

A Petition Calling for the University of Utah to Implement a COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate

As of August 23, 2021, [the FDA has granted full approval](#) to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

[HB 0308](#), which restricts government agencies from directly or indirectly requiring COVID-19 vaccine mandates, specifies that these restrictions only apply to the COVID-19 vaccines with emergency use authorization. The full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine now means that the university, if they chose, should be legally cleared to implement a COVID-19 vaccine requirement to participate in academic, employment, and social activities on campus in-person.

We know that vaccination is the only way that we are going to get out of this pandemic and that [vaccination significantly reduces the risk for severe infection](#).

College campuses with in-person proceedings last year were [found to be super-spreaders](#). The University of Utah as the University FOR Utah has an ethical responsibility to minimize the risk of spread among our campus population as we proceed with in-person classes and events. [As of August 22nd, 99% of Utah's ICU beds are occupied](#).

~~The University of Utah leadership claims that over 70% of the student population is fully vaccinated. We know that data is not accurate and should not be used for decision making. This data comes from a 48-hour, anonymous survey where respondents self-reported their vaccination status. The Salt Lake County vaccination rate as of August 22, 2021 is [only 54%](#). We should assume our campus vaccination rates are more similar to the county based on the [fact that only in-state students can be fully verified through USIIS](#). As of [Fall 2020](#), 22% of students were non-resident, with 35% of first-year undergraduates coming from out-of-state and 32% of graduate students coming from out-of-state. We do not yet have Fall 2021 enrollment data to know the exact percentage of students who have been verified through USIIS, nor do we know the percentage of students with exemptions or percentage of students who come from out-of-state and have uploaded their immunization cards for COVID-19. methodology for data collection.~~

[August 25th update from Laura Snow at the University of Utah]: “As we currently do with Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccination requirements, the Student Health Center electronic medical records system automatically queries the state vaccine registry ([Utah Statewide Immunization Information System](#), USIIS) for all students. For those who do not have records in this system (i.e. if they received their vaccinations out-of-state), students can upload their immunization cards for Student Health Center employees to verify or they can indicate a medical, religious, or personal exemption for the requirement, as is provided by [state law](#).” **UnsafeU has made modifications to the language above to reflect the newly released information by university leadership.**

We call for the University of Utah to immediately implement a vaccine mandate for our campus community.

Signed,

LAST UPDATE: 8/27/2021 11:44:48; **1417 signatures**

[Signatures will be updated as people [sign the form](#)]

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Khoa Vu, Student, Staff
Micah Rollins, Staff, Alumni
Cheyla Buck, Staff
Addie Hunsaker , Student
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Stephanie Rosiles, Student, Staff
Cameron Hooper, Student
Carson Shea, Student
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Maritsa Cervantes , Student
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Sera Hunter, Student
Kendra Taylor, Staff
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Matthew Glasgow, Student
Travis Vick, Student, Faculty
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Benjamin Blackhurst, Student
Sean Lawson, Faculty
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Charles Root, Student
Lily Griffin, Student
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Maeve Barnu, Student, Staff
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Zev Gorfinkle , Student
maxine jameson, Student

Xitlally Garcia, Student
Braden Copland, Student
Kendal Kotter, Alumni
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Parker Guzman, Student
Taylor Monney, Student
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Peter Christiansen, Staff
Kiana Taylor, Student
Pamela Balluck, Faculty, Staff
Michael Lansford, Student
Zaren Braun, Student
Beata Price-Huish, Student
Sydney Smith, Student
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Ned Dowling, Staff
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Carlos Alvarez, Student
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Matthew Basso, Faculty
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Maddie Simpson, Community member
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Marjorie Castle, Faculty
Lina Svedin, Faculty
Vivek Srikumar, Faculty
Amber Gray, Student
Sharon Mastracci, Faculty
CScott Brown, Faculty
Blair alley, Student
killian lamanna, Student
David Carter, Faculty
Andra Ghent, Faculty
Evan Koop, Student
Gladys Hernandez Zuniga, Student
Janet Theiss, Faculty
Faith Brown, Staff
Ruby Winter, Student
Jordan Callus, Student
Kristina Schiffman, Student
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Amy Simpson, Staff
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Abhijit Abhyankar, Parent, Alumni
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Nolan Carpenter, Student
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Wanda Pillow, Faculty
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Halle Griffeth , Student
Darius Bost, Faculty
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Christopher Held, Student
Darshan Shimpi, Student
Michael Shaw , Student
Jacob Lambert, Student
Alessandra Holt , Faculty
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Chelsea Duke, Community member
Kaitlin Butterfield, Community member
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Rebecca Trejo, Student
Andrew Sonzini , Student
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Jamie Moore, Student
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Smita Virkar, Community member
Elizabeth Kaiser, Alumni
Ken Ellsworth, Community member, Alumni
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Caroline Jackson, Community member
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Alexandra Mettler, Community member
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Adam Manousakis, Student
Michael Dichio, Faculty
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Eric Hutton, Faculty
Maddy LaTurner, Alumni
Alan Gutierrez, Community member
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Madison Myers, Student
Miguel Knochel, Faculty
Katie Platt, Student
Amanda Gold, Student
Chelsie Smith, Staff, Alumni
Rachel DeFilippis, Alumni
Erik Steenburgh, Student
Katie Danelski, Student, Staff
Steven Carpadakis, Student, Staff

