

Open letter to UW officials: Repeal the COVID vaccination and testing mandates

We, the undersigned employees and students, or parents of students, of the University of Waterloo (UW) herewith express our categorical disagreement with the COVID-related mandates recently imposed by the university administration on all employees and students (e-mail entitled, "Mandatory vaccination and attestation," dated August 16th, 2021; e-mail entitled, "Proof of vaccination now required for campus access," dated August 24th, 2021). These mandates are unlawful, and their net effect will be to cause disease, not to prevent it.

Are mandates for vaccination or “anonymous” declaration of vaccination status covered by existing contracts?

Any mandates involving vaccination, declaration of vaccination status, and testing violate all employment contracts that were concluded, as well as all offers of admission that were accepted before the mandates were imposed. The rights infringed upon include those enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the highest law of the land. Thus, the mandates are unlawful and invalid.

What is the rationale for coercing vaccination?

Generally speaking, vaccination can have a number of different outcomes:

1. It can induce “sterilizing immunity,” which means that the vaccinated person cannot contract and spread the pathogen in question.
2. It can induce protection without sterilization – manifest disease in vaccinated persons will be suppressed or at least mitigated, but they may still contract and spread the infection.
3. It can fail altogether – vaccinated persons remain as likely to fall ill as the unvaccinated or become even more so.

Only the first outcome could justify, tenuously, a vaccine mandate. Widespread sterilizing immunity could be expected to result in “herd immunity,” meaning that the immunity of the many who were vaccinated would also protect the few who cannot be vaccinated, typically due to underlying deficiencies of their immune systems.

It is generally accepted, however, that none of the currently used COVID vaccines produce sterilizing immunity; in fact, recent data indicate that they provide at best marginal protection. Therefore, mandating COVID vaccination has no rational justification.

Why is natural immunity not considered?

More than one year into the so-called pandemic, very many people have already been infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and have acquired natural immunity. It has been shown that this immunity is much more robust than that conferred by the vaccines; such an outcome is indeed expected. Accordingly, those with natural immunity cannot possibly derive any additional benefit or protection from getting vaccinated. On the other hand, they are at increased risk of grave adverse events from the vaccines. Thus, even if there were valid reasons for mandating vaccination – which is not the case – the very first order of business should still be to offer tests for existing immunity, and to permanently exempt from vaccination those who test positive. This failure to account for natural immunity alone suffices to prove that the vaccine mandates imposed by the UW administration are unscientific, vexatious, and reckless.

Healthy people don't transmit COVID-19.

While PCR methods have their legitimate uses in diagnosing infectious diseases, there is no good reason for using them on persons who are not sick. Numerous studies have confirmed that the SARS-CoV-2 virus can be detected in cell culture only in samples from patients who are clinically sick, or whose symptoms subsided only a few short days ago. Those same studies determined that viral nucleic acids remained detectable by PCR in samples for weeks and even months after cell cultures had turned negative. Only cell cultures detect live viruses; in contrast, PCR will also detect non-viable virus particles and even fragments of viral nucleic acids.

A very large study conducted in Wuhan, China, which enrolled almost 10 million people, failed to trace any cases of clinical disease to contagion from PCR-positive but asymptomatic individuals. All of these findings indicate that a positive PCR test alone does not imply contagiousness. The testing mandates imposed on those members of the UW community who refuse to provide proof of vaccination are therefore without any scientific basis. Moreover, the very frequent repetition of these tests – twice weekly – will harm the very tender mucous membranes of the nasal cavity, which unlike those e.g. in the oral cavity are not able to withstand mechanical stress. Such frequently repeated trauma will cause pain and bacterial infections. This scientifically baseless and burdensome testing schedule is clearly designed to make peoples' lives miserable and to pressure them into getting vaccinated.

Are UW administrators really unaware of the numerous grave adverse effects of the COVID vaccines?

