

From: [Justin Phetteplace](#)
To: [Joseph P. Filippi](#)
Subject: Emergency state board of health meeting
Date: Thursday, August 19, 2021 9:46:20 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to express my support for vaccination requirements in the fight against the COVID-19 virus that has plagued the world for the past year and a half.

It is my opinion, one that I doubt is fully unique, that UNR students in the upcoming fall semester, and perhaps the spring semester, should be given the choice to participate in either a remote, hybrid, or in person experience.

I understand that getting vaccinated against this virus is something to celebrate for many. After all, COVID has taken many lives and we now have something stronger than a mask to protect and defend us.

However, I will have to celebrate quietly. I need confidentiality. With such polarized circumstances, I don't want my vaccination status to be public knowledge. In my personal experience, my family will never get vaccinated against COVID-19. I happen to disagree with their world views, but just as they will go to the grave unvaccinated, I will go to my grave with my vaccination status private.

Should UNR publicly announce that vaccination is a requirement for attendance, I will be scrutinized by my family. If they gathered this knowledge I would be met with far more than an awkward conversation. I will be seen as a dead man. How ironic, I choose to protect myself and reduce their exposure, yet I am the dead man. I understand that it's unlikely I'll be able to hide my vaccination status forever however I would like to emphasize that UNR students and faculty have proved thus far that remote learning is possible and that students can be successful in this form of learning.

In addition to my desire to remain confidential regarding my vaccination status I am concerned about the Delta variant and about the ventilation in UNR lecture halls, labs, and classrooms. Remote learning allows for those of us who are concerned about our health to stay home if we feel unsafe in a crowded lecture hall. I know that many people learn well in person but many of us also learn better at home with remote learning. All I am asking is that UNR students are given options. If we were to go through a lockdown again, allowing the option of remote learning would allow for a smooth transition for students. I support the vaccine mandate, however vaccinations shouldn't be required until the FDA approves the vaccine. Remote learning would enable individuals to hold out on getting the vaccine until it is approved by the FDA.

I would love to return to campus in person; however, I do not feel safe with any course

offering besides remote learning due to the delta variant. Furthermore, if vaccinations are required, I strongly desire the ability to tell my family that since I am fully remote I don't have to be vaccinated— regardless of FDA approval— because UNR allows me to take classes from home, if I'm unvaccinated, through methods used in the past few semesters on zoom.

As emphasized in my letter,

I hope to be heard and kept anonymous.
Please take my suggestions into consideration.

Hopefully requiring vaccinations, in addition to offering the option of remote learning for all courses (regardless of vaccination status), will be effective in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.