Olivia Ojala, Student
Grace Hunt, Student, Alumni
Maria Corona, Student
Jia Milan , Staff
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Elliot Gleich, Community member
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Kate Tholstrom, Student
Michelle Budka, Staff
Alejandra Bosco, Faculty
Keira Harder, Student
Italia Perez, Student
Melora Nye, Alumni
Alec Serrano, Student
Harris Sondak, Faculty
Ryan Ross, Student
Leslie Francis, Faculty
Hannah Lee, Student, Faculty
Kimberly Preston, Staff
Michael Bandru, Student
Karen Copeland, Student
Natalia Washington, Faculty
Andrea Wallace , Faculty
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Ethan Teachman, Student
Eric Hutton, Faculty
Ashlee Lazaro, Student
Becky Condas, Parent, Community member
Rudds Crystal, Faculty
Genevieve Dubois, Staff
Kylie Rochford, Faculty, Community member
Evelyn Hunt, Student
Cooper Bolton, Student
Taylor Jones, Student
Elizabeth Craft, Faculty
Brandy Peck, Parent
Eric Peterson, Staff
Olivia Acosta, Student
Sylvia Nunez, Parent
Caroline Schaefer, Staff
Travis Allen, Student, Staff
Tillie Powell, Student, Staff
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Katie Carter, Community member
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Lillian Rau, Student
McKenzie Steward, Student, Community member
Adam Smith, Student
Amber Jolley, Parent, Community member
Joy Pizzuto , Parent
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Estrella Estrada, Student
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Danielle Olden, Faculty
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Samantha Motta, Staff, Community member, Alumni
Kindra Lingenfelter , Community member, Alumni
Elise Bailey, Student, Staff
Gabriella Valenti, Student
Ria Kaddu, Student
melissa regalado, Student
Korak Chakraborti, Alumni
Edwin Santos Lepiz, Student
Samuel Judd, Student
Bradley Sanders , Alumni
Robert Jones, Alumni
Elli Dark, Community member
Megan Cullinan, Alumni
Andrea Kaplan , Parent
Mirna Hill, Parent
Aaron Young, Student, Community member

Karen Bishop, Community member
Eliza Larsen, Alumni
Martha Beach, Alumni
Matt Haber, Faculty
Daniel Beach, Parent
Robert Forbis, Faculty, Community member, Alumni
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Caleb Guziak, Staff
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Elijah Millgram, Faculty
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Hunter Wright, Student
Daniel Cloward, Staff
Philip Quinones, Alumni
Louise Pedersen, Student, Staff
Celia Slater, Parent
Emily Harris, Student, Staff
Eric VanEpps, Faculty
Clara Kramer, Student
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David Monsen, Student
David Brach, Parent
Miranda Rogers, Staff
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Julian Percival, Alumni
Dave Buhler, Faculty
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Cynthia Stark, Faculty
Cherlene Andresen, Parent
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Theodore Rock, Staff
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Scott McMurtrey, Student
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Ava Peitz, Student
James Shaheen, Parent
Madeika Vercella, Student
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Summer Derieg, Alumni
Joshua Mars, Student, Staff
Adelaide Call, Student
Cade Chambliss, Student
Jordan Davidson, Student

Garrett Barth, Student
Troy Larsen, Student
Sidney Garcia, Student, Staff
Carlos Santana, Faculty
Sareena Crawford, Student
Jolene Jasmin, Student
Luna Esmerode, Student
Lauren Banner, Student, Staff
Nick Haynes, Student
Riley Miranda, Student
David Jeffress, Staff
Dylan Klure, Student, Staff
Darcy Heninger, Student
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Michael Rutter, Student
Ramón Barthelemy, Faculty
Marijke O'Sullivan, Student
Molly Gallagher, Student, Staff
Kane Hannay, Student, Staff
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Olivia Ozmun, Student
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Lexie Bingman, Student
Dulce Horn, Student, Community member
Alexander Brown, Community member
Zoe Davis, Community member
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Kathryn Vargas Serna, Student
Sam Aamodt, Student
Angela Smith, Faculty
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M. Kevin Branson, Staff
Peter Hoogenboom, Staff
Xiuping Liang, Staff
Tiffany Marvin-Carr, Student
Chase Roberts, Alumni
Lauren Gleave, Student
Kim Hackford-Peer, Faculty
Dominic Walker-Pecoraro, Student, Faculty, Staff
Grace Rogers, Student, Faculty
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Michael Freemole, Staff
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Avery Uslaner, Staff
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Lela Graybill, Faculty

David Vergobbi, Faculty
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Kate Edwards, Parent, Alumni
Ronald Joe Zeidner, Student
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Kaden Lunt, Student
Cvetanka Rizvanovic , Student
Emma Heflin, Student
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Trisha Pauline Enriquez, Student
Hailey Danielson, Student, Staff
Helene Thompson, Student, Faculty

Additional comments in support:

“As a leading research university in the nation, you should be leading the way. Mandating vaccines is now legal and ethical--theres no reason not to do it if you care about the safety of the campus community.”

“I am grateful to be going to a school that trusts the science, takes the pandemic seriously, and is requiring masks on campus, but we could be doing more to keep everyone safe!”

“I work at the hospital and could not support this more strongly.”

"It's a no brainer and I'm sick of being disappointed in the U"

"My mom is also a student and has MS. The University should enforce a vaccine mandate; otherwise students like her could die."

"With the full approval of the Pfizer/Biontech vaccine it is now appropriate and necessary to mandate that all students, faculty, and staff are vaccinated at the University of Utah. This is the only way that we can have a safe and effective learning environment."

"FDA has approved the pfizer vaccine so please requires everyone to take one"

"If unvaccinated students won't protect themselves and everyone around them, then they shouldn't be allowed to bar fully vaccinated students from fully using the campus that they've paid for."

"Pfizer vaccine is now fda approved, should be mandated just like any other vaccine that is already mandated here"

"As a University, the U has a responsibility to help keep the community safe. With ICU's at max capacity and deaths rising again, vaccination is the greatest way to solve this. As a University with so many science programs, the U needs to trust the science."