Several leading UW administrators – notably President Vivek Goel, Provost James Rush, and VP Research Charmaine Dean – come from a public health or biomedical science background. Professional due diligence should therefore have acquainted them with the many kinds of severe adverse effects of the vaccines that have been reported in the medical literature. While the literature so far contains only case reports or small-scale studies on adverse events, a very large number of vaccine-related deaths and injuries is evident in the adverse events reporting systems of the U.S, the U.K., and the European Union. Even these systems, however, do not reflect the full magnitude of the problem. The independent advocacy group “America’s Frontline Doctors,” whose membership includes many very experienced physicians, has filed for an injunction against the existing vaccine emergency use authorizations, asserting that as many as 55,000 vaccine-related deaths have been reported to the federal authorities in the U.S. alone. Over and above these deaths, there are even more cases of grave and disabling disease such as heart attack, stroke, myocarditis, and multi-organ inflammatory disease. Such cases have been reported across all age groups.

This catastrophic outcome must be weighed against the tenuous benefits of vaccination. It must also be weighed against the minuscule risk of grave disease which the virus poses to persons of all ages without underlying disease, and particularly to adolescents and young adults such as our students. The risk-benefit balance of COVID vaccination is unambiguously negative. These vaccines should no longer be called “experimental,” because the experiment has already ended in failure. Any further continuation of this failed “experiment” amounts to the wilful infliction of bodily harm.

The vaccine mandates are divisive.

Both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated can contract the virus and then spread it. On the other hand, members of neither group will actually spread the virus as long as they are not themselves ill.

People may object to vaccination for various reasons, including medical, religious, and philosophical ones. Whichever the case may be – the choice to get vaccinated remains a personal one, as guaranteed by the

Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Regardless of our choices, there is no need for us to be afraid of each other. For too long have we allowed ourselves to be alienated from one another and divided, for fear of a virus that is no more deadly or dangerous than the flu. It is high time that we leave this fear behind and resume our normal lives – in private, but also at work. UW’s vaccine mandates won’t help us do that; instead, they will further entrench fear and distrust. They will keep us divided at a time when the UW community should be coming together to revive the confident and forward-looking spirit for which Waterloo is well known.

We urge UW administrators to repeal the mandates.

Beyond their divisiveness, the vaccine mandates will inflict more tangible harm. Given the size of UW’s population of students and employees, it is certain that coerced vaccinations will result in severe injury and quite possibly even deaths. It is urgent that these irrational and unlawful coercive measures be repealed before it is too late.

Resources

- [America's Frontline Doctors](#) provide scientific and medical information on COVID-19 disease and on the vaccines. See in particular the [news release](#) on their lawsuit which contains the number of fatalities cited in the text.
- The [Canadian COVID Care Alliance](#), too, provides a broad range of resources on COVID-19 and on its prevention and treatment. Of particular interest is their [Parent Guide to COVID-19 Vaccination](#), authored by Dr. Byram Bridle, professor of viral immunology at the University of Guelph.
- The [Doctors for COVID Ethics](#) have authored several open letters and scientific analyses on COVID-19 vaccines. Some of these, including one on the [pharmacokinetics and toxicity of mRNA vaccines](#) and a [legal expert opinion on the use of mRNA vaccines in children](#), were co-authored by UW Chemistry professor Michael Palmer, MD. The latter document provides literature references for most of the factual claims made in this open letter.
- The [Liberty Coalition Canada](#) has authored an [open letter to universities and colleges](#) that spells out how mandates such as those imposed by the UW administration violate the rights vouchsafed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- [Children's Health Defense Canada](#), in cooperation with lawyers Rocco Galati and Amina Sherazee of the [Constitutional Rights Centre](#), are preparing a lawsuit against all universities and colleges (including UW) which have issued these illegal vaccination and testing mandates. All students and employees affected by these mandates can join this lawsuit.

Signatories

Name	Position/Role	Department /Program
Michael Palmer, MD	Faculty	Chemistry
Edward R. Vrscay, PhD	Faculty	Applied Mathematics
Richard Mann, PhD	Faculty	Computer Science
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Carmen Jaray	Staff	Central Stores
Paula Petrie	Staff	Faculty of Engineering
Rosina Kharal	Instructor	Computer Science
Susan Beth Martin, BScPharm RPh BCGP, clinical pharmacist	Parent	
Jean-Claude and Renia Pasche	Parents	
Jean-Luc Pasche	Student	
Moneka Esa	Student	Pharmacy (CAP)
Jason and Maureen Brintnell	Parents	Health Science/Arts
Dr. K. Elizabeth Storjohann BSc, ND, RTCMP	Parent	
Max Storjohann	Student	Electrical Engineering
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Sherry Gellatly	Parent	
Allister Talbot	Staff	Central Stores
Natalie Potkidis	Student	Optometry

