 people. It was going to offer an "accommodation" of unpaid personal leave from Oct. 2. Doing so would mean that the employees would also forfeit their benefits, including medical coverage.

Six United Airlines employees [filed a class-action suit](#) against the airline last week, with attorneys arguing that the company's handling of its vaccine mandates violates the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The attorneys for the employees [announced on Sept. 28](#) that the company had agreed to pause its plan until Oct. 15 to apply so-called accommodation for about 2,000 of its employees who have applied for religious or medical exemptions.

They hailed the move as "a victory for employees seeking reasonable accommodations for personal medical decisions," and condemned the "accommodation" that United Airlines had initially offered as "termination by another name."

Texas Judge Mark Pittman is set to hear evidence and arguments in the lawsuit on Oct. 8.

A United Airlines spokesperson told Reuters that the company plans to hire about 25,000 people over the next few years and that COVID-19 vaccination is a condition of employment. The spokesperson stated that the company will also require students at its pilot training school to get vaccinated.

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