"I don't want my junior year ruined like my freshman and sophomore year was ruined by covid spread by irresponsible people who are refusing to get the vaccine as well as I think vaccinations are the best way to protect our u of u community as well as the greater Salt Lake City community who opens their doors for students."

"The U is putting our whole campus community at risk by not mandating masks or vaccines and insisting on in person classes."

"Please help keep our campus safe and require COVID-19 vaccinations."

"Everyday, I fear for my family's health because there's nothing more terrifying than losing the people I've grown up with. Mandating vaccines is the right step forward."

"Require vaccines! Other universities are doing it. They are allowing students to attend virtually if they are not vaccinated, and attend in person if they are vaccinated. Keep the students safe and make it a mandate!"

"Students are required to have and show proof of immunization against other infectious diseases, and politicization of a new disease should play no part in protecting the student body, staff, and their families from another proven infectious disease. Require vaccinations and proof thereof."

"Please step and protect your students and community!!"

"I strongly support a vaccine mandate for all students, faculty, and staff"

"A vaccine mandate is clearly the most straightforward and effective way of mitigating the effects of this resurgent pandemic."

"We need to protect our campus community using proven effective mechanisms available"

"Please mandate the vaccine - the pandemic has gone on long enough and each of us should do all we can to support each other as a community!"

"An academic institution should be at the forefront of following science and vaccines are the best way to control this pandemic currently."

"I understand that some individuals cannot get vaccinated, but those individuals are already unable to attend in person classes and events due to health and safety concerns. By requiring that all individuals able to be vaccinated get vaccinated if they are going to attend classes in person, we can ensure that those students are able to return to in person classes as well."

"I would like to feel safe on my campus. I should not be punished for the decisions of my fellow students."

"Please I just want life to return to normal. The vaccine is the best way there we have."

"Vaccination is safe and necessary"

"Please follow the science. We're a world-leading research university. It would be ironic (and wrong) to ponder to anti-science politics when making decisions about the safety of our community."

"Let's keep everyone safe"

"Let's immunize, gang!"

"Science has helped bring human civilization to this point, and vaccines are a crucial piece of that societal mosaic."

"We need to protect our student body, our faculty and staff, our hospital staff AND hospital patients, and our community. The U if U has such power and influence in our community and the right thing to do with this platform is require a vaccine mandate. We need to lead by example."

"I am immunocompromised, and a failure to require vaccines and masks is a death sentence for me and other vulnerable students. It's up to the U to protect us by standing up to defy the unjust laws passed by the state senate."

"Common sense, just like like handful of other vaccines kids are required to get."

"It is the responsibility of the school to maintain a safe and healthy environment for its students and faculty. By enforcing a vaccine and mask mandate on campus it would lessen the impact of the COVID-19 virus and the upcoming Delta variant within our hospitals (including the University Hospital!) Students and faculty deserve to feel safe on campus and they also must set a precedent for the community. Covid is a deadly disease that could be less deadly if everyone did their part to stop its spread."

"This would help immune compromised persons."

"I believe that this is a very necessary step and something that should've been done a long time ago."

"The safety of disabled and likewise vulnerable people in Salt Lake City needs to be a priority for the U. We are not an isolated campus; acting like poor on-campus expectations only affect students is naive."

"Campus safety must be top priority, and recognized as vital to the safety of the greater community. The University must prioritize the needs of their largest employer, the U Health system, and mandate the vaccine."

"People's lives are in your hands right now. You know what the right thing to do is."

"We need to do better than we have been."

"We need to be leaders in Health Care and model safe public health practices"

"We are a high risk household and my daughter would like to be able to go to school on campus but can't because of the risk. There are not enough online options especially for her language credit (Not one option for French at all). A vaccine mandate would make it so that she could be able to go to school on campus. "

"Vaccines save lives. Students, faculty, staff, and our community deserve a safe environment to learn and work in. Please require COVID vaccination. "

"Vaccines are effective in reducing hospitalizations and deaths from Covid-19. The only safe way for us to go back to class, work, or engage in social activities is by having the majority of our community fully vaccinated against covid. Please, listen to our amazing doctors, researchers, and healthcare professionals who have put so much work to understand this virus. Please, as a research institution, make covid vaccines mandated, especially since Pfizer has been now fully approved."

"Vaccinations should be required to attend class"

"Vaccination is the only way out of the existential dread this virus has caused. There is zero scientific evidence that suggests that the vaccine is dangerous. As an academic institution, we must revere the science. "

"To protect in-person education we need vaccine and mask mandates. "

"This is will be a significant step towards protecting students, faculty, and their families."

"This is the only way to keep the community safe, and it is the way generations of Americans have dealt with epidemics in the past. Let's not renounce the wisdom of our community-minded ancestors for empty and counter-productive gestures toward freedom demanded by a small minority of misled citizens. "

"This is not a political issue -- this is a human lives issue. Please help us do our part to protect our neighbors and communities -- and the hard-working doctors taking care of them!"

"This is for the best of our community near the U "

"This is essential for the physical safety of the school; essential for the financial security of the school; and essential for the maintenance of a safe academically focused campus."

"These mandates will make our campus safer and help returning students feel safe. "

"The vaccine is the only way to end the pandemic, but more importantly it is the only way to keep the community, staff and ALL students safe so that they can safely continue their education. The web of life means we must protect the hive."

"The vaccine is safe, FDA approved, and has the potential to save many lives, including my own. It matters to me as a member of the U that the U take a principled stance, especially as a major health research center and resource for the larger community."

"The vaccine is safe and effective. We know this. Vaccine mandates are not a new thing. This isn't a matter of "personal choice"; it's a matter of community, and global, health. We have the tools to fight and beat COVID19 and return to our new normal, and every minute we decide not to use these tools, more and more people die and more and more peoples' lives are changed forever."