Joana Potkidis	Parent	
Katia Naccarato	Student	Actuarial Science
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Chris Vitols	Student	Architectural Engineering
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Lorri Vitols	Parent	
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Ned Osman	Parent	
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Dr. Rebecca Cannon ND	Parent	
Desanka Stan	Staff	Plant Operations
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Barbara Hankins, BMus, BEd, MMus	Parent	
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Peter Cornelisse	Student	Engineering
Rachel Vanheule	Alumna	Mathematics
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Cover letter by Ed Vrscay, Applied Mathematics

To:

Cindy Forbes, chair of the Board of Governors
Vivek Goel, president and vice-chancellor
James Rush, vice-president, academic & provost
Dennis Huber, vice-president, administration & finance
Charmaine Dean, vice-president, research & international
Sandra Banks, vice-president, university relations
Marilyn Thompson, associate provost, human resources
Chris Read, associate provost, students

CC: See below

From: The undersigned concerned faculty, staff, students, and parents

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2021

Subject: Open letter to repeal COVID-19 vaccination and testing mandates

Note: This letter is for information and action

In response to the decision by the University of Waterloo Administration to impose mandatory vaccination on campus (e-mail entitled, "Mandatory vaccination and attestation," dated August 16, 2021; e-mail entitled, "Proof of vaccination now required for campus access," dated August 24, 2021), please find attached an open letter signed by concerned faculty, staff, students and parents of students requesting the Administration to repeal these mandates. Note that the list of concerned campus members grows daily, and the letter will be updated regularly to reflect this.

The above paragraph was written on behalf of the signatories of the open letter. I would now like to take the liberty of concluding this memo with some personal comments, writing to you as a faculty member of 35+ years on this campus. Of course, I assume full responsibility for the comments that follow.

Dear members of the UW community, my first challenge to you: I sincerely beg all of you to look for other solutions to the "COVID-19 problem", i.e., to reject the top-down, bureaucratic method of "vaccine mandates" being employed by virtually all other institutions (and which has not worked to date) and to come up, through open discussion and reasoned academic debate within the entire UW community, with a unique, innovative and person-centered approach, as opposed to an institution-centered one, which is more characteristic of the "Spirit of Waterloo". I am certain that the very action of seeking "bottom-up" solutions in an open and transparent manner would contribute to the mental, as well as physical, wellbeing of our community - students in particular. This is an opportunity for UW to become a leader instead of a follower. (It will also be an opportunity for UW to avoid the lawsuits that may be coming its way should it persist with its vaccine mandate.)

During the time that I was involved with others in preparing this open letter, I became aware of not only a few, but many, people – faculty, staff and students - on our campus who are extremely distressed as a result of the vaccine mandate policy. Many of these people – perhaps most – are too scared to express their opinions. Do you not think that their mental health suffers? Indeed, if this institution is so concerned about diversity, equity and inclusivity, then why would it not be interested in hearing from this supposed “minority group” (although it might not be as “minor” as you think or wish) – a group of outcasts, the so-called “unvaccinated”, which owes its very existence to the new UW vaccine policy?

Here is my second challenge to you: Please read the other letter which I have attached to this e-mail – a letter written by a member of the “unvaccinated” – and then tell me that you are not willing to listen to the stories of others in this group of outcasts. If you are still hesitant, then please read the following text from the writer after she sent me her letter:

“You know, I was thinking today when – honestly, I was feeling sad. I was thinking, in all my life being a visible minority, I have never felt judged or discriminated against in Canada. I have always felt loved and welcomed as a Muslim female of South Asian background. I came to (department name withheld) when it was unpopular for girls, and definitely Pakistani girls. I was one of the only non- Caucasian girls in my residence - Notre Dame by St. Jerome’s. (This is where I met all my friends.) I was loved and welcomed as a Muslim girl in an all-Catholic residence and it was amazing. The friends I made are my life-long friends.

