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**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2021 6:06 PM

**To:** LSUSD Faculty All; LSUSD Staff; LSUSD Postgrads; LSUSD Students

**Cc:** Hollier, Larry H.; Colletta, Louis; Crisp, Jennifer K.; Pittman, Lynn

**Subject:** \*\*\*Updated LSU School of Dentistry Policy Regarding Direct Patient Care and COVID-19 Vaccination\*\*\*

Dear LSU School of Dentistry Faculty, Staff, Residents and Students,

I want to thank you all for the support you have shown regarding my recent policy regarding vaccination and direct patient care. Those of you who have initiated the series or received the full vaccine I extend a personal thank you and I am sure our patients thank you for taking their safety into account.

I want to take a moment to announce a minor modification to the LSU School of Dentistry Policy on COVID-19 Vaccination. All LSU School of Dentistry Faculty, Staff, Residents, and Staff involved with direct patient care will be required to either 1) have received the full vaccine or initiated the vaccine series or 2) undergo mandatory nasopharyngeal swab PCR testing weekly beginning April 1, 2021. Failure to comply with vaccination or PCR testing will result in the Faculty, Staff, Resident, or Student being excused from providing direct patient care.

Faculty, Staff, Residents, and Students who opt for mandatory nasopharyngeal swab PCR testing will be required to wear the custom N-95 mask issued to all dental school personnel while in clinic areas involved in direct patient care. Failure to comply will result in being excused from the clinic area until the individual is retested and determined to be COVID-19 negative.

The School of Dentistry will comply with all ADA and religious objections according to the law. In those events, we will make every reasonable effort to accommodate the student, resident, staff, or faculty member. Additionally, those students, residents, staff, or faculty members who have a documented history of adverse reactions to the COVID-19 vaccine or other vaccines administered in the past or current immunosuppression will receive a waiver from the COVID-19 vaccine with documentation from a licensed practicing physician.

It is not my intention to force any individual to receive a vaccine they wish not to receive but as a healthcare provider and the Dean of a major academic area where the majority of personnel are actively involved in direct patient care it is my professional and ethical obligation to provide the safest environment for all persons involved.

I am more than happy to address any questions or concerns you may have with this modification to the LSU School of Dentistry Policy regarding Direct Patient Care.

Very Respectfully,

Rob  
Robert M. Laughlin DMD  
Dean and  
Chairman of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
LSU Health New Orleans  
School of Dentistry