"The vaccine is safe and effective. It is the only sane approach and several other PAC-10 Universities (e.g., the U-C) require proof of vaccination for matriculation."

"The University of Utah includes U Health - an academic health sciences center with clinicians fighting COVID, researchers doing cutting edge research, and faculty training students to provide care. The scientific evidence about the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines is compelling - the vaccines protect individuals and communities."

"The University of Utah cannot be an R1 research institution and at the same time deny the validity of scientific research — or the public health needs that demand its swift application. The legal path to doing so is now clear. It is just a question of whether we value political expedience over the lives of our students and faculty. History is watching."

"You are the flagship university in the state, and you are willing exposing my partner to a horrific disease. Get it together."

"Yes, I'm a department chair, an in-person instructor, a parent, and a citizen. For all these reasons I want a vaccine mandate to slow the spread of Covid and protect my colleagues, my kids, and my community. "

"This action will help protect faculty, staff and students and their families. "

"The vaccine works. 0.006% chance of death (mostly older pre existing) compared to 0.1% for the actual virus. I have Moderna. Pfizer would be fine. Get vaccinated. "

"REQUIRING YOUR STUDENTS TO GET VACCINATED KEEPS EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY SAFE!!"

"Please protect our children and your students"

"Now that the FDA has approved the vaccine, there should be no difference than in requiring other vaccines, like MMR."

"My daughter attends a daycare at the University of Utah and is unable to be vaccinated due to her age. Unvaccinated individuals on campus pose a risk to her and other young students and immunocompromised individuals who are unable to be vaccinated. "

"Measles vaccination is mandatory, so should be the covid vaccination. "

"In order to keep our classes in perso band protect those around us the university of Utah should implement a vaccine mandate!"

"I'm a liver transplant patient and covid is life or death for me. My classmates need to be vaccinated in order for me to fully participate "

"I'm a graduate student and a mom with toddler kids at home. I am full vaccinated. But without everyone does his/her part (vaccine and mask) , I can bring the covid to my kids who doesn't have access to vaccine, and who can't have vaccine in a short future. I want to be a good student and good mom. But If I'm sick or any of kids is sick, neither of those wishes could be possible. Please, vaccines and masks! "

"I have two daughters that are nurses and one is still in school. Please make this happen for all of our healthcare workers. They are so exhausted."

"For the safety of the student body, it makes sense to do this."

"As a research 1 Institute and the flagship institution of our state I believe we need to set a precedent and mandate masks or vaccination. "

"The University needs to take affirmative action to protect its students and employees. Requiring the vaccine is the best way to do so. A so-called "mask ask" will not cut it. "

"The university has a responsibility to protect its community members and should be taking firmer precautions to do so. Mandating vaccines is shown to reduce spread and should be taken for the safety of everyone on campus! "

"The U has an ethical obligation to ensure the safety of its students. Mandate vaccines for everyone on campus now!"

"The U and especially U of U Healthcare should all vaccinate. It's no different from any other vaccination we are expected to get except that the stakes are even higher. One of my staff's family member was a patient who was exposed to COVID during his stay and it impacted the quality of his care."

"The students of the U are the same that exist in our shared community. As someone who knows many in our community that cannot be vaccinated, we need as many as possible to be, to protect those most vulnerable."

"Thank you for your efforts!"

"Stop the spread! Vaccination has been proven to be effective time and time again!"

"Stop letting legislators make medical decisions!"

"Some of my students are immunodeficient. The state requires several vaccines for students in public ed, for similar reasons of public safety. "

"So many other vaccinations are required for me to be a student, it makes sense for this to be on the list. It's the deadliest pandemic I've faced in my entire life. The fact that it has become political should not mean anything in regards to benefitting the health and safety of the UofU community."

"Safety for all"

"Requiring COVID vaccines will make the U of U safe for all students and their families."

"Preventing unnecessary deaths should not be considered a political or controversial decision"

"Please show you care about protecting our kids who are students trusting your administration!"

"Please safeguard the health of students, faculty, and staff but requiring an FDA approved vaccine. The school requires, rightfully, other vaccines, and so there is a rightful precedent for the school to require this vaccine."

"Please require the covid-19 vaccine and all booster shots. We were happy to stay up to date on all other required vaccinations for our children in Utah schools. U of U should treat covid vaccinations the same but act quickly. This virus won't wait. "

"Please pass a mandatory vaccine mandate for all students, faculty and staff at the university of Utah "

"Please mandate the vaccine for the health and safety of our community. This is not a political questions, it's a public health question. Doing this will save lives, keep people out of our hospitals, and help us get back to normal!"

"Please keep University students, faculty, and staff safe with a mask mandate"

"Please guys"

"Please get the vaccine, folks!"

"Please do this!! It makes perfect sense, just like the other required vaccinations!"

"PLEASE consider mandating the Covid-19 vaccine the way that vaccines are required for many other dangerous illnesses. This is important to protect the members of our community who cannot be vaccinated, even after federal approval, for health reasons. "

"People need to listen to the science and help protect others on campus. It would be a lot safer for everyone on campus if everyone was vaccinated. "

"Our total focus should be protecting our community. "

"Our number one priority here at the University needs to be the safety of our students. We owe it to them to protect them!"

"Other vaccinations are already required. Stop politicizing this issue and start prioritizing the health of our community."

"Not at this time"

"None of us want to go back to remote-only learning. Time and science have shown that the best way for us all to stay on campus together - living, studying, attending football games - is to get vaccinated. This is to keep us all safe, on the campus we love, and alive!"

"Nine of the PAC12 Universities require vaccinations. The U. should value the health of its students, staff, and faculty commensurate with the other PAC12 Universities."

