

## Personal testimony from Adele, Charge Nurse/Asst. manager, Labor & Delivery at Community Health Network

On June 1, 2021 my Hospital Network in Indianapolis mandated that every worker be fully vaccinated by August 31. Here is my story trying to comply with this mandate so I could keep my job that I loved.

Over the last few years I have been suffering from some auto immune issues (Hashimotos and psoriasis) and had finally found an amazing doctor in January 2021 and by March had them under control.

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, I took my first Pfizer vaccine and within one week I developed shingles. I'm not old enough to get the shingles vaccine so that wouldn't have made a difference. Shortly after managing the shingles my auto immune system went into a crisis mode and my Biological medication stopped working. My psoriasis got so bad that it completely engulfed my hands and feet with sores and split skin even by just picking up a pen (pics below). I lost sensation in my dominant fingers that I use for my primary job of exams and starting IVs. I continue still 6 months later with all the above issues and Neurology including severe Neuralgia, ringing in the ears and short term memory issues.

My short term disability paid me \$100 a week for 12 weeks and that was covered under FMLA. That ran out and long term disability denied me saying it was a pre-existing condition. As of this message I have been off of work for 28 weeks. After depleting all my savings and waiting, long-term disability finally approved me at the six-month point and did give me back pay. For a little while I felt no other recourse possible than hiring an attorney and filing a lawsuit against my company. It actually was hard to find an attorney initially because most people don't want to get involved with anything Covid related. I did find somebody who is willing to go the distance.

On October 14 I received a FedEx notification that my position was going to be replaced and eventually terminated due to my inability to come back and perform my duties. Those that know me are well aware that I have never in 25 years been terminated from any position and have always had perfect management reviews and peer reviews. The shock of not being able to work for that long has left me depressed and thinking that I had no other recourse of action other than to obtain Legal counsel. Per OSHA mandate I should have been compensated this whole time as Workman's comp.

I firmly believe **if you are mandated to inject something into your body that changes things on a cellular level, there must be accountability for an adverse reaction.** My coworkers are deeply saddened with these events as it could have happened to any of us in Healthcare.

Thank you for listening to my story! 😊 Adele