So, I felt sad because, really truly in all my life, this is the first time I have ever felt marginalized, treated as part of a minority group, having my basic privileges taken away. And for no fault of my own - just a personal choice for freedom, i.e., to remain unvaccinated.”

Please note, respected colleagues, that I am not asking you to disregard the opinions and concerns about those who have been vaccinated. I am simply asking you to listen to the “other group” – the group that has, up to now, been marginalized by government, mainstream media and institutions, including UW.

If I am not involved directly in health-related matters, and hear so many stories, then what about Dr. Byram Bridle, internationally recognized viral immunologist and vaccinologist from the University of Guelph? As he shares in the video interview referenced below, he has interacted with hundreds, if not thousands, of students from around the world.

<https://rumble.com/vlh6gn-dr.-byram-bridle-voices-his-concerns-over-vaccine-mandates-at-universities-.html>



Dr. Byram Bridle Voices His Concerns Over Vaccine Mandates at Universities And Colleges

Dr. Byram Bridle voices his concerns about the new vaccine mandates at colleges and universities for the upcoming school year. He also gives students great advice on how to cope with these unconstitut

rumble.com

Among his conclusions: students are demoralized – they feel isolated and depressed. All that they have to look forward to is to be dictated how to behave, including the pressure to be vaccinated. In fact, people at all levels are demoralized. And so on and so on. I am so incredibly impressed with Dr. Bridle. He obviously cares for students – he is passionate about them, not only his students but all students. He respects the decisions of those who choose to be vaccinated as well as those who choose to remain unvaccinated. He is also a remarkably honest individual, admitting that he “got it wrong” at the beginning, shunning other non-vaccine methods of treating COVID-19 patients (which have been shown to be effective) as well as his later “bombshell” revelations about the dangers of spike-proteins in the vaccines.

Here is my third challenge to you: Please listen to the interview of Dr. Bridle and then tell me that “UW has it right”. (That being said, I don’t think that his own university is listening to him.)

My question to you: Do we have any “Dr. Bridles” on this campus? If so, then find them and listen to them!

Dear colleagues, please consult the entire UW community – openly not secretly – with the goal of devising a dramatically different COVID-19 strategy that will be the envy of all other institutions – a strategy that will encourage people instead of demoralizing them and a strategy that will attract new students instead of repelling them.

Sincerely yours,

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CC:

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Cathy Bolger, UWSA communications and administrative coordinator

Dr. Clark Baldwin, Campus Wellness medical director

Nickola Voegelin, senior legal counsel

Nick Manning, associate vice-president, communications

Brandon Sweet, Daily Bulletin editor

A personal letter by a longstanding member of the UW community

Hello everyone,

I wanted to share my views on the latest vaccination mandates on campus and the above policy that many people across campus agreed with.

I understand that these decisions are not made at the department or faculty level. I believe that not enough people have an appreciation or understanding of alternative perspectives. I usually keep my personal choices private, however, I feel obliged to share a little about my experiences during the past five months particularly for those that are unable to speak or share how they are feeling at this time.

A gentle warning: This may be a bit long, but please bear with me. I have been at the University of Waterloo in the capacity of student or instructor since I was 18 years of age. The (name withheld) building and (name withheld) building have always been my second home and not infrequently were my first home (i.e., during my undergrad years). I actually tell my kids that I grew up in the (name withheld) building and that people there are like family to me.

During the greater part of the pandemic I was like many other people, working from home and managing kids while paying attention to restrictions and being careful to keep socially distant. I have a strong appreciation for the dedication and sacrifices made by the medical community as I have many doctors in my own family. We have also lost family members to Covid-19. I kept semi-updated with the latest news about vaccines and Covid cases. I did have a few concerns about taking a very new, not rigorously tested vaccine, but I was okay with it, and did not think about it too much as I was quite busy. I briefly read about groups and tangential opinions that seemed extreme (i.e., freedom fighters, anti-maskers, Covid rebels as the mainstream media has labelled these people). I dismissed all opinions outside of the mainstream news and agreed that these people were a public nuisance and unlawful.

Last April 2021, a series of events coincided.

