

# Florida Fines Key County \$3.5 Million For Mandating COVID-19 Vaccines



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis: “No one should lose their jobs because of COVID shots.”

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Source: [HuffPost](#)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) – Florida has issued its first fine to a county it says violated a new state law banning coronavirus vaccine mandates and for firing 14 workers who failed to get the shots.

The Florida Department of Health on Tuesday [issued the \\$3.5 million fine](#) for Leon County, home to the state capital, saying the municipality violated Florida’s “vaccine passport”

law, which prohibits businesses and governments from requiring people to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

“These are people that, presumably, have been serving throughout this whole time and now all of a sudden they’re basically getting kicked to the curb,” Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a news conference in St. Pete Beach.

Later, the governor tweeted, “No one should lose their jobs because of COVID shots.”

The law took effect last month and can result in a \$5,000 fine per violation. It is being challenged in court and conflicts with a Biden administration order that companies with more than 100 employees require their workers to be vaccinated or face weekly testing.

In a statement, Leon County Administrator Vincent Long said the county believes its vaccination requirement is legally justifiable and necessary to keep people safe.

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