

Open Letter to President Terri Goss Kinzy and Members of Illinois State University's Board of Trustees Regarding Fall 2021

All members of the ISU community and residents of Bloomington-Normal are invited to sign this letter. To add your signature, [click here](#). Signatures will be added below periodically.

Dear President Kinzy and Members of the Board of Trustees:

With only a few weeks before classes are scheduled to begin at Illinois State University, COVID-19 cases are again on the rise, in Illinois and nationwide, driven by the extremely transmissible Delta variant. We, the undersigned, are concerned that ISU's existing Fall 2021 COVID-19 response plan, which is out of step with guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and the [Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)/Illinois Community College Board \(ICCB\)](#), is inadequate for addressing the challenges presented by this new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While recognizing that changing conditions may necessitate additional measures, we call on ISU to take the following actions right now to safeguard the health and safety of members of the ISU community as well as residents of Bloomington-Normal:

1. Mandate a COVID-19 vaccine, with appropriate exemptions. This is consistent with the IBHE/ICCB's guidance of July 19, 2021, which states that "all public and private universities are strongly encouraged to require vaccination (with appropriate exemptions) to protect campus populations and slow COVID-19 transmission in surrounding communities." Mandating a COVID-19 vaccine will put ISU in the company of many other Illinois universities including DePaul University, Loyola University, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, and University of Illinois.
2. Put in place a universal masking policy for indoor campus areas where people congregate, including but not limited to classrooms, hallways, the student center, and the library. This is consistent with the IBHE/ICCB's guidance of July 19, 2021, which states that "all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated, should continue to wear a mask on public transportation, in congregate facilities, [and] in health care settings." It is also consistent with the CDC masking guidance that was updated on July 27, 2021.
3. Recognizing that even fully vaccinated individuals can become infected with and transmit COVID-19, institute and advertise a work-from-home policy that is accessible to employees who are themselves, live with, or are primary caretakers for people who a) are immunocompromised b) cannot be vaccinated (including those under 12) or c) are otherwise at risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19.
4. Recognizing that even fully vaccinated individuals can become infected with and transmit COVID-19, institute and advertise a learn-from-home policy that is accessible to students who are themselves, live with, or are primary caretakers for people who a) are immunocompromised b) cannot be vaccinated (including those under 12) or c) are otherwise at risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19.

We urge you, members of the Board of Trustees and President of ISU, to implement these critical measures, and to inform the ISU community about your plans to do so, as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

All members of the ISU community and residents of Bloomington-Normal are invited to sign this letter. To add your signature, [click here](#). Signatures will be added below periodically.

The first 50 names appear in alphabetical order.

1. Fusun Akman; Mathematics; Faculty, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
2. Olcay Akman; Mathematics; Faculty, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
3. Darcy Allred; English Studies and Writing Program; Faculty, Graduate Student
4. Joe Amato; English; Faculty
5. Amanda Andres; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
6. Kate Arthur; ISU Retiree, Community Member
7. Katie Barko; School of Art; Faculty
8. Alissa Bonjour; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
9. Amber Bostwick; School of Teaching & Learning; Staff
10. Jeanna Campbell; Former ISU Student; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
11. Edcel Javier Cintron-Gonzalez; English Department/GWU; Graduate Student
12. Sandy Colbs; Student Counseling Services; Staff
13. Carrie Anna Courtad; The Department of Special Education; Faculty
14. James C Courtad; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
15. E. Paula Crowley; Special Education Department; Faculty
16. Dan; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
17. Oguzhan Dincer; Economics; Faculty
18. Ashley Farmer; CJS; Faculty
19. Kass Fleisher; CAS/English and WGSS; Faculty
20. Elizabeth Friedman; Art; Faculty, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
21. Robert Garcia; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
22. Michael Gizzi; CJS; Faculty
23. Gabriel Gudding; English; Faculty
24. Ryan Hansen; English
25. Allison Harris; Physics; Faculty
26. Cassie Herbert; Philosophy/WGSS; Faculty
27. Matt Himley; Geography, Geology, and the Environment; Faculty
28. Susan Kalter; English; Faculty
29. Heather Lamb; English; Graduate Student
30. Steven Lazaroff; English; Faculty, Graduate Student
31. Tami Martin; Mathematics; Faculty; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
32. William Northcutt; BSW; Staff
33. Lindsay O'Brien; Graduate Student, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
34. Kerry OConnor; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
35. Heather O'Leary; English; Graduate Student
36. Jenee; Mother; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
37. Kayla Pica Williams; English PhD; Faculty, Graduate Student
38. Keith Pluymers; History; Faculty
39. Brienne Reid; Purchasing Office; Staff, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
40. Brian Rejack; English; Faculty
41. Trevor Rickerd; Biology; Graduate Student
42. Lisya Seloni; English; Faculty
43. Debbie Sheldon; Special Education; Faculty
44. Tate Skinner; School of Art; Undergraduate Student

