

From: [Philip Bovee](#)
To: [Joseph P. Filippi](#)
Cc: [Philip Bovee](#)
Subject: Public Comment Mandatory Vaccine for NSHE students
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:14:37 AM

Dear Nevada State Board of Health,

Please present this as Public Comment at the August 10 hearing on the proposal for COVID vaccine requirement for ALL students as a prerequisite for enrollment/attendance at CSN and NSHE institutions for the Fall Term.

I respectfully disagree with such a requirement, and appreciate the opportunity to express some of my concerns.

1. Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of a vaccine requirement is the negative impact it would have on students of color. The CDC reports that the vaccination percentage for Black and Hispanic Americans is significantly lower than for Whites and Asians. Although exact numbers vary, the best current information is that 60% to 70% of Black Americans are NOT vaccinated.

A vaccine requirement would impose a disproportionate burden on students of color and could exclude many Black students from the opportunity to further their education and fulfill their dreams.

2. The fall term starts in less than 3 weeks. Even if an emergency mandate were issued it would be burdensome—and highly unlikely---for ALL the unvaccinated to comply prior to the start of school.

It is unreasonable to assume that all unvaccinated prospective students will be able to get the word in time and make the necessary arrangements to be vaccinated. The Moderna vaccine requires 2 doses spaced 30 days apart, which would make compliance prior to the start of Fall term impossible.

What of unvaccinated students who may have already registered, picked classes, even quit a job or moved to Las Vegas in preparation for matriculation? If they are unable to get the shot or unwilling to submit to a vaccine unapproved by the FDA should they be denied their opportunity for an education? Would exclusion result in complaints from students feeling they had been misled and had the rules changed at the last minute? Would the vaccine requirement result in a rash of legal action?

3. There is no question that a vaccine requirement at this late date would adversely impact enrollment at CSN, and ALL students—not just the excluded unvaccinated—would suffer from such a requirement. Classes may need to be cancelled, tuition would need to be refunded, furloughs of faculty and staff could become necessary.

4. The US Supreme Court has agreed to consider a vaccine mandate for college attendance from Indiana, and the High Court may prohibit such an action on Constitutional or other legal grounds. A vaccine mandate could result in Legal action that could further disrupt CSN and result in costs and losses that could negatively effect the institution for years to come.

There are better--less draconian-- ways to protect the health of all, and forced vaccine under threat of lost educational opportunity-- especially for our Black and Brown students-- violates the CSN motto of "Students First," flies in the face of our PROUD commitment to INCLUSION and DIVERSITY, and puts our institution at risk for long term and far reaching adverse consequences.

Sincerely,

Philip Bovee (CSN Adjunct Instructor)