

**From:** [Pamela M Everett](#)  
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**Subject:** NSHE Student Vaccination Mandate  
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I am an attorney and a professor at UNR. I strongly urge the board to mandate student vaccinations for the following reasons:

Existing law allows us to mandate vaccines. And based on the US Supreme Court's recent refusal to hear a student challenge to Indiana University's COVID vaccine mandate (a refusal based on a lack of legal grounds for such challenge and a recognition that concerns over FDA emergency approval status are outweighed by public health needs), your department is on solid legal footing to add a COVID vaccine to those currently required.

Allowing thousands of potentially unvaccinated students back from all over the country is a grave public health risk. Studies have consistently revealed that this age group is one of the most likely to not have been vaccinated and yet these students will not be socially distanced in classrooms, labs, cafeterias, library facilities, dorms, or anywhere else. Their off-campus behaviors are typically risky, with large numbers of students gathering in enclosed spaces, drinking and imbibing other judgment-impairing substances, increasing the likelihood of transmission.

Allowing these students back on campus is a threat to faculty and staff at the university, all of whom have been forced to be vaccinated or tested as a condition of employment. The argument that they are not permanent employees and are, therefore, somehow more transient fails. They are on campus, in our classrooms and other spaces, for nearly four months. The Delta variant spreads rapidly and with great intensity, so four months - indeed, a couple weeks - is plenty of time to court catastrophe. The state will surely have to defend legal actions from faculty and staff who would not have been infected but for the state's negligence to impose such restrictions.

Please do the right thing, for our faculty and staff, and for our community and state.

Thank you.  
Pamela Everett, JD

Pamela Everett  
Author of *Little Shoes*