"My generation grew up with vaccine mandates, kids today don't know about chicken pox or polio."

"My daughter was exposed on the 1st day of class by a fellow class member. This likely wouldn't have happened had there been a vaccine mandate."

"My 28-year-old, robust, healthy, nonsmoker, field archaeologist son contracted covid last year and nearly died. He spent 13 days on a ventilator, nearly a month in the hospital, his lung fully collapsed twice in the month following that, and he was in and out of the ER and ICU. Our students CAN get sick, and they WILL get sick (not to mention me and my colleagues, who would then take covid home to our family members). We are a research institution - we MUST be informed by the state of the research. "

"Many of my students have said they would feel more comfortable learning if they knew everyone in our classroom was vaccinated. As an instructor, the benefits of what I am teaching feel like they are being vastly outweighed by the harm caused by the high risk of transmission in my classroom. "

"Mandatory vaccination is the only way to keep everyone safe."

"Mandated vaccinations protect not only for those receiving the vaccinations, but also those who can't receive vaccinations through herd immunity."

"Mandate vaccinations"

"Let's do this and stop the spread of COVID on our campus!!"

"Let's protect our students and community! "

"It's ridiculous that a school with such a strong College of Health, Med school, nursing school, etc. does not have a vaccine mandate."

"It's FDA approved, just get it "

"It's unethical to put students and faculty at risk to make an unfounded political point."

"It's is the right thing to do for the safety of all people at the U."

"it will literally save lives."

"It is already embarrassing that the U wasn't prepared to take this action immediately upon the full FDA approval of the vaccine. This action must be taken now."

"It breaks my heart to have students email me afraid to come to campus because they are afraid of contracting a deadly disease. Upper administration needs to take action, and they need to do so now. Science and reason shouldn't be so easily influenced by politics. "

"If we're truly "One Utah," then please do the right thing. Mandate Covid-19 vaccines!"

"If the U wants to maintain its status as an institution contributing to the scientific academia, the vaccine mandate must be put in place. It's not something that should be debated, it's science. Kids have to have certain vaccinations to go to public school, and this should be no different. "

"If mask mandates for public gatherings are verboten in the state of Utah, then there needs to be some other reliable measure of reducing the risk of infection. The sooner the majority of us are vaccinated, the harder it is for this disease to spread and the safer we all will be."

"Our current response to this situation is unsustainable. And people's individual right to bodily autonomy should not entail potentially exposing other people to a highly infectious and potentially fatal illness."

"Vaccinations should be mandatory for attendance of in person classes and events on campus."

"If dress code and dorm regulations can be mandatory to obide by, so can student and public safety through vaccinations "

"I'm the primary caretaker for elderly parents, a sister with pre-existing conditions, and I live with chronic illness, and we're talking about mandating a vaccine that has shown itself highly effective and quite safe; I'm begging you to treat it as you would any other vetted vaccine."

"I'm a graduate student here are the U and I need to be on campus to do my work. I feel unsafe coming on to campus without vaccine requirements. Undergraduate students often don't wear masks inside and we cannot control their behavior off campus. Requiring vaccines would protect vulnerable students, staff, and faculty and ensure we all have a safe learning environment. "

"I would feel much safer attending my in person classes knowing that vaccines are mandatory."

"I would feel a whole lot safer teaching in person if I knew the masked and the not-masked students were vaccinated."

"I would be much less fearful of having a regular college experience on campus if I knew my peers were required to take precautions. "

"I wish we didn't need a mandate and that all students would simply choose to get vaccinated. However, many faculty are reporting they have students who refuse to wear a mask even when begged to do so, thus potentially putting others in the class at risk. Given this, it seems we need more extreme measures in order to protect the health of the entire university community. "

"I was one of the early April covid cases when hospitals were luckily ready. Everything must be done to help our medical workers that are currently burning out."

"I want to go back to school without worrying that I will get sick, or that i can bring it home to my roommates or my parents. Vaccines are the way to do this. "

"I understand the political issues, but please put the health and safety of the campus above that and trust the advice of experts in the field. Take a stand for science and sanity out of compassion for those that will otherwise die needlessly for having figured out the truth too late or assumed from your silence on the subject that they were safe. It's ridiculous that this requires courage, but of course it does in many red states. So please choose courage over complicity."

"I think this is a great idea to return campus to normal. Thanks for creating this!"

"I resent that the University (though really the legislature) is willing to play fast and loose with our lives. We need to de-politicize this issue and follow CDC guidelines. People are going to die. When that happens, I hope their families sue the hell out of both the U and the legislature. This is beyond irresponsible."

"I observed people in Australia lining up for hours to get this vaccine. Nobody in their right mind would turn it down when the supply is so plentiful. "

"I never had covid during the entire pandemic and I work with vulnerable populations who also have never contracted covid. I got vaccinated during one of the first rounds offered, some of the people I work with are not mentally sound enough to understand vaccines and their importance, so some remain unvaccinated, however they are not exposed to the general public. I don't intend to put them at risk. I'm in school to obtain more education to further my ability to help them. I don't want that education and the people I'm exposed to in the classroom to be the reason I could be held back from work or school. It is a disservice to our most vulnerable members of society to choose to be unvaccinated. It is a disservice to have access to information and the privilege of being mentally competent and still be willfully ignorant about the impact of your actions on others. As students we are required to have many other immunizations up to date. This is no different. "

"I live with immunocompromised family members and I want to keep them safe, but I also want to get an education. Vaccines are integral to the safety of those at risk. The faster we get vaccinated the faster people can return to a semi-normal life."

"I have two kids that are still too young to be vaccinated."