I had a dear friend, whom I consider an aunt and have known and loved for decades, from Waterloo, Ontario. She lost her 58-year-old son to a heart attack that occurred a few days after he took the Astra Zeneca vaccine. Within hours of being vaccinated, he was frothing at the mouth and had acute diarrhea. Within days he was dead. This was incredibly shocking and upsetting to our community. What was equally distressing is that his body was rushed to Toronto General Hospital, and my aunt did not hear anything about her son for ten days. After this excruciating limbo/wait she was told she could take his body back to Waterloo, and that he had died of a cardiac arrest. The manner in which this was handled by public health was cold and callous. In addition to this, during the month that followed, within a group of approximately 80 people that I kept in touch with regularly through messaging or personal chat groups, I was made aware of six additional people that had had either a stroke, heart attack, extremely swollen lymph nodes, myocarditis or several seizures following an mRNA-based vaccine. From these people, five of the six needed hospitalization. Mainstream media has consistently portrayed the risks of the vaccine as extremely low, however, the percentages were not low enough for the people I knew in my life. Vaccine side effects were very real and this was my first exposure to an alternate reality, completely absent from mainstream news.

I decided at that time, as someone with prior medical conditions and a parent of four children, that I would wait at least one year to take the vaccine. I did not know much at the time, but I felt that I was in a low-risk

category, I likely already had had Covid and therefore natural antibodies, and I felt it was responsible and logical to wait to see what happens with the vaccine in a one- year time frame as none of the vaccines have any longitudinal data.

I decided to complete due diligence and investigate if my life experience was an extreme anomaly. Was information missing from the mainstream narrative? I dedicated the next four months to rigorous research both on vaccine safety and efficacy and the manner in which the pandemic was being communicated to the public. I have spent hundreds of hours on this research, much more than the average person has time for. To be clear, I am not affiliated with any freedom movement or anti-vaccine group. I wanted to complete my own independent, unbiased investigation on this topic as a personal project.

The most important lesson that I learned in this work is that we cannot trust mainstream news or social media as our primary sources of information.

There is a world of highly qualified people, including Nobel prize winners and front runners, who do not agree with the manner in which the pandemic and vaccines are managed in Canada and throughout the world. In this message, I will not get into the content nor the striking contradictions that I have come across.

I do not consider myself an expert, but it is undeniable that there are a large number of unanswered questions. Some questions that have arisen from my investigation include:

1. Why has Canada completely ignored early-intervention Covid-19 protocols that were already publically available in May 2020? Protocols that are now in place and helping save lives all over the world?
2. Why were the early treatment protocols for Covid-19 heavily censored? Doctors have been desperately trying to save lives by trying to share this information but they have been shut down repeatedly.
3. Why are the adverse effects of the vaccines not adequately presented and robustly discussed in mainstream media? Effects that a cursory 10-min web search can reveal?
4. How is it acceptable, that a vaccine which has not completed full clinical trials, is now available to 12-year-olds, without parental consent, in striking contrast to any other children's health policy in Canada?
5. Why is Covid-19 natural immunity being completely ignored when research from the UK and Israel have attested that it is 6x more robust than vaccine induced immunity? Data from these countries has indicated that vaccine-induced immunity can only seek to imitate natural immunity.

In my own journey, I have I have been humbled to realize that I should not hastily label anyone with an alternative opinion as an anti-vaxxer, or anti-this or -that. My children and I have had all had our regularly scheduled vaccines, and I have had no prior issue with vaccines. I learned that getting into lengthy discussions about this topic is not beneficial, hence this is not a debate. My message today is not meant to try to convince anyone to think like me, but rather to help people see that valid, alternative perspectives exist and the people who hold them are not all rebels that have issues with the law.

We have to respect the fact that people with different perspectives on Covid have a grounded basis to their views. If we speak of the "Science" of Covid then we find that there is a robust dialogue to support both sides of the argument. There is a plethora of data out there. The very basis of fruitful research and progress is considering alternate opinions that may not necessarily coincide with our own.

At this time, I am strongly convicted that the university's new policies are unfair and disadvantageous to people that choose to remain unvaccinated for legitimate, personal reasons. Also, there are many research studies to support natural Covid-19 immunity that the university is not considering.

