

As a faculty member at UNLV, I did not feel safe teaching in my classroom during the fall semester. Knowing that many students were likely not vaccinated was a worrying situation, especially in classrooms where it was hard to socially distance and people sometimes removed masks (to eat and drink). Having the vaccine mandate for the upcoming semester is part of why I am much more comfortable teaching back in person and am excited about this upcoming semester. Our campus can be collectively safer and we will have the freedom to move, interact, and learn together knowing that the vaccine mandate is in place. It is unfortunate that the vocal, polarized minority can easily overpower and overshadow the majority of folks in the NSHE community and statewide who support public health and the freedom to go about our jobs and everyday lives as safely as possible. That is possible with a vaccine mandate and getting rid of the mandate jeopardizes everything we have done so far in protecting our NSHE community.

Thank you.