

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

UW-affiliated signatories

Name	Position/Role	Department /Program
Michael Palmer, MD	Faculty	Chemistry
Edward R. Vrscaj, PhD	Faculty	Applied Mathematics
Richard Mann, PhD	Faculty	Computer Science

Wayne Oldford, PhD	Faculty	Statistics and Actuarial Science
Emily Schroeder, MLIS MA	Staff	University Secretariat
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
Ashley Mackayla Gellatly	Student	Geography and Aviation
Sherry Gellatly	Parent	
Allister Talbot	Staff	Central Stores
Natalie Potkidis	Student	Optometry
Joana Potkidis	Parent	
Katia Naccarato	Student	Actuarial Science
Paul Ferrara	Student	Planning
Chris Vitols	Student	Architectural Engineering
Rob Vitols	Parent	
Lorri Vitols	Parent	
Nadine Osman	Student	Health Science
Ned Osman	Parent	
Maria Barichello	Staff	Student Success Office
Dr. Rebecca Cannon ND	Parent	
Desanka Stan	Staff	Plant Operations
Tanja Dukic	Staff	Plant Operations
Radojka Duricin	Staff	Plant Operations

Maria Lezeu	Staff	Food Services
Andre McIntyre	Staff	Plant Operations
Dawn Durst	Staff	Food Services
Brittany Latour	Staff	Plant Operations
Malgorzata Kozlowska	Staff	Plant Operations
Lisa Morrison	Staff	Residence
Erin Krueger	Staff	Food Services
Agnes Kordiasz	Staff	Davis Circulation Services
Nikola Milicevic	Staff	Plant Operations
Fahreta Colic	Staff	Plant Operations
Richmond Xoly Lee	Staff	Plant Operations
Kenrick Jackson	Staff	Plant Operations
Robert Duniec	Staff	Plant Operations
Ranco Ivanovic	Staff	Custodian
Mioara Lezeu	Staff	Food Services
Ioan Ciotmonda	Staff	Plant Operations
Daniel Matheson, BMath 2018 / MMath 2019	Alumnus	Applied Mathematics
Wiesia Mazur	Staff	Plant Operations
Anita Dump, PhD	Parent	
Blanca Lizarazu	Parent	
Adam Mihailov	Alumnus	Chemistry
Valentina Pawlowska	Student	Nanotechnology Engineering
Mr. and Ms. Temporao	Parents	Computer Science / Biomedical Science
Stephanie Milling	Student	Optometry
Stuart and Debbie Milling	Parents	Optometry
Tatiana Bevilacqua	Student	Public Health
Lawrence and Tina Yu	Parents	Engineering
Jovana Todorovic	Student	

Meghan Schmuck	Staff	
Finnie Flores, MPH, MAEd	Alumna	
Sholina Jivraj	Parent	
Tom Kiroplis	Parent	
Andreea Popian	Staff	Advancement
Sonia Hiebert	Parent	
Dana Gavrilescu	Alumna	Applied Psychology
Naglaa Elmongy	Parent	Computer Science
Grant A. Brown, DPhil (Oxon), LL.B.	Alumnus	
Vanessa Richter, BA	Alumna	
Barbara Hankins, BMus, BEd, MMus	Parent	
Steve Zafirris, DDS	Alumnus	Science
In Sun Kim, MFA	Alumna/Student	
Patrick Doucette	Husband	
Anna Mae Dueck	Student	Health Sciences
Peter Cornelisse	Student	Engineering
Rachel Vanheule	Alumna	Mathematics
Myah Sachedina	Student	
George Heath	Student	Biology
Cory Savage	Alumna	Science
Sharon Radic	Staff	Pharmacy
Adam Svatos	Alumnus	Nanotechnology Engineering
Rhiannon Lohr BAsc MASc	Alumnus	Nanotechnology Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering
Roderick MacNeill BA, MA	Alumnus	Philosophy
Dalinda Reese, MTS, MD (USA)	Alumna	
Maria Nazeer	Alumna	Psychology
Dr. Jeff Randall, B.Sc., DC	Alumnus	
Patty Mah	Staff	Accounting and Finance
Caleb Lloyd Girard	MSc student	Biology