"I had to prove my vaccinations before I went to school in 2017, this school has always required vaccination records so now it makes sense to include this FDA approved vaccine on top of it"

"I fully support this petition, and hope any subsequently approved vaccines will also be included in the future"

"I do want everyone to be vaccinated and a mandatory vaccine would be great,however, I also want easy access to the vaccine for marginalize students. If easy access to the vaccine for marginalized students becomes a reality, we should support a mandaotry vaccine. "

"I am immunocompromised and have to teach and mentor students face-to-face. I would like a work environment that is less likely to kill me."

"Having a Vaccine Mandate on Campus will help protect the entire campus community"

"Hard to see our way out of the pandemic without vaccine mandates. I personally would feel more comfortable being on campus with a mandate, especially since two of my kids are too young to be vaccinated. Other universities, both private and public, have taken this step. I support Utah's efforts in this direction."

"For those who are immunocompromised, taking immunomodulatory agents, on chemotherapy, or otherwise seriously allergic to the vaccine components—we have a responsibility to keep them safe. This is about the safety of our neighbors, our friends and students. "

"For the sake of those with health conditions that can't get the vaccine, I want to make sure that everyone who can get it does get it."

"VACCINES are the only way we all feel safe."

"This is an institution of higher education. We should always spread the facts. In this case the facts are that vaccines help prevent the spread of covid. In order to protect ourselves and ensure that we can remain on campus for in person instruction and activities, the vaccine should be mandated just like many others. "

"Online school doesn't work well for a lot of students and by requiring vaccinations we can help to ensure that in person learning is an option. "

"Just get the dang shot!"

"If dress code and dorm regulations can be mandatory to obide by, so can student and public safety through vaccinations "

"I really don't want school to get shut down again! I feel vaccines are the best way to prevent this!"

"I just think it would be a huge precaution to have people get vaccinated to help protect ourselves and others on campus to make sure we can make it the best learning experience in addition decrease the spread of covid as much as possible "

"I am immunocompromised and have to teach and mentor students face-to-face. I would like a work environment that is less likely to kill me."

"A vaccine and mask mandate is essential for a successful semester. Please come to your senses!"

"A professor said on the first day that she didn't mind if we wore Masks but she preferred to see our faces and she wouldn't wear one because it was to much of an inconvenience for her. "

"For the safety of the most vulnerable members of our community, this seems necessary. "

"For the good of us all, sign and vaccinate."

"Every day we have more and more students that come down with covid and cannot be allowed to continue. Not only are we going to start losing money like we did last year, but we're also going to struggle to support students and maintain their living spaces or our facilities when covid starts ripping through the staff as well. This is not getting better, only worse, and its insane not to try and do everything we can to stop it. It's not new to require vaccines to go to school or have certain jobs, this is just the newest one on the list."

"Clearly vaccinations work.... Just read an art ole that Iceland hasn't had any Covid deaths since May due to vaccination efforts. Also I'd like to point out that I had to get my MMR vaccine again to go to the U because I couldn't find my records. Why can't Covid vaccine be required along with mmr? "

"Be an example! "

"As students, we are required to be vaccinated against a multitude of diseases to be able to enter the school space (most of us since we were young kids). Considering how dangerous this disease is, and given that the potential for its danger to rise means that we should be more cautious as we progress. Unless we want to return to the lifestyle in March 2020, it's best that we require vaccines. As a pro-vaxx Christian (not LDS) , it's hard to convince people of faith to get the vaccine. Too many doubts. You were born free, but you should also consider the safety of those around you. And if this is the only way to do that, then unfortunately it must be mandatory."

"As a R1 university with a respected medical school, the University of Utah's policies and practices should be data-driven and consistent with public health experts' recommendations. A vaccine mandate is a crucial tool in slowing the spread of COVID and reducing the chances that new and dangerous variations develop."

"As a healthcare provider, I work hard every day to help improve my patients' quality of life. No one's quality of life is going to improve until COVID is no longer a threat. The science is clear that masks and vaccines are the answer. The University of Utah, as one of the best hospitals in the country, has an obligation to do what is best for the health of the community by requiring vaccines for students, faculty, and staff."

"After the first day of class, I received an email from a student saying she felt sick and was going to be tested for COVID—one day!"

"A professor said on the first day that she didn't mind if we wore Masks but she preferred to see our faces and she wouldn't wear one because it was too much of an inconvenience for her. "

"I feel strongly that all people should be vaccinated so we ease the burden being put on our hospitals. I also feel it is the only way out of the pandemic."

"With the official FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, it seems more than appropriate to begin mandating it among all students that are medically capable of receiving the vaccine. Not only in order to protect students, but also community members of Salt Lake with whom college students frequently interact (faculty, restaurant workers, family and friends of students, etc.) As a major research institution the U has an obligation to abide by science and evidence based practices, and the evidence is clear that VACCINES WORK"

"My job relies on the end of this pandemic. In order to truly flourish as a University we need to stamp out preventable illness and keep the community safe."

"Mandate masks and the vaccine!!"

"For the health and safety of everyone with The U"

"As a student who is at risk and wants to actually have a social life please make a vaccine requirement!! I feel so unsafe on campus but I can't stand being all online anymore :("

"I want to ensure safety on campus to students and faculty, and vaccines are the way to do it."

"Vaccination being required for attendance at the U is the only viable way to keep students safe and avoid another full shutdown."

"SAFETY"

"We need to stop the spread of misinformation on the vaccine and get everyone vaccinated."

"I'm starting a Masters program at the U today (8/23/21), and would like to see the school do all it can to protect me, my classmates, university staff, and our families."

"I am immunocompromised and would like to be as safe as possible while on campus. A new variant of COVID may cause me to have to return home or become hospitalized despite having both doses of the vaccine and the booster provided by Pfizer."

"My husband is a faculty member and a mask mandate protects him and our 3 children under age 12."

