

Vaccinees: MSU College of Nursing Letter to Students – Threats and Intimidation

In spite of your views on the shot, this should alarm you. This letter below is threatening, intimidating, and invokes guilt.

Sadly, many of our doctors and health care providers are choosing their **personal ideologies over science and life care**. I hope your doctor is not one of them. There is plenty of room for gracious disagreement about the vaccines' effectiveness. But **nobody can honestly tell you that they are safe** in the long run because NOBODY knows. Dr. Sarah Shannon's claims in the letter below is loaded with opinion and rhetoric masquerading as fact.

In spite of the fact that there are huge problems with the Pfizer vaccine, the Montana State University College of Nursing sent a letter to all students insisting they be vaccinated. The letter is below and honestly, I see it as bullying.

The truth is, there [are 2 Things Mainstream Media Didn't Tell You About FDA's Approval of Pfizer Vaccine](#)

First, there is confusion about which vaccine will actually be used – the one they have supply of is endorsed for emergency use. The FDA [said](#) the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine under the EUA should remain unlicensed but can be used “interchangeably” ([page 2, footnote 8](#)) with the newly licensed Comirnaty product. Read the article, you will see the confusion and how much data was not included.

Second, [At least for the moment, the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine has no liability shield](#). There are many other issues as you will see in the article linked above and in this one. [CDC endorses FDA approval of Pfizer COVID Vaccine for 16 and older - amid questions about missing data and which vaccine is actually approved](#). The FDA and the Biden administration is [playing Bait-and-Switch](#) with the public.

Below, you will see a letter from State Representative Jennifer Carlson from Manhattan, MT. She carried HB 702, a vaccine protection bill (attached). Notice how intimidating, manipulative, and downright wrong much of the letter. Note also that the writer tells **us her Preferred Pronouns**.

I have highlighted some key points in both letters! (Below)

Letter from Rep. Jennifer Carlson to the University System Commissioner of Higher Education

Hello Commissioner Christian,

I am forwarding the email that was sent to **all MSU nursing students** from Dean Shannon warning students of a covid vaccine mandate.

I have several issues which I will attempt to concisely sum up.

She is wrong about vaccine exemptions. Post secondary students are entitled to a religious or medical exemption. Medical exemptions may be signed by any health care provider who in their scope of practice is authorized to administer the vaccine in question. The religious exemption is available to ALL students and is not to be challenged; it is allowed by law. MT MCA 20-5-405

The covid vaccine **is NOT on the schedule for school attendance.** Additionally, the covid vaccine **may not be required, per HB702,** as long as it is undergoing safety trials, which will likely be 2025.

My foremost problem with this letter is what you and I talked about before, which is the **treatment of our college students.** Our college students are protected by the laws of Montana and I will not watch them be coerced, regardless of what it is being called. These are nothing less than assaults on their personal rights and I am hard pressed to continue my support for the schools, particularly the people making the bold decisions to disregard the law.

As you likely know, Biden will continue to be challenged in court on his mandate announcements but in the **meantime none of these hypothetical rules are even in place.** The Medicare and Medicaid Services guidelines in place right now instruct agencies and hospitals to follow applicable law. Montana has such a law.

Please let me know what steps will be/are being taken to put a stop to these departments inventing illegal mandates for our students. I would like to see any department that has decided to send this type of letter be required to send an equally convincing letter that corrects this error, so the students are assured that they are NOT required to receive this vaccine against their wishes.

(As an aside, I received a note from a Bobcat football parent that her son, who declined the vaccine, was subsequently cut from the team. I certainly hope there was a much better reason than his vaccine choice.)

As I promised you in our previous conversation, I truly do want to be an ally of the MSU, but right now that is becoming more difficult and I do speak for a growing number of legislators.

As always, please call me at any time. 579-2929

Respectfully, Rep Jennifer Carlson HD69

Letter from Dr. Sarah Shannon, Dean of Nursing, MSU

Dear College of Nursing students,

Welcome back to fall semester

I am writing with an important update related to COVID-19 and vaccinations. Throughout the pandemic, the College has focused on two priorities: 1) protect public health and patient safety and, 2) ensure our MSU nursing students have maximal access to high quality clinical education.

