

Resolution on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations
James Madison University Faculty Senate
February 25, 2021

WHEREAS compelling scientific evidence indicates that COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are highly effective at preventing COVID-19 and are reasonably safe for most adults; and

WHEREAS scientific evidence suggests that in order for vaccination efforts to be successful in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, we must achieve “herd immunity” by ensuring that a substantial proportion of a population be vaccinated, lowering the overall amount of virus able to spread throughout the population; and

WHEREAS James Madison University intends to return to in-person classroom settings in the fall semester 2021 using classroom configurations that will not permit the social distancing used in the current semester;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate urges the administration of James Madison University to ensure the safety of the University community by requiring mandatory proof of COVID-19 vaccination as a condition for each student’s return to the campus in the fall of 2021, subject to the following caveats:

- It is expected that the University will continue to monitor the availability of vaccines to determine whether such a requirement is reasonable, and consider online forms of education if widespread vaccination has not occurred;
- It is agreed that such a mandate should take into consideration legitimate exceptions such as underlying medical conditions or religious objections; and
- It is understood that such mandates must comply with laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.