"It is a public health concern to allow unvaccinated students to continue to be in the area as those that are either vaccinated or have health issues. It is selfish and a big risk to us."

"“Personal choice” is a moot argument when the decision endangers others in the community."

"Unless you're going to REQUIRE Testing every single student/staff/faculty each week then a vaccine should be required."

"Educational entities are morally obligated to protect their students, faculty, and staff"

"It would put a lot of people's mind at ease if this went through."

"We need to get Utah healthy. Vaccine is FDA APPROVED. If you believe in science make it so. In order to return fully to in-person classes requiring all enrolled students to be vaccinated for COVID-19 is ideal for the health, safety, and mental wellbeing of those students who are unable to receive the vaccine."

"We are a top tier medical research facility, we know better than to not mandate this. Its our fucking lives at risk here."

"Please follow the science and require vaccination for all students, faculty, and staff."

"We have this opportunity to protect ourselves and each other. We need everyone who can to be vaccinated. We need to prevent further variants."

"Trust the science!"

"Please everyone get vaccinated ❤️"

"Living in housing without knowing everyone is vaccinated is kind of terrifying"

"A vaccine mandate would help keep the University of Utah community safe."

"I am a student at SLCC, and I plan to return to the U very soon. I hope to return to a safer community. As a healthcare worker, aspiring scientist, and community member- this vaccine is the key to keeping our community healthy and preventing further mutation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Petition members, thank you for making safety a priority."

"High-risk students, staff, faculty, and community members will continue to be excluded from the U until precautions are mandated."

"I support mandatory Covid vaccinations"

"I have family who are at risk of getting covid"

"I don't want to see all my peers having to resume online school because the U wouldn't do the bare minimum"

"Make campus safe by mandating vaccines for all students and staff"

"If no one is going to wear masks then we need a vaccine mandate"

"Let's add this FDA approved vaccine to the regular list of required vaccines and other common sense measures to promote campus health."

"The University should be a leader in this area by mandating vaccination and protecting the health of our community"

"Let's be responsible and keep our campus as safe as possible"

"We're required to have other vaccines to go to school; this should be no different."

"As a mother of two children under 12 who cannot be vaccinated at present and thus susceptible to virus brought home, and as an immunocompromised individual also concerned for other students/staff/faculty who may be immunocompromised, I strongly support a vaccine mandate on campus."

"Get vaccinated"

"As an immunocompromised student having a vaccine mandate would make me feel so much more comfortable returning to in person classes. Getting vaccinated is such an important way to help protect

our community and the U has the opportunity to facilitate it, and the administration should take advantage of that.”

“I am immunocompromised as is my room mate. Every day we go on this campus we are putting ourselves at risk just to get an education, while our peers get to act like petulant children and refuse to even wear masks. We demand action now.”

“I think it would be safer if all students have been vaccinated”

“This wouldn’t have to be a mandate if everyone had brain cells.”

“I would like my alma mater to not actively contribute to covid deaths in our community.”

“I would like to stay on campus, but that doesn't feel like a safe option until everyone is vaccinated.”

“Please get vaccinated, there’s a lot of vulnerable people in our community!”

“A vaccine mandate is essential to keeping our campus community safe.”

“The U of U has asked their employees to be examples in the community by getting vaccinated and wearing masks. We should demand that the institution also stand as an example in the community by issuing vaccine mandates.”

“If they are going to continue to hold on campus classes it is vital that vaccines are mandated for the safety of the students and the surrounding community.”

“Yes, masks work.”

“At least mandate masks or testing like last year!!!”

“We need vaccine mandates to protect our vulnerable students and extended families. Both my son, daughter (U of U enrolled students) and myself are in the high risk population. We have done our job (vaccinated, masked, self -isolation, social distancing) since March 2020. Now it's time for U of U to do its part.”

“Keep everyone safe”

“As a medical student, I am begging our administration to take the necessary and logical step of requiring vaccination against covid-19 of all students attending classes or living on campus. I am tired of watching our ICUs fill with the young and unvaccinated. This is a clear cut opportunity for the school to do something truly meaningful. Enough games and enough politics—if the U is to remain a bastion of education, it has to implement this simple, data-driven and science-backed policy.”

“This mandate will allow me to actually come on campus. “

“I support the vaccine mandate. People who are unvaccinated and fill up our hospital beds are selfish and are letting others die who need the treatments and medicine provided in hospitals. As a MA with Many RN and NP colleagues, it is deeply troubling we don’t have the vaccination numbers we need to slow down the SARS-19 Coronavirus. Masks need to be worn by everyone. Peridot.”

"Would like to see an indoor mask mandate while there is high transmission for all."

"Mandating the vaccine would further guarantee the safety of people on campus."

"The people of Utah that wanted there to be more studies and tests should be relieved to see the FDA's approval on this vaccines. For example supplements that people take when they work out such as ceratine, BCAA and even vitamin supplements are NOT approved or even looked at by the FDA. However people still willing take them. This vaccine has been studied, tested and approved for people. This vaccine is what will help us out of this pandemic. Young healthy people are dying because they are not vaccinated. For those that refuse to do there own research look to the headlines and see that we have an APPROVED vaccine. This should be mandated in order for us to return to some form of normalcy."

"It is unethical (and egregious) to subject students and graduate instructors to a false forced choice: that they choose their own safety or the advancement of their career and future

It's vital for us to protect our community and vaccination is key to us being able to lead safe, normal lives again. Without vaccinations we will continue to have outbreaks and overwhelm our healthcare systems. All while, causing individual to lose their live or strip them of their livelihood having to live with long covid. We should trust scientists not politicians"

"It is important that we do our part as a community to get vaccinated, we can't let this go on for longer we have all the resources. No need for more people to die especially the people who can't get vaccinated let's do it for them"

"I graduated in 2021 in a performing arts major. There is no reason why, for this new school year, the students in the MTP BFA program should have to mask to go to dance in the morning. They should all be vaccinated and be allowed to dance freely!"

