

1 **RESOLUTION2122-001**

2 **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY’S SARS-COV-2 VACCINE**
3 **MANDATE**

4 Authors: Katie Conner.280, Chair of Data and Operations
5

6 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students (CGS) is the representative body of all graduate students enrolled
7 at The Ohio State University as established by Article II Section 1 of the CGS Constitution; and
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9 WHEREAS the Council of Graduate Students or its appointed representative(s) have the power to act as an
10 advisory agent on behalf of graduate students on all matters brought before personnel, committees, or agencies of
11 The Ohio State University involving the interest of graduate students as established in Article III Section 3 of the
12 CGS Constitution; and
13

14 WHEREAS, as of August 29th, 2021, the United State’s Centers for Disease Control determined that Franklin
15 County and all other counties in Ohio were then, and are still, experiencing high levels of COVID-19 community
16 transmission amidst the delta variant surge alongside notable upticks in hospitalization and mortality rates in the
17 state ^{1 2}; and
18

19 WHEREAS on August 23rd, 2021 the United States Food and Drug Administration announced that it had given
20 full approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech SARS-COV-2 vaccine (henceforth referred to by its market name Comirnaty
21 (koe-mir’-na-tee) aka [ko mir’ nə ti]) “for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 and older”; and ³
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23 WHEREAS per the US Food and Drug Administration, “*FDA-approved vaccines undergo the agency’s standard*
24 *process for reviewing the quality, safety and effectiveness of medical products. For all vaccines, the FDA*
25 *evaluates data and information included in the manufacturer’s submission of a biologics license application*
26 *(BLA). A BLA is a comprehensive document that is submitted to the agency providing very specific requirements.*
27 *For Comirnaty, the BLA builds on the extensive data and information previously submitted that supported the*
28 *[Emergency Use Authorization, henceforth EUA] EUA, such as preclinical and clinical data and information, as*
29 *well as details of the manufacturing process, vaccine testing results to ensure vaccine quality, and inspections of*
30 *the sites where the vaccine is made. The agency conducts its own analyses of the information in the BLA to make*
31 *sure the vaccine is safe and effective and meets the FDA’s standards for approval.”; and ¹
32*

33 WHEREAS acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock, M.D has stated, “*The FDA’s approval of this vaccine*
34 *is a milestone as we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. While this and other vaccines have met the*
35 *FDA’s rigorous, scientific standards for emergency use authorization, as the first FDA-approved COVID-19*
36 *vaccine, the public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and*
37 *manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product,” and, “While millions of people have already*
38 *safely received COVID-19 vaccines, we recognize that for some, the FDA approval of a vaccine may now instill*
39 *additional confidence to get vaccinated. Today’s milestone puts us one step closer to altering the course of this*
40 *pandemic in the U.S.”; and ¹
41*

42 WHEREAS other schools in Ohio requiring the COVID-19 vaccine include (but are not limited to) Case Western
43 Reserve University, the Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland State University, Denison University, Kenyon
44 College, Mount St. Joseph University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the College of Wooster; and ⁴

¹ <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/ohio-covid-cases.html>

³ <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

⁴ <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/list-of-colleges-that-require-covid-19-vaccine/>

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46 WHEREAS other schools in the United States of similar size and/or prestige (bolded schools below are those that
47 have been specifically identified in the past as being peer institutions or benchmarking institutions for OSU) that
48 are requiring the COVID-19 vaccine include (but are not limited to) the entirety of the California State University
49 system, **the entirety of the University of California system**, the entirety of the University of Colorado system,
50 Yale University, Georgetown University, Gallaudet University, Howard University, Morehouse College,
51 Spelman College, the entirety of the University of Hawai'i system, **University of Chicago, the entirety of the**
52 **University of Illinois system [Including Urbana Champaign], the entire Indiana University system,**
53 University of Notre Dame, Louisiana State University, Bowdoin College, the entirety of the University of Maine
54 system, Johns Hopkins University, **the entirety of the University of Maryland system**, Boston College, Boston
55 University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University, **Michigan State**
56 **University, the entirety of the University of Michigan system**, the entirety of the Minnesota State Colleges and
57 Universities system, **[including the University of Minnesota]**, the University of Nebraska Medical Center,
58 Dartmouth College, Princeton University, **Rutgers University**, the entirety of the University of New Mexico
59 system, the entirety of the City University of New York system, Columbia University, Cornell University, New
60 York University, the entirety of the State University of New York system, Syracuse University, Duke University,
61 Wake Forest University, Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Carnegie Mellon University, University
62 of Pennsylvania, Brown University, Vanderbilt University, Rice University, University of Virginia, Virginia
63 Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), William and Mary, and **the entirety of the University**
64 **of Washington system**; and ⁴

