

17 February 2021

## UFS vaccine mandate policy needs urgent review

The Caring Healthcare Workers expresses deep concern at the UFS vaccination mandate policy. Aside from the obvious discrimination, constitutional and international rights violations, their latest announcement in the Newsflash at 7:01pm, 16 February 2022, stating that only Negative weekly PCR tests will give the “unvaccinated” access to the campus and to classes that they have paid for, is unjust and unfounded in science.

1. In the Government Gazette dated 1 February 2022, it states on page 4, point 7 (1) Any person who is confirmed laboratory positive COVID-19 and is asymptomatic is NOT required to isolate. [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/202202/45855rg11389gon1715.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202202/45855rg11389gon1715.pdf) . There is absolutely no justification in testing asymptomatic individuals at all. Especially when a person who tests positive, according to the Department of Health, and is asymptomatic, can continue life as usual like any other individual. Testing asymptomatic persons must stop, immediately.
2. Testing one group only is outright discrimination. It has been unequivocally proven that both “vaccinated” and “unvaccinated” can contract AND can transmit the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Subjecting only one group to testing is discrimination. “A recent investigation by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of an outbreak of COVID-19 in a prison in Texas showed the equal presence of infectious virus in the nasopharynx of vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Similarly, researchers in California observed no major differences between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in terms of SARS-CoV-2 viral loads in the nasopharynx, even in those with proven asymptomatic infection. Thus, the current evidence suggests that current mandatory vaccination policies might need to be reconsidered.” These comments were published in the Lancet. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(21\)00768-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(21)00768-4/fulltext)
3. The PCR test is no longer the gold standard for testing. After December 31, 2021, even the CDC withdrew the request to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) of the CDC 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel, the assay first introduced in February 2020 for detection of SARS-CoV-2 only. They found that the PCR test was not specific to SARS-CoV-2. There was cross positivity with some influenza viruses. See [https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/locs/2021/07-21-2021-lab-alert-Changes\\_CDC\\_RT-PCR\\_SARS-CoV-2\\_Testing\\_1.html](https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/locs/2021/07-21-2021-lab-alert-Changes_CDC_RT-PCR_SARS-CoV-2_Testing_1.html)
4. The PCR test is not an accurate test. In the Journal of Infection, 83 (2021 - page 8) The performance of the SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test as a tool for detecting SARS-CoV-2 infection was studied. Conclusions stated “In light of our findings that more than half of individuals with positive PCR test results are unlikely to have been infectious, RT-PCR test positivity should not be taken as an accurate measure of infectious SARS-CoV-2 incidence. Our results confirm the findings of others that the routine use of “positive” RT-PCR test results as the gold standard for assessing and controlling infectiousness fails to reflect the fact “that 50-75% of the time when an individual is PCR positive,

they are likely to be post-infectious". [www.elsevier.com/locate/jinf](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jinf) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jinf.2021.05.022>

5. The package insert of the PCR test itself states in line 3 "For Emergency Use" <https://t.me/c/1533677740/3926> .We are well aware of the financial challenges faced by many students. It is inhumane and unsociable coercion to give students a choice between vaccination at no cost and weekly tests that simply cannot be afforded. By offering this "choice" the university is forcing students that cannot afford testing to get vaccinated against their will. This is discrimination based on financial status, with poor students pulling the shortest straw, again. This is in fact, no choice at all.

It is glaringly obvious that this is another coercion attempt by UFS for students and staff to get injected. So too was the conveniently situated pop up "vaccination" tent right outside the main gate. Those who were not jabbed could either get one here or enter the campus through an alternate gate, far from this one and very far from lecture halls. How can a public institution subject a person to humiliation based on a very personal medical decision? To have one gate for "vaccinated" and another, isolated gate for "unvaccinated" is degrading and an outright infringement of human dignity. This reminds us of a time when there were separate facilities and queues for persons based on another kind of classification.

We encourage all students and staff to note these injustices and we implore all South Africans, "vaccinated" and vaccine free to stand up against these unjust mandates. We must stop medical Apartheid in its tracks. All people should be given the right to choose. It is your body, it IS your right.

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