

Proposed University Council Resolution

- 1) WHEREAS, the Georgia State Constitution describes “protection to person and property” as “the paramount duty of government” (Article I, Section I, Paragraph II) [[link](#)];
- 2) And WHEREAS, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by the FDA as of 23 August 2021 [[link](#)];
- 3) And WHEREAS, vaccines have long been required for first-year student residence on the campuses of the University System of Georgia, including the MMR (Mumps, Measles and Rubella), chickenpox, whooping cough, and hepatitis vaccines [[link](#) and [link](#)];
- 4) And WHEREAS, there is precedent for a mandatory emergency vaccination campaign at the University of Georgia following an outbreak of measles in 1990 [[link](#)];
- 5) And WHEREAS, the legality of university COVID-19 vaccine mandates have been upheld by the United States Supreme Court on 17 August 2021 [[link](#)];
- 6) And WHEREAS, CDC guidance recommends that universities with partially vaccinated populations require masks indoors and physical distancing of 6 feet in congregate settings [[link](#)];
- 7) And WHEREAS, current USG policy needlessly puts staff, students, faculty members, their family members, and community members at risk, as well as overburdens our already stressed hospitals and front-line medical workers;
- 8) And WHEREAS, vaccine and mask mandates are widespread among our peer and aspirational institutions, neighboring universities, and other public universities such as the University of Michigan system, the University of California system, and the University of North Carolina system [[link](#)];
- 9) It is therefore RESOLVED that the University Council urge the USG and UGA leadership to reopen public COVID-19 testing facilities similar to the previous facility at Legion Field, given current shortages of test kits and appointments in Athens, GA.
- 10) It is therefore RESOLVED that we, the members of the UGA University Council call on President Morehead to protect UGA students, faculty, and staff by immediately mandating COVID-19 vaccinations (with frequent testing for those granted appropriate exceptions), as well as masks in all public spaces in campus buildings.
- 11) It is therefore RESOLVED that if masks and vaccinations are not immediately mandated, we, the members of the University Council, assert that faculty would be acting ethically, responsibly, and in accordance with CDC guidelines by changing the modality of their delivery of instruction to protect students, the campus, and the wider community.