

Student Government Resolution 121.003
A Resolution Opposing a COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate and Acknowledging the Right to
Make Personal Health Decisions
Sponsored by: Adam Bishop, Voting Senator

WHEREAS,

- The Student Government is the official governing body of the Student Association and exists to represent the present and long-term best interests of the Student Association in the formulation of University policy and in the fulfillment of the University’s mission; and
- One of the core aspects of Truman State University’s mission is “to open opportunity, promote access and social mobility, foster excellence, recognize merit, and do all things that urge our students to make themselves productive, **free** and equal;”¹ and
- Since the passage of Student Government Resolution 121.002, the percent of the adult population of Adair County that has been vaccinated has risen to 51.1% of adults who have received at least one dose of the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, and 47.6% who have completed vaccination;² and
- The rate of SARS-CoV-2 hospitalizations has dropped drastically for all age groups since the week ending August 28, 2021;³ and
- Aggregating expected total weekly hospitalization can be calculated using the expected hospitalizations of every age group, giving an average total of 1.628819 persons, which is far below the total 93 beds in the Northeast Regional Medical Center;⁴ and
- There are 206 colleges and trade schools in Missouri and only five have approved vaccine mandates: Culver Stockton University, Rockhurst University, William Jewell College, Saint Louis University, and Washington University,⁵ none of which are public schools; and
- Had Truman State University extrapolated the findings of their vaccination status survey, they would have found a greater expected vaccination rate, as they found that 53% of students responded, with a 93% vaccination rate, and they concluded that there is a known vaccination rate of 50%,⁶ but knowing the average intention of receiving vaccination among college students, which is 91.64%,⁷ and applying it to the remaining 47% of students and controlling for maximum response bias would indicate a roughly 88.64% expected vaccination rate; and
- Truman State SARS-CoV-2 cases have sharply declined, with a current 0 students and 0 faculty members with active cases;⁸ and
- Truman State University does require the MMR vaccination against measles and the meningococcal B vaccine against meningitis, but measles has around a 1-2 in 1000

¹ <https://www.truman.edu/about/mission-vision/> (emphasis added)

² https://covidvaccine.mo.gov/data/#county_data

³ https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html

⁴ <https://www.nermc.com/hospital-about-us>

⁵ <https://universitybusiness.com/state-by-state-look-at-colleges-requiring-vaccines/>

⁶ http://newsletter.truman.edu/article.asp?id=28664&utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=see-what-s-happening-on-campus_87

⁷ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33741191/>

⁸ <https://www.truman.edu/coronavirus/reporting/>

mortality rate,⁹ or 0.1% - 0.2%, and meningitis has around a 9.8% mortality rate,¹⁰ whereas SARS-CoV-2 has an overall 1.6% mortality rate, and a 0.05% mortality rate specifically for persons age 18-29;¹¹ and

- Part of Truman State University's vision is "demonstrating students' practical reasoning through improved critical thinking and problem solving;"¹² and
- The repercussions for non-compliance with any vaccine mandate at Truman State University are entirely unclear; and
- The petition circulated by the Truman State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors utilizes few statistics in its wording and contains many vague points about how current policies would increase SARS-CoV-2 transmission; and
- The petition circulated by the American Association of University Professors was only signed by 100¹³ of the rough total of 310 faculty members of Truman State University¹⁴ and only 300 members of the greater Kirksville community;¹³ and
- The American Association of University Professors does not speak for the Student Association, and does not have the authority to make personal health decisions for individuals of the Student Association; and
- The Student Government speaks for the Student Association, but does not have the authority or knowledge to request or support mandated health decisions as a condition of being a member of the Truman State community; and
- Student Government Resolution 121.002 was passed on September 6, 2021, nearly three weeks before the swearing in of new senators following the Fall Elections, and a re-examination of the issue would allow for a wider conversation among the increased representation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT:

- Withdraws their support of the petition circulated by the Truman State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors; and
- Opposes a vaccine mandate at Truman State University; and
- Formally acknowledges the rights and personal responsibilities of the Student Association to make health decisions according to their own circumstances.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTS THAT:

Additional copies of this resolution are disseminated to Dr. Sue Thomas, President; Brooks Miller, Chair of the Truman State University Board of Governors; Dr. Janet Gooch, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs; Janna Stoskopf, Dean of Student Life Affairs; Scott Alberts, President of Faculty Senate; Ernie Hughes, Vice President for University Advancement; Tyana Lange, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing;

⁹<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/downloads/measlesdataandstatsslideset.pdf>

¹⁰<https://www.meningitis.org/research-into-how-fast-meningitis-kills>

¹¹ https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm

¹² <https://www.truman.edu/about/mission-vision/vision-statement/>

¹³ <https://aaup.truman.edu/news/vaccine-mandate/>

¹⁴ <https://www.truman.edu/about/facts-about-truman/at-a-glance/>

Melissa Garzanelli, Director of Human Resources; Donna Liss, Chief Information Officer; Nancy Daley-Moore, Associate Professor of Health Science; Lance Ratliff, Dean, School of Health Sciences and Education; Teri Tucker, Student Health Center (WHNP-BC); Patty Rogers, Student Health Center (BSN, RN); Amy Clendennen, University General Counsel; Jordan Palmer (DO), Head of Student Health Center; The Truman State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors; Alice Davis, Student Health Center APRN, FNP-BC; Lexy Kimber, Student Public Health Association Member; Megan Grossman; The Truman Media Network and University Archives.

Not Passed 2-18-0, October 24th, 2021.

Appendix I: Weekly SARS-CoV-2 Hospitalizations

Age Group	Weekly Hospitalization Rate ¹⁵	Percent of Age Group in Adair County Population ¹⁶ (25,343)	Estimated Age Group Population of Adair County	Estimated Total Average Weekly Hospitalizations
1-4	1.9 in 100,000 Or 0.0019%	5.2%	1,318 Persons	0.025042
5-17	0.8 in 100,00 Or 0.0008%	12.7%	3,219 Persons	0.025752
18-64	5.8 in 100,000 Or 0.0058%	67.0%	16,980 Persons	0.98484
65+	15.5 in 100,000 Or 0.0155%	15.1%	3,827 Persons	0.593185

Total: 1.628819 Average Weekly Hospitalizations

¹⁵ https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/COVIDNet/COVID19_3.html

¹⁶ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/adaircountymissouri/PST045219>

Appendix II: Minimum Expected Vaccination Rates Among Truman Students Accounting For Maximum Response Bias

Response Rate	Recorded Vaccination Rate	Confirmed Vaccination Rate	Intention of Receiving Vaccination ¹⁷	Intention of Not Receiving Vaccination
53%	93%	50%	91.64%	8.36%

Remaining Percentage of Students to Receive Vaccination, Assuming 8.36% Did Not Respond to Initial Survey [47.0% (Remaining Students) - 8.36% (Students Unwilling to Receive Vaccination)]	Extrapolated Minimum Vaccination Rate (50.0% + 38.64%)
38.63%	88.64%

¹⁷ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33741191/>