45. Sabrina Thierry; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
46. Matthew Toczko; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
47. Finn Upchurch
48. Tim Walsh; Staff
49. S. Gavin Weiser; Educational Administration and Foundations
50. Kate Weiser; University College; Staff
51. Anonymous; Art; Faculty
52. Gaywalee Yamskulna; Mathematics; Faculty
53. Heidi Zimmermann; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
54. Anonymous; SED; Faculty
55. Hailey Haggerty
56. Krystle able; Bloomington
57. Anonymous; COE; Faculty
58. Pisheng Ding, Mathematics, Faculty/Bloomington-Normal Community Member
59. Felix Fiedler, Bloomington-Normal community member
60. Hannah Hogue, Student Life Senator, Undergraduate Student
61. Sophie Quackenbush, Political Science, Undergraduate Student
62. Reecia Orzeck, GEO, Faculty/Bloomington-Normal community member
63. Scott Nickum, Bloomington-Normal community member
64. Nate Sutton, Political Science, Undergraduate Student
65. Mijan, English, Other
66. Yongning Tang , School of Information Technology, Faculty
67. Creighton Budris, Bloomington-Normal community member
68. Lawrence Landair, Political Science, Undergraduate Student
69. Mary Jeanette Moran, English, Faculty
70. Steven Ladson, Bloomington-Normal community member
71. Rebecca Forsythe, Sociology and Anthropology MS Alum, Bloomington-Normal community member
72. Jackie Schneider, Criminal Justice Sciences, Faculty
73. Susan Woollen, Bloomington-Normal community member
74. Roxanne Castleman, CJS, Faculty
75. Holly Acree, Bloomington-Normal community member
76. Kate Roberge, Mathematics, Staff/Graduate Student
77. Rajeev Goel, Economics, Faculty
78. Logan Norsworthy, Undergraduate Student/Bloomington-Normal community member
79. David Kopsell, Agriculture, Faculty
80. Mark Zablocki, Department of Special Education, Faculty
81. Hannah Rademaker, College of Business, Undergraduate Student
82. Maddy Small, Politics and Government, Undergraduate Student
83. Sandra Lindberg, Theater (IWU, retired), Faculty (IWU)/Bloomington-Normal community member
84. Nicole Boozer; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
85. Susan Chen; Economics; Faculty
86. Dina Dixon; School of Social Work; Graduate Student
87. Anonymous; Faculty
88. Avery Spranger; Politics & Government; Undergraduate Student
89. Anonymous; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
90. Intan Suwandi; SOA; Faculty
91. Katherine Lewis; School of Music; Faculty
92. Mark Babbitt, School of Music, Faculty
93. Livia Stone, SOA, Faculty

94. Anonymous, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty
95. Lisa Thetard, Bloomington-Normal community member
96. Maxine Sexton, English, Undergraduate Student/Bloomington-Normal community member
97. Bryan Hay, Undergraduate Student
98. Charles Su, Physics, Faculty
99. Melissa Oresky, Wonsook Kim School of Art, Faculty
100. Catelin Turman, English/Graduate Teaching Assistant, Graduate Student/Bloomington-Normal community member
101. Erin Brown, Other
102. Adrienne Hahn, Retired, Illinois State University
103. Kyoungwon Suh, School of Information Technology, Faculty
104. Allie High, Undergraduate Student/Bloomington-Normal community member
105. Rainer Grobe, Physics, Faculty
106. Meg Backas, Bloomington-Normal community member
107. Kristin Carlson, Creative Technologies, Faculty
108. Claire Lieberman, Art, Faculty
109. Zak Boerger, Bloomington-Normal community member
110. Kaitlyn Scussel, Education, Undergraduate Student
111. Anonymous, Bloomington-Normal community member
112. Brad Bell, Bloomington-Normal community member
113. Anonymous, College of Education Dean's Office, Staff
114. Alexandra Murarus, Biological Science, Graduate Student
115. Yusuf Sarfati, Politics and Government, Faculty
116. Jihad Qaddour, Information Technology, Faculty
117. Eda Ozyesilpinar, English, Faculty
118. Anonymous, WKSOA, Faculty/Bloomington-Normal community member
119. Sean Sullivan, Athletics/Assistant Swim Coach, Staff
120. Xing Fang, School of Information Technology, Faculty
121. Anonymous, English, Staff/Undergraduate Student
122. Anonymous Employee, Faculty
123. Todd Stewart, Philosophy, Faculty
124. Jianwei Lai, Faculty
125. Sen Wang, Bloomington-Normal community member
126. Qiliang He, History, Faculty
127. Logan Middleton; Graduate Worker/Student; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
128. Kristin Manzi; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
129. Anonymous; English; Faculty; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
130. Michael McCarthy; Politics and Government; Graduate Student
131. Allison W; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
132. Emily Weber; Psychology; Undergraduate Student
133. Leslie Hancock; English; Graduate Student
134. Angela Haas; English; Faculty
135. Rose Grant; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
136. Beth Pruiett Wagner; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
137. Colin Gahungu; Alum, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
138. Joyce R. Walker; English Studies; Faculty
139. Djimon Lewis; School of Communication; Undergraduate Student, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
140. Linsay DeMartino; Educational Administration and Foundations; Faculty