This week, President Biden announced that the federal government will be issuing emergency regulations requiring COVID-19 vaccination which will apply to all employers with 100 or more employees (Dept of Labor) and other regulations that apply to all health care providers that treat Medicare and Medicaid patients (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). We are still learning the details.

Impact on clinical learning

The College is receiving notices from our major clinical partners (e.g. hospitals) that COVID-19 vaccination will likely be required for all employees and ALL STUDENT LEARNERS -- probably by October. While these Federal regulations may allow for weekly testing as an option, in many of Montana's smaller communities results take up to 4-5 days to receive, making this option impractical. [MT HB 702 includes hospitals and clinics except for rest homes relative to Medicaid and Medicare exemptions in HB 702.]

To ensure that your clinical learning is uninterrupted, I am urging all College of Nursing students who are not vaccinated to begin the process now, before it becomes a mandatory clinical requirement. We cannot guarantee your access to clinical learning if you are not vaccinated. If you require a medical exemption, please begin that process now. (To be valid, a medical exemption will need to be signed by a MD, PA, or NP.)

Documentation in CastleBranch / Complio

You will be getting a notice from CastleBranch or Complio to voluntarily upload your COVID-19 vaccination documentation. If you choose to not upload this information, you will be considered unvaccinated by the College of Nursing and by our clinical partners.

If you are weighing whether to receive COVID-19 vaccination, at the bottom of this

message is information to assist you with making this decision.

Questions?

If you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and your personal health, please contact your healthcare provider.

If you have questions about the probable MSU College of Nursing requirement to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please contact Dr. Susan Raph at sraph@montana.edu or me at sarah.shannon1@montana.edu.

Please be aware, our clinical partners are obligated to meet federal requirements. As guests in clinical agencies, we comply with their policies. As such, we do not have the authority to grant exceptions to individual students for clinical agency requirements.

The ongoing pandemic [Now comes her rhetoric]

Our nursing colleagues in practice are again overwhelmed by the sheer volume of patients with COVID-19 seeking care. The majority of these are unvaccinated and increasingly they are younger than in earlier surges. Hospitals in Montana and across the nation are in crisis. Nurses are tired, overworked, stressed, and frustrated.

Together, we can keep our patients safe. **Together**, we can continue to care for those who are sick with the SARS-2-CoV virus or other illnesses, or who are injured.

Together, we can keep each other healthy. Together we will get through this pandemic as we have with prior pandemics.

Historic Investment in Bobcat Nursing

Mark and Robyn Jones recently made a historic investment in MSU College of Nursing - \$101 million -- the largest gift to any nursing school ever in the United States. **Their investment exemplifies the trust they have** -- which the public shares -- in what nurses do. Nursing, nurses, YOU -- have earned this trust.

We are so proud of each of you and excited to be a part of your nursing education journey!

Sincerely,
Dean Sarah Shannon

Information about COVID-19 vaccination

On August 23, the FDA issued full approval for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The Moderna vaccine continues to be utilized under the FDA's emergency use authorization (EUA), but will likely receive full FDA approval soon. COVID-19 vaccines are proven to be safe and effective at helping to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and to reduce the symptoms and severity of COVID-19 if a vaccinated individual contracts the disease:

mRNA vaccines have been used and studied for more than 30 years (also here). COVID-19 vaccines cannot give someone COVID-19, mRNA vaccines do not use live virus, and mRNA vaccines do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way (myths)

mRNA vaccines have been held mRNA vaccines have been held to the same rigorous safety and effectiveness standards as all other types of vaccines in the United States

COVID-19 vaccines may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building immunity. Side effects generally go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects.

As a nursing student, make sure you always seek information from reputable, fact-based websites such as: CDC | FDA or reputable healthcare journals.

Sarah E. Shannon, PhD RN FAAN / Dean and Professor / Pronouns: she/her/hers
College of Nursing / Montana State University
P.O. Box 173560 / Bozeman, MT 59717-3560
Office: 406.994.3784 / sarah.shannon1@montana.edu