

Omicron could force many workers who test positive to quarantine under federal mandate, intensifying labor shortages

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

James Sullivan spoke with *Yahoo! finance* about the impact the omicron variant is having on employers. “A lot more people will test positive than before,” says James. “It will be a testing/quarantining extravaganza!” James however, says most companies that have imposed vaccination requirements – largely banks, law firms and other professional service companies – have not provided an option for testing, which can result in administrative hassles and higher costs. And many restaurants, stores, factories and other businesses have not required employee vaccinations because they’re already struggling to fill openings amid dire labor shortages, he says. Biden’s rule, however, would force their hand and apply to more than 80 million workers. Many firms will likely give employees who refuse to get vaccinated the option of weekly testing so they don’t quit, he says.

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