141. Erika Sparby; English; Faculty
142. Yayuan Ren; Finance, Insurance, & Law; Faculty
143. Jake; English; Undergraduate Student
144. Monika Grobe; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
145. Neil Christensen; Physics; Faculty
146. Claudia Sanchez; English; Faculty
147. Pre tenure CAS faculty; CAS; Faculty
148. Connie Kelly; Bloomington-Normal community member
149. Nathanael Rardin; Undergraduate Student
150. Lu; Bloomington-Normal community member
151. Sarah Greenberg; Communication Sciences and Disorders; Graduate Student
152. Liz Barnhart; Sociology; Graduate Student
153. May Jadallah; Teaching and Learning; Faculty
154. Nick Rhoades; Biology; Graduate Student
155. Robin Levine; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
156. Livi Swiech; School of Teaching and Learning; Undergraduate Student
157. Alicia Whitworth; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
158. Sarah Hochstetler; English; Faculty
159. Cheri Wolf; School of Information Technology
160. James Wolf; School of Information Technology; Faculty
161. Kristen Grimes; Technology Solutions; Staff
162. Hina Gilani; OTS; Staff
163. Anonymous; Technology Solutions; Staff, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
164. Anonymous; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
165. Grant M. Chassy; Politics and Government; Undergraduate Student
166. Daniel Holland; Physics; Faculty
167. Keith Reynolds; Tech Solutions; Staff
168. Susan Drissi; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
169. Hannah Fredericks; Undergraduate Student; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
170. Eric Grabowski; Chemistry Alum
171. Dan Stanislaus; Technology Solutions; Staff
172. Geethani Cabraal; Office of Technology Solutions; Staff
173. Sara Holthaus Weidemier; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
174. Jeanne Howard; Social Work (Emeritus); Bloomington-Normal Community Member
175. Rebecca Linares; Alumna, former employees, and close neighbor; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
176. Anonymous; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
177. Vikkie Cossio; Business Admin, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts; Staff
178. Tom Crumpler; Teaching and Learning (Emeritus Faculty); Bloomington-Normal Community Member
179. Dylan Toth; Department of Family & Consumer Sciences; Undergraduate Student
180. Kay Moss; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
181. Susan O'Rourke; Alumni, President's Giving Circle, Bloomington-Normal community member
182. Stephen Goodwin; Professor Emeritus; Marketing; Faculty
183. Jan Meadows; Retired ISU NTT; Faculty
184. Joe Luber; Bloomington-Normal community member
185. Jessi Reid-Swiech; College of Ed; NBRC; Staff, Undergraduate Student
186. Michael David Klug; Bloomington-Normal community member
187. Sydney Johnson; School of Communication; Undergraduate Student

188. Rebecca Goeckner; Alumna & Retired ISU Study Abroad Coordinator, Staff, Bloomington-Normal community member
189. Bob Broad; Professor of English Emeritus; Faculty, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
190. Craig Ryan; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
191. Lisa Ryan; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
192. Alyssa Herman; English; Graduate Student, Bloomington-Normal Community Member
193. Allison Hauser; English; Graduate Student
194. Chris Almeda; Politics & Government; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
195. Caleb Mangruem; Undergraduate Student
196. Miss Bee in Normal; Retired; Bloomington-Normal Community Member
197. Kristin Marshall; English, Instructional Assistant Professor
198. Jih Chang; Financial Aid; Staff
199. Jack Podlesnik; Undergraduate Student
200. Susan Woollen; Bloomington-Normal Community Member