

RESOLUTION ON REQUIRING COVID-19 VACCINATION STARTING IN FALL 2021 SEMESTER

COVID-19 has had devastating impacts worldwide, killing over 3 million people, including over 575,000 in the United States and over 26,000 in Pennsylvania. While we are currently seeing a decline in the number of cases, case counts remain high and COVID-19 presents a continuing public health threat. Fortunately, multiple vaccines have been developed that have proved highly effective at curbing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing hospitalizations and death and the vaccines are becoming widely available on a daily basis. While as of this date the available vaccines have been approved for emergency rather than ongoing use, nevertheless both medical expertise and large amounts of data support the safety and life-saving effectiveness of the vaccines, and therefore, weighing risks and benefits, we urge the importance of protecting everyone's lives through vaccination. Last December, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued [guidance](#) stating that there are no current laws preventing the requirement of vaccinations for employees and for almost 100 years, [courts](#) have upheld vaccine requirements in educational settings. At least 200 universities have announced COVID vaccination [requirements](#) for the Fall Semester, including over 70 public institutions and three institutions in the Big 10: Rutgers University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Michigan.

WHEREAS the University of Pittsburgh has an obligation to protect the health and well-being of its faculty, students, staff, and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the University of Pittsburgh already requires [documentation of immunization](#) against measles, mumps, and rubella, and students living in University housing must also be vaccinated against meningitis; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Assembly calls on the University of Pittsburgh to require proof of immunization from COVID-19, subject to exception for medical conditions or religious beliefs, for all faculty, students, and staff before they are permitted to utilize any campus beginning at the start of Fall Semester 2021, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Faculty Assembly calls on the University of Pittsburgh to facilitate equity of vaccination for COVID-19 among University Members, so as to avoid unequal opportunity to participate in on-campus activity due to socioeconomic and health care access factors that may differentially impede timely vaccination.