"Please keep us safe by implementing vaccine and mask mandates!!"

"Please get vaccinated for the sake of your family, friends, and the community's well-being! Please do it for the doctors and nurses who are suffering in the hospitals right now. They have a life too."

"It seems irresponsible to promote socializing on campus during a pandemic without the correct restrictions. A mask mandate should be an obvious requirement and so should a vaccine. If the university is not going to strongly require (and not just recommend) either of these, the LEAST they could do is provide an easily accessible online option for those who need or prefer it."

"I just think that it should be required so we can stay in person and keep all safe. Personally this virus isn't going anywhere and the more that are vaccinated, the more it will help, if we want to be fully back to "normal!"

"I watched my grandmother slowly die over FaceTime this January. I don't want anyone in our community to have to go what my family went through. None of us are safe when our health care resources are stretched thin--vaccines are safe, effective, and the best tool that we have to prevent hospitalization and death. Enough is enough. It's time for the University of Utah, one of the top biomedical research institutions in the country, to listen to public health experts, scientists and the data, and require the vaccine for all students, staff and faculty."

"Vaccines save lives"

"It's imperative we continue doing everything we can to keep each other, our families and ourselves safe. The pandemic is still here and people are dying every day. There are people who are at risk even with the vaccine and those who are too young to get the vaccine. My major exists around being in person, but because I'm at high risk I can't participate in my classes fully until more safety procedures are in place. No matter how much I want to come and dance in the studio, I won't be able to ever dance again if I die."

"We need to be protected. Some of us are vaccinated that helps to a degree, but variants are being spread and vaccinated people are getting sick and dying. My friends family and I want to feel safe about being on campus. I wear a mask too but still am scared with the high volume of unvaccinated staff and students. I don't want to leave to go to another school if the U truly cares about the student body, but if they don't myself and many others are ready to find a college that does."

"There is no other way out of this pandemic and students cannot be left unprotected if forced back into schools."

"as an RA, having mandated vaccines make my residents, and myself, feel safer at the U"

"As a Covid Long-Hauler, my life has been forever changed by this pandemic. We need to stop the spread before more people die, or have life-changing disabilities after catching the virus like I have."

"The first week of classes demonstrates that simply asking students to wear a mask does not work. Many are not doing so. I go to work in fear of being infected by the virus and bringing it home to my loved ones."

"I have a child under 12 who cannot be vaccinated and am teaching in-person classes. A mandate would increase my ability to do my job well and keep my family safe."

"If you have other vaccine mandates there's no reason to make the Pfizer vaccine an exception."

"It makes sense. This is not political, it is simply for the well being and health of your students and staff. Please mandate vaccines at the U."

"With the recent FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, there should be no reason why a covid vaccine is not required, while not having verification of so many other vaccinations can put a hold on your account."

"A vaccine mandate would be make me feel safer on campus."

"My and my families safety and lives should not be put at risk over some political nonsense, especially since the Pfizer vaccine is FDA approved."

"The safety of our students and staff can be achieved with action such as vaccine mandates, mask mandates and improved ventilation for all classrooms. This latter is not under anyh ban and can be achieved immediately."

"As a TA and a student, requiring vaccines would make me feel safer, create less distraction and division in the classroom, and be the socially responsible thing to do. The lecture halls I have already been to this year are full enough to constitute this type of action. Having hundreds of people in a room without a mask

mandate is a serious risk to further spreading COVID-19 throughout the community, and at this point it is a social responsibility to require vaccines in order to attend these events that are ripe with vectors for Covid-19 to thrive amongst and proliferate. The vaccine is free of charge and has so few barriers to access there is simply no excuse to not be vaccinated. Everyone has the freedom to choose to attend this school or not, as well as they have a freedom to choose to have the vaccine or not. The only difference is that someone choosing to leave the U doesn't lead to sickness and death in the community."

"As a graduate student teacher, not requiring masks/vaccines in the classroom put me in undue danger, and it greatly prohibits me from keeping my friends and family safe. As a daughter of a high-risk father, mandating vaccines would protect me and my family from having to avoid each other for my entire 2 year graduate program. I implore you to take action."

"This is wonderful and I think it could help so much with problems we are already seeing. As someone in theatre it is so hard to connect with people with face masks but currently it is the safest way to do thing. With this mandate it would make my education more meaningful."

"We deserve peace if we have to pay so much for classes and housing. Either mask mandate or vaccine mandate, I'll take either or even both! But we can't have nothing."

"As a staff member in a student facing role, I don't have the option to stay home. Please support a vaccine mandate to protect everyone. It's the right thing to do."

"House Bill 308 is essential over since the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine has received full FDA approval. Look Ohio State University is mandating students, faculty, and staff get the covid vaccine. Y'all need to step it up in order to keep campus safe and functioning somewhat normal. With the lack of covid-19 prevention policies in place, the U may become a superspreader since this a commuter school."

Keep our researchers, faculty, staff, and families safe. Please mandate vaccinations, masking, and contact-tracing/testing.

As a healthcare worker, PLEASE do not be on the wrong side of history. There is a correct option. We should care enough about each other to do something as simple as getting a free vaccine. An unvaccinated mass poses a serious danger to our disabled and chronically ill student population.

Other vaccines are commonly required. Why not this one? Let's place the students health above politics.

In my undergraduate 42-student lecture on Monday, only about 20% of students were wearing masks. I feel unsafe teaching.

Please protect students, faculty, staff, and their families by requiring the vaccine.