

From: [Shantal Marshall](#)
To: [Joseph P. Filippi](#)
Subject: Comment in support for vaccination mandate for NSHE students
Date: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 10:44:28 PM

Dear Nevada State Board of Health Members,

I write to express my support of a requiring NSHE students to submit proof of COVID-19 inoculation under Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 441A.755.

From the social psychological literature it is clear that once an important issue has become polarized it is almost impossible to change people's minds about it. The rate and intensity of the polarization of the virus, the vaccines, and masks has meant that many people have "dug in their heels" when it comes to what they believe is true. We are counting on you to use your medical and scientific expertise to decide what makes the most sense for the NSHE population, as you have with other mandated vaccines for our students. From my lay person's perspective, the vaccines approved under emergency authorization, and soon to be given full authorization, by the FDA have been shown to be overwhelmingly safe and effective. However, if **you** agree that they are safe and effective, then it only makes sense to mandate them for anyone who wants to interact in person on our campuses, so that we can interact with some level of safety. While the concern that we can contract the virus and bring it home to our families, including vulnerable family members, will not end until this pandemic is over, we should be able to work and learn in spaces in which we know everyone has done what they can to prevent the spread.

While it is unfortunate that we are in a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic that requires mandates such as this, the truth is that we are. If we are going to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe we must use the tools available to us.

Thank you,

Shantal Marshall, PhD
Associate Professor of Psychology
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"I am, somehow, less interested in the weight and convolutions of Einstein's brain than in the near certainty that people of equal talent have lived and died in cotton fields and sweatshops." – *Stephen Jay Gould*

