

From: [Jamie Voyles](#)
To: [Joseph P. Filippi](#)
Subject: State Board of Health Meeting_Aug. 10
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 8:23:48 PM

Dear Dr. Filippi:

I appreciate the opportunity to speak during the Public Comment period at today's State Board of Health meeting. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno in the Department of Biology and I teach courses on immunology, medical microbiology, and epidemiology. I'm sure you can appreciate that my students and I are very interested in ensuring that we will be returning to the safest possible environment for teaching in the Fall and Spring semesters of the 2021-2022 academic year.

The State Board of Health already mandates that all university freshmen in Nevada must show proof of having received vaccines for multiple infectious diseases. It is my view that this policy (i.e., mandating proof of vaccination status for students) should be consistent for the COVID-19 vaccine. The available vaccines are undoubtedly the most important public health tools available to combat further spread, hospitalizations, and mortality caused by SARS-CoV-2. Therefore, a vaccine mandate is critical to ensuring the health and well being of the university community -- as well as the general public -- in Reno, Nevada.

The Board of Regents cannot mandate this vaccine. Nor can I or any of my colleagues. I urge you to make vaccine mandates for students an urgent priority.

Thank you,
Jamie Voyles

Jamie Voyles MS, PHD | Associate Professor
Department of Biology | University of Nevada, Reno
