

## **Public Comment for State Board of Health Meeting, 8/20:**

To begin with, I'd like to pose a few questions. First of all, why mandate a vaccine for a virus that has a 99.983 percent survival rate? If the vaccine works, then why does it matter who receives it or not, since those who wish to protect themselves may take it of their own free will?

Getting the vaccine does not "protect others" as even by the White House's admission it is possible for vaccinated individuals to contract and spread COVID-19. So why mandate it?

As it stands now, this vaccine is an experimental drug that does NOT have full FDA approval. Never in history has any sort of drug or medication without full FDA approval been mandated or required. It is under an emergency use authorization ONLY.

Additionally, the severity of COVID-19 does not seem like the virus would constitute an "emergency." According to calculations from the CDC's own website, the mortality rate of COVID-19 is 0.017 percent. In other words, this translates into a 99.983% survival rate for anyone who contracts COVID-19.

On top of that, we know that young people are at a much lower risk from covid than any other age group. Given the fact that the numbers I used include all age groups, the death rate is a very generous estimate, and the real risk to the group you're proposing mandating this for is much lower. Mandating an experimental drug on healthy young people makes no sense.

Furthermore, there are several other treatment options available that are effective at preventing and/or treating covid, such as ivermectin, hydroxychloroquine, and remdesivir. Again, no vaccine has ever been mandated when other such options are available.

Upon reviewing comments from the board's August 10 meeting, I have encountered a number of letters in favor of mandating the COVID-19 vaccine, which claim that precedent has been set as other vaccines are required to attend universities. But all these arguments are built upon the same flaws and I would like to bring them to your attention.

First of all, any vaccine that is currently mandated has full FDA approval and has been available for many years. They have had long-term studies conducted on them to evaluate their safety, efficacy, and side effects.

Also, all other required vaccines are what is called a “live attenuated virus” (a weakened form of the actual virus) whereas the covid vaccine is in the form of an mRNA vaccine, which has never been successful or used until now.

Lastly, the adverse effects and deaths reported for the other required vaccines are much lower than those for the covid vaccines. This is coupled with the fact that the death rates for the diseases for other required vaccines are much higher, thus more of a threat than COVID-19.

As a student at the University of Nevada, Reno, I urge you to leave the decision of whether or not to receive the covid vaccine up to each individual student—a decision that should remain private, solely between the student and their healthcare provider.

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/meas.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/know-your-treatment-options-covid-19#:~:text=The%20US%20Food%20and%20Drug,combating%20COVID%2D19.>

<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/informed-consent>

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Ariana