



March 22, 2021

Robert M. Laughlin, DMD, Dean  
LSU Health Sciences Center School of Dentistry  
1100 Florida Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70119

Dear Dean Laughlin:

It has come to our attention that as Dean of the LSU School of Dentistry, you will require all LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry personnel to show proof of having received full vaccination for COVID-19, effective Monday, March 22, 2021. It is our understanding this includes faculty, staff, residents, and students involved in direct patient care.

“Offering” a vaccine and “requiring” a vaccine are two very different actions. When you communicate your standard, do you also communicate that each person also has the right--either by Louisiana state statute for students (LA RS 17:170.E), or federal law for employees (under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)--to submit a written statement or dissent in lieu of the shot?

Have you considered the following points in making the vaccine a requirement?

1. Every individual has the right to make their own medical decisions, and none should be mandated by health professionals. Hospitals including Our Lady of the Lake and Ochsner offer their employees the option of refusing a vaccine. There is a legal exemption.
2. The CDC itself has stated that the COVID-19 vaccination does not prevent anyone from contracting COVID-19, nor does it keep them from spreading the virus.
3. Even with the vaccine, people are still being told they must follow proper pandemic protocol including the use of face masks and social distancing.
4. The current COVID-19 vaccines are experimental, being administered under Emergency Use Authorization and the FDA has not approved the vaccines.
5. Requiring an experimental vaccination violates the ethical standards of Emergency Use Authorization.

The safety of both staff and patients is of utmost importance in providing the highest level of care, but we must be sure we are not requiring, mandating, or coercing others to make medical choices against their conscience or against the recommendation of their own healthcare provider to finish their degree or keep their job.

Because the LSU School of Dentistry is a state sponsored entity, we strongly urge you to abide by law and retract your vaccine requirement. In so doing, you will avoid litigation while professionally and ethically fulfilling your obligation as Dean of the School of Dentistry to protect the health, safety, and well-being of faculty, staff, residents, students, and patients.

We would appreciate a prompt response from you.

With respect,

Kathy Edmonston  
District 88

Blake Miguez  
District 49

Sherman Mack  
District 95

Beryl Amedee  
District 51

Dodie Horton  
District 9

Raymond Crews  
District 8

Valerie Hodges  
District 64

Alan Seabaugh  
District 5

Brett Geymann  
District 35

Danny McCormick  
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Philip Tarver  
District 36

Mark Wright  
District 77

Larry Frieman  
District 74

Rick Edmonds  
District 66

Chuck Owen  
District 30

Rodney Schamerhorn  
District 24

Troy Romero  
District 37

cc: LSU System Board of Supervisors  
Tom Galligan, LSU President  
Larry Hollier, M.D., LSU Health Chancellor  
Jeff Landry, Louisiana Attorney General