

Resolution 2122-02: Supporting mandatory COVID-19 vaccine policy at OHIO University

1. *Whereas*, to date, SARS-CoV-2 virus has infected over 42.3 million individuals in the United States, and has accounted for 677,323 total deaths with more pronounced effects to communities of color and rural communities; and,
2. *Whereas*, COVID-19 is a mild to severe respiratory infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 virus that can be effectively prevented by vaccination and other prevention methods such as, masking, physical distancing, and hand hygiene; and,
3. *Whereas*, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has fully approved the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine “Comirnaty” for those of age 12 years and older; and,
4. *Whereas*, the vaccine has proven to be safe and effective against the tested strains of SARS-CoV-2; and,
5. *Whereas*, sufficient vaccination rate in the community will build herd immunity, reducing the spread of the disease, and protecting those who are not eligible to receive the vaccine currently; and,
6. *Whereas*, the vaccine is the most effective solution to return to a sense of normal after almost 18 months in the pandemic affecting the academic, social, and psychological lives of many students including graduate students and this can allow for near normal in-person academic experiences for graduate students including teaching opportunities and research without interruptions; and,
7. *Whereas*, OHIO University strives to foster the academic, professional, and personal success of students; and,
8. *Whereas*, OHIO University also endeavors to nurture graduate and professional students to become open-minded, responsible, and empathetic future leaders; and,
9. *Whereas*, graduate Student Senate (GSS) is a representative body of all OHIO graduate and professional students; therefore, be it,
10. *Resolved*, GSS acknowledges OHIO University for putting the health and safety of students as a top priority and responding quickly to the global call to action; and be it further,
11. *Resolved*, GSS supports Ohio University COVID-19 policies including the current mandatory face-covering in indoor spaces and requirement of the COVID-19 vaccine; and be it further,
12. *Resolved*, GSS encourages all graduate and professional students to comply with the requirements and make our own contribution to overcome the pandemic as soon as possible; and be it further,
13. *Resolved*, GSS will communicate with all graduate and professional students about the endorsement of COVID-19 vaccine policy via social media and newsletter; and be it further,
14. *Resolved*, that this resolution be communicated to the office of COVID operations and the Dean of the Graduate College, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President, Provost and President.

Sponsors:

Nisha Singh

Commissioner of Health and Safety

Charlotte Yang

Treasurer