65

66 WHEREAS given that the Centers for Disease Control has stated in regard to COVID-19 generally that, “*Wearing*
67 *masks can help communities slow the spread of COVID-19 when worn consistently and correctly by a majority*
68 *of people in public settings and when masks are used along with other preventive measures, including social*
69 *distancing, frequent handwashing, and cleaning and disinfecting.*”; and ⁵

70

71 WHEREAS given that the Centers for Disease Control has also stated in regard to the recently surging Delta
72 variant specifically, “*Given what we know about the Delta variant, vaccine effectiveness, and current vaccine*
73 *coverage, layered prevention strategies, including wearing masks, are needed to reduce the transmission of this*
74 *variant. At this time, as we build the level of vaccination nationwide, we must also use all the prevention strategies*
75 *available, including masking indoors in public places, to stop transmission and stop the pandemic. Everyone who*
76 *is able, including fully vaccinated people, should wear masks in public indoor places in areas of substantial or*
77 *high transmission.*”; and ⁶

78

79 FINALLY, WHEREAS The Ohio State University’s Council of Graduate students advocates for OSU to support
80 and protect graduate students in all facets of their educational, professional, and personal lives to the best of its
81 ability--of which health and safety is a key component, it is clear that advocating for and supporting COVID-19
82 vaccine mandates, masking, and other layered prevention strategies is in the best interest of public health at The
83 Ohio State University, and for the greater Columbus area.

84

85 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students supports the decision of Kristina M.
86 Johnson along with The Ohio State University’s administration, to mandate vaccination against COVID-19 in
87 order to participate in on campus activities for Spring 2022.

88

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at this time, the Council of Graduate students also supports a continuing
90 mask mandate in all Ohio State University buildings and facilities, regardless of vaccination status of students,

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/mask-evaluation.html>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>

91 faculty, and staff for, at a minimum, the remainder of the 2021 - 2022 school year, and thereafter so long as case
92 counts in Ohio remain above a substantial level according to Centers for Disease Control criteria.

93

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate students supports additional COVID-prevention
95 requirements for sporting and other public events at The Ohio State University, such as those implemented by
96 Louisiana State University football and many Columbus area venues that require proof of vaccination or a
97 negative PCR test in the last 72 hours.^{7 8}

98

99 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Council of Graduate Students directs its President, Vice President, and
100 Chief of Staff to distribute this resolution to all proper leadership and authorities of The Ohio State University
101 and its partners.

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103 Approved: Yes/ No

104

105 Date: 9/3/2021

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107

108

109 Nicholas Messenger, President

110

Yea Votes - Caroline Fitzpatrick, Wu Menghang, Eli Bohnert, Madison Dymont, Taylor Williams, Faiz Nisar Khan, Amrita Sen, Ellia La, Robin Gordon, Garrett Tatum, Blaise Truesdell, Ben Seicol, Brian O'rourke, Carrie Anne Thomas, Kendra Dickinson, Katarina Sikiric, Hongxi Zhao, Peter Carrera, Nicolas Bolle, Alan Lujan, Eric Hantz, Dhara Patel, Sly Worthy, Jinwei Ye, Josh Streeter, Om Prakash Bedant, Katherine Conner, Shouvonik Sengupta, Krutant Mehta, Shib Pattadar, Anna Poptic, Caroline Karwisch, Liz Day, Emily Subr, Ayesha Seth, Will Clay, Christina Zachariadou, Morgan Ross, Marie Bissell, Kaitlyn Jones, Madhoolika Bisht, Ronald Puckett, Emily Hruska, Dominique Mosbly, Hannah Jones, Yelena Erez, Heather Schier, Keyu Yan, Alexandra Cabanelas Bermudez, Joe Schulze, Elena Cruz-Lopez, DeAvin Mitchell, Charles Mace, Lauryn Schlinglof, Nicholas Klein, Isobel Bowles, Nicole Wang, Sally Ross, Shelby Carlson, Asia Evans Aaron Argall, Patrick Rowan, Jordan Hartman, Uddesh Chakraborty, Steven Rhue, Elizabeth Kazemi, Prabhjot Singh, Heather Daly, Emma McNamara

Nay Votes - Geoffery Fernquist

Abstentions - Faith Lewis, Lataya De Jesus

Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University

⁷ <https://apnews.com/article/sports-college-football-football-coronavirus-pandemic-louisiana-state-tigers-football-b5481b05fef1f68b4f3e6b8317aa1574>

⁸ <https://www.dispatch.com/story/entertainment/2021/08/13/proof-vaccination-required-express-live/8120853002/>