I want to be clear. If I felt that I was putting anyone in harm's way by being unvaccinated, I would choose to not come to campus myself. The CDC themselves, when they reversed policy and told the double vaccinated to wear face masks, have stated that the vaccinated and unvaccinated have the same viral load and transmit the Delta variant at the same rate.

A quick side story:

I have just returned from a trip to small city in southern Yemen that takes in about three thousand international visitors during the summer months. The concentration of international travelers is high within a small population of only about 60K. My kids and I were very surprised to see how open and public everything was there. The society is very hospitable, generous and outgoing. We were directly exposed to at least 1000 people and indirectly exposed to many more during our visit.

People there were sharing pools to swim in, food on the same platters and water from the same cups. Some of the people we were exposed to were sick. The woman who came to clean our home had a terrible hacking cough and she did not leave until she gave me a big hug. I spoke to a doctor from the UK who had lived there for two years and I asked him if he was worried about Covid spreading among the people. He said, "Sure, people here get sick with a seasonal flu or cold, and then they get better. A healthy, functional society includes illness. It may be Covid, it may be just seasonal, but it passes."

Now, we have returned home and are all Covid negative as indicated by repeated testing during a 14-day period. This confirms what many experts believe to be natural immunity, that many people have been exposed to Covid and have unknowingly reached natural immunity. I will confirm this with antibody testing next week.

However, this message is about much more than my own personal experiences.

I believe, as a society, we have let fear (fear of illness, fear of lockdowns, fear of a loss) drive us to make decisions that promote intolerance and segregation, decisions that we would never have made in the past. We need to think critically about the views and news we are being presented with. One needs to vaccinate to protect the vaccinated? This has never been true of other vaccines.

Campus wide policies affect the lives and well-being of human beings, and I am deeply concerned for the sake of all the people I know that cannot and will not speak up for themselves. They are being ostracized and unwelcome at their own educational facility. Our unvaccinated undergraduate students have no less a right to quality education than their vaccinated peers. We are firmly establishing a bias and a clear division amongst our student body.

This fall, I was most looking forward to seeing my friends and colleagues on campus that I have missed so much. I was looking forward to chatting and having socially distant tea and cookies from the C&D. I have also been really looking forward to meeting my students from the past year that have asked to stop by my office to meet in person. But, none of that will happen now. This will be the first time in 25 years that I will be unwelcome on a campus that has always been like my home.

Given the day-to-day changes we are witnessing, we are quickly moving towards a campus space where only the vaccinated are welcome. This is very disappointing but not surprising given the accelerated rate at which change has occurred this past year.

I have no problem adhering to my principles and the right to make my own decisions. However, we are applying undue coercion on our students that wish to do the same. Failure to comply to the vaccine mandate means prevention from the basic right to an education, an education they have worked very hard to earn.

How this can become an acceptable practice overnight is astounding. Rights are not privileges that can be taken away at will. If one can be taken, none are safe. Only six short months ago the Pfizer vaccine was in full roll out to the public. Today, it is the condition of participation in not only campus but civic life. A sobering thought whichever side of the debate you fall on. We too will be judged by history.

I had a meeting earlier today in which a student kept asking me for a good day in September when he can come visit me in my office to say goodbye before he leaves for China. I could not give him any firm date. Well, we will just have to meet at Tim's instead, unless of course I wake up tomorrow and find out that is also banned.

Thank you kindly for your time. Please send me a direct message if you wish to see some of the information and resources that I have cataloged that delve into the above points. The sole purpose of this message was to allow people to hear an alternative perspective.

Take care,

(name withheld)

Some interesting points of discussion for universities to consider

<https://zeroanthropology.net/2021/08/20/statement-of-non-compliance-with-mandatory-vaccination-in-canadian-universities>

National Post Article August 21st:

<https://nationalpost.com/news/world/the-vaccinated-are-worried-and-scientists-dont-have-answers>

Natural Covid Immunity:

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19/92836>

Infection Spreading

<https://www.medpagetoday.com/infectiousdisease/covid19vaccine/93830>

The Wall Street Journal on Natural Immunity:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-power-of-natural-immunity-11623171303>