

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0006
(916) 319-2006
FAX (916) 319-2106



August 15, 2022

President Michael V. Drake
University of California, Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Interim Chancellor Jolene Koester
The California State University, Office of the Chancellor
401 Golden Shore
Long Beach, CA 90802

Interim Chancellor Daisy Gonzales
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, Suite 4400
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear President Drake, Chancellor Koester, and Interim Chancellor Gonzales:

Our institutions of higher learning should be places that are open, inclusive, and non-discriminatory. They should also be guided by facts, knowledge, and critical thought. These are the principles I have sought to advance as a Member of the Assembly Higher Education Committee; I am hopeful they are principles you share.

I ask you to consider whether the continuation of COVID-19 vaccination and booster requirements at your institutions is consistent with these principles. If the answer were not already clear, a recent update to the CDC's guidelines has removed all doubt: to maintain mandates at any California college or university is to enforce a policy of exclusion without any rational basis.

Specifically, an August 11 release titled Summary of Guidance for Minimizing the Impact of COVID-19 states that "CDC's COVID-19 prevention recommendations no longer differentiate based on a person's vaccination status because breakthrough infections occur." Thus, under current policy, the CDC does not treat people differently based on their vaccination status. Yet each of your systems continues to exclude students, staff, and visitors entirely on that basis:



- The UC requires individuals accessing facilities to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, including booster shots.¹
- CSU requires all individuals who access campus or campus programs to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19, including booster shots, or they may be subject to other safety measures as determined by the campus President.²
- Each Community College District possesses the authority to impose a COVID-19 vaccination mandate on its students and employees.³ The Chancellor's office encourages all districts to impose the mandate, and 34 districts have done so.⁴

California policymakers, by contrast, have rejected the imposition of COVID-19 vaccine requirements in educational settings, even before the CDC updated its guidance. Governor Newsom called off a planned K-12 student vaccine mandate for 2022, and the California Legislature rejected a similar measure proposed as Senate Bill 871.

There is a word for a policy of exclusion that lacks a rational basis: discrimination. And it should not go on at our institutions of higher learning for another day. I request that you rescind all COVID-19 vaccination requirements for student and staff immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Kiley".

Kevin Kiley
Assemblyman, 6th District
Member, Committee on Higher Education

¹ SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination Policy (ucop.edu)

² Viewing (policystat.com).

³ 2021-01 Advisory - Mandated COVID-19 Vaccinations in California community colleges (cocco.edu)

⁴ California's Community Colleges Divided on Vaccine Mandates For Students | Jefferson Public Radio (ijpr.org).