Wenyuan Zhang	Postdoctoral fellow	Physics and Astronomy
Kathryn Benoit	Staff	Optometry
Ray Vander Veen	Parent	
Andrew and Debra Sedore	Parents	
Albert Celli, P.Eng.	Alumnus	Engineering
Lucas Godkin	Student	Mechanical Engineering
Angela Meyer Sterzik, PhD	Alumna	
Svetlana Egorova	Parent	
Serguei Egorov, PhD	Parent	Aerospace Engineering
Annemarie Vander Veen	Alumna	
Cielo M. Gibson	Alumna	Mathematics
Jill Morrison-Koechl, M.Sc.	PHD Student	Kinesiology
Hend Shalan	Staff	Campus Housing
Caroline Taylor	Graduate Student	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Eric Wilson	Alumnus	
Morgan Robinson	PhD candidate	Pharmacy
Anita O'Connor	Staff	Co-operative Education
Ruth Witmer	Staff	Co-operative Education
Alex Lehmacher	Staff	Plant Operations
Hamzah Sabeeh	Student	Kinesiology
Zhenle Cao	Alumnus	Nanotechnology Engineering
Joshua Caldwell	Student	Mathematics
Rodica Oprea	Staff	Food Services
Nadeem Lawji	Staff	Dana Porter Library
Aryamik Sharma	Student	Environment and Business
Amr Ragab	Parent	Computer Science
John Vanheule	Student	Mathematics/Chartered Accountancy
Johanna Wellum	Alumna	Chemistry
Jonathan Wellum	Alumnus	Science
Saleem Ahmad	Alumnus	Engineering/MBET

Dragan Ivic	Staff	
Sarah Hanna	Student	Pharmacy
Serge Lefebvre	Alumnus	Mechanical Engineering
Dr. Amanda Ferris, ND	Alumna	
Sheila Brubacher	Staff	Registrar's Office
Jason Mills	Alumnus/Parent	Computer Engineering
Janet Mills	Parent	
Angelina Cleroux, MASc psychology	Alumna	
Andrew Zwart	Alumnus	Engineering
Stephanie Zwart	Alumna	English
Adam Lehto, BA, MA, PhD	Alumnus	
Alex Wagler	Student	
Sarah McCaugherty	Staff	Earth Sciences
Birgit Moscinski	Staff	Conrad Grebel University College
Mark McRae	Parent	
Andrew Golabek	Graduate student	Chemistry
Karen Gonçalves	Parent	
Starbuck Orta	Alumnus	Psychology
Karli Swatridge	BSc, MSc	Alumnus
Nathan Eddy	OCT, MMT, BEd, BSc	Alumnus
Tanya Yuill	Parent	
Chris Gupta	BASc (Eng), P.Eng., CEO	Alumnus
Joe Vander Ween	Student	Engineering
Myriam Nafte	Parent	
Katie Kent	Staff	Mathematics
Lynn Howard, BA, MA	Alumna	German and Russian Studies
Andrew Dixon	Student	Renison University College
Travis Dunn	Alumnus	Mathematics
Fulvia Grande-Naccarato	Parent	

Dragan Ivic	Staff	
Kathleen Van Lierde	Parent	
Nathan Savoy	Student	Mathematical Physics

Signatories without UW-affiliation

Name	Position/Role	Department /Program
Claudia Chaufan, MD, PhD	Associate Professor, Health Policy and Global Health	York University
Tamara Bell	Student	Conestoga College
Jeffrey Brooman	Senior Technician	Canada Computer Geeks Ltd.
Char Palmer	Nurse	
Martina Speck	PhD Student	University of Ottawa