

From: [John Doe](#)
To: [Joseph P. Filippi](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Emergency Board of Health Meeting August 20, 2021
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 4:04:55 PM

To whom it may concern:

As a Nevadan and disabled military veteran pursuing a STEM degree, I urge that you do not make the COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for NSHE students. I am a student that suffers from an extremely rare chronic illness of unknown origin and believe my chronic illness to be autoimmune related. My father served as a major in the U.S. Army and was vaccinated during the Gulf War yet was never deployed. He was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and eventually succumbed to it. Out of all my siblings, I am the only one that enlisted into the U.S. military and suffers from a chronic illness. It is very likely that I have a genetic predisposition that causes my body to have a neurological vulnerable and exposure to vaccinations in the military triggered my chronic illness.

Because of my medical condition, I am uncomfortable with receiving a vaccination that's not FDA approved and may exacerbate my chronic illness regardless of it being FDA approved. At my yearly VA checkup several months ago, I was offered the COVID-19 vaccination and my TDAP booster. I declined the COVID-19 vaccination and took my TDAP booster as due to my medical history I am rather certain this vaccine is safe for me since I've had my TDAP in the past. Ever since taking my TDAP booster vaccination, I've felt noticeably different in a negative way. Had I known my TDAP booster would affect me so, I would have held off on getting my TDAP booster until an actual risk of tetanus occurred, such as stepping on a rusted nail or something of that nature. Mandating that I immediately risk my health to the point of possible injury or death by receiving a vaccination, especially one that I've never been exposed to before, is an unacceptable risk. I can only imagine the fear that pregnant women must be going through knowing that despite expected FDA approval, hardly any research has been conducted regarding any potential interactions the COVID-19 vaccination has at each stage of pregnancy. I am unaware of there ever having been any research looking into whether mRNA vaccines are or are not able to differentiate between healthy cells and malfunctioning cells that are cancerous. With a basic understanding of microbiology, it can be hypothesized that while a healthy cell's machinery may be able to be hijacked to produce a specific spiked protein, a cancerous cell's machinery would not be able to produce the specified spiked protein due to already malfunctioning and would unintentionally produce something else entirely different.

The only reason that smallpox was ever eradicated is because smallpox does not have an animal reservoir and is strictly passed from human-to-human. It is known that COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease with animal reservoirs that including bats, dogs, cats, ferrets, and more. Because of this, COVID-19 will never be eradicated, requiring a yearly vaccination like the seasonal flu. While strains like the Delta variant may be more severe, these strains will occur on a yearly basis regardless of whether students are vaccinated. Even if a 100% vaccination rate were achieved in the United States, it does not prevent transmission of COVID-19 and countries spawning variants like the Delta variant due to poor COVID-19 vaccination rates would cause international students to still infect U.S. students. I am unaware of NSHE considering a blanket ban on the enrollment of international students regardless of their vaccination status.

While preferable that the COVID-19 vaccination is not made mandatory for NSHE students, at a minimum making the COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for NSHE students should not take effect this Fall semester. As has been demonstrated in previous semesters, most colleges and universities have shown that they've been able to adjust to teaching classes virtually. A sudden change in NSHE policy for this coming Fall semester that requires students be vaccinated against COVID-19 would disrupt a semester of education for students like myself who have already planned out a pathway necessary to completing our degrees on time. To prevent unnecessary hardship among the student population, it would be prudent to hold the Fall semester virtually, allowing students time to either receive their COVID-19 vaccinations prior to the start of the Spring semester or time to replan a pathway that allows the completion of their degree on schedule elsewhere in the United States.

Thank you for your time,
NSHE student and military veteran