

**From:** [JOHN HESS](#)  
**To:** [Joseph P. Filippi](#)  
**Subject:** Vaccine Mandate Higher Education  
**Date:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:46:45 AM

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Dear Nevada Board of Health Members,

My name is John Hess, MD and I'm a board certified actively practicing family physician in Reno, NV.

I am strongly in favor of mandating the COVID vaccine in our higher education settings. It is very clear that while the vaccines have lost some effectiveness in reducing the spread of the virus they do still lower the risk of transmission by at least 5 fold when compared to those unvaccinated. They also still strongly lower the risk of developing severe infection in every age group.

In addition I do want to point out that the relative risks of COVID vaccination vs actual COVID infection are striking even in younger individuals. A significant study done last fall of BIG 12 athletes found that 0.5% of athletes infected with COVID developed symptomatic myocarditis. The mRNA vaccines are estimated to induce myocarditis in teens at a rate of .0075%. Thus, COVID infection in teens and young adults is 60 times more likely to cause myocarditis than by being vaccinated. In real terms with over 100,000 students in the Nevada system of higher education that would mean 500 hundred cases of symptomatic myocarditis in students who contracted COVID vs 8 cases of myocarditis from vaccination.

After millions and millions of doses given and only very, very rare adverse events identified full authorization by the FDA in regard to COVID vaccines is anticipated within the next few weeks. The vaccines have clearly been shown to be safe and effective and to protect the more than 100,000 students within the Nevada system of higher education as well as their surrounding communities I can not urge you enough to proceed with mandating COVID vaccination for all students and staff.

Sincerely,  
John Hess, MD