

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, thank you for allowing me to provide support testimony for HB 319; "The Conscientious Right to Refuse Act."

In the summer of 2021, my daughter's employer was one of the first companies in the U.S. that I had heard were requiring the Covid vaccination. The company is located in Los Angeles, California. She filled out a simple form with her name and checked a box for religious exemption. It was quickly approved by Human Resources.

On August 24, 2021, Ohio State University announced that they are requiring the Covid vaccine for students and staff. This was AFTER students had returned to campus. I spoke with my son who recently moved into the dorms and explained that he can get a religious exemption. However, Ohio State University's form was not a simple check the box. They required the name and contact information of their religious leader and that the form be notarized. The students were away from home and on campus so they would have to take time to find their religious leader's contact information and determine where to obtain a notary away from home. Many of them don't know what a notary is let alone how to get a document notarized.

Then, a rumor circulated on campus that students would not be able to attend OSU football games if they are not vaccinated. A friend's daughter heard this and got vaccinated against her parent's wishes without them knowing until afterwards.

In October, once football was in mid-season, my son received notification that his religious exemption was approved. On October 22, 2021, he received an email explaining now that his exemption was approved, he had to take further steps for it to be complete. Those students with exemptions would need to make a weekly appointment for PCR testing; walk ups were not permitted. They would be allowed to submit a PCR test from an outside location, but at the student's expense. The University also made it clear that they were testing only asymptomatic individuals. Those with any symptoms would have to contact their healthcare provider. They would also need to mask when indoors even if the vaccinated were not required and take an ELearning class.

Two hours later, he received another email from the University informing him he was assigned an online training item titled: COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education. The training was so that he would learn the symptoms of Covid-19, how it is spread and ways to prevent it, and the requirements for a COVID-19 unvaccinated individual. In addition, once the training was complete, they were required to sign a form that stated they understand that the Covid-19 vaccine is the best way to prevent coronavirus. To me, that sounded a lot like reeducation camp. I had already discussed with him the prevention and treatment of Covid-19 which did not include a Covid vaccine. We also had family member who we had already helped recover from Covid so we had hands on experience.

The University wanted the training completed by early November. On December 22, 2021, my son received an email urging everyone to get the booster, and those who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated which is mostly everyone who has an exemption requiring the "training." The email read, "Anyone who is not fully vaccinated should do so..." This was another attempt to get those with exemptions to get vaccinated which made no sense as the email also stated that 92% of the University was vaccinated. I see this as another effort to coerce young individuals into taking the Covid-19 shot.

I was quite surprised to see that it was easier to get a religious exemption for the Covid-19 vaccine for a large company in Los Angeles than it was for a student at Ohio State University. I was maybe different than some families as I had spent a lot of time learning about Covid, mRNA technology, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and how to obtain a religious exemption. I also continually discussed these subjects with my children since March 2020. However, even after making it difficult for students to know their rights and to apply for an exemption, OSU put in place discriminatory actions of extra testing, masking, and training sessions.

I believe Bill 319 is important to not only clear the way for equal treatment despite health status, but also to make it clear to Ohioans that they have a choice. Many students were made to feel they did not have a choice and many, like my own children, are used to getting a shot in the arm as part of their healthcare. I was not an "anti-vaxxer," but an informed parent. I refused only one other vaccine for my children on the basis of a conscious objection. However, the Covid-19 shots were much different than other vaccines and it raised religious issues.

I urge the committee members to please vote YES on HB 319.

I included the emails my son received as described above.

Thank you for hearing my testimony,

**Christine Hopkins**

**From:** Student Health Services <[shs@osu.edu](mailto:shs@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Vaccine Exemption Next Steps



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Ohio State University

**October 22, 2021**

Dear [REDACTED],

Our records show that you received an approved exemption for Ohio State's [COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement](#). Thank you for taking action.

As part of your vaccination exemption, you will need to complete the following actions to ensure ongoing compliance:

**Complete Weekly COVID-19 Testing**

You will be required to complete weekly COVID-19 testing. Required weekly testing will begin the week of October 25. Appointments are [scheduled via MyChart](#). It is recommended to schedule appointments in advance to ensure the appointments fit best with your schedule. Walk ups will not be permitted. Testing costs at the locations listed below will be covered by Ohio State.

Information on testing locations, hours and availability is on the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#) using the following links:

- [Columbus campus location and hours](#)
- [Lima campus location and hours](#)
- [Mansfield campus location and hours](#)
- [Marion campus location and hours](#)
- [Newark campus location and hours](#)
- [CFAES Wooster campus location and hours](#)

For assistance with MyChart, please call [MyChart Technical Support](#) at 866-966-6975 (available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or email [MyChartTechSupport@osumc.edu](mailto:MyChartTechSupport@osumc.edu).

If you are unable to complete testing at the identified locations and times, all students have the option to obtain third party PCR testing at their own expense. Individuals are required to self-report PCR testing results with an image/pdf of the testing report. All self-reported tests will be reviewed for compliance. To report your COVID-19 PCR test results, visit the self-reporting form at [go.osu.edu/SelfReportTest](https://go.osu.edu/SelfReportTest).

If you have questions or need assistance with testing, please contact [shs-covidtesting@osu.edu](mailto:shs-covidtesting@osu.edu).

*Please note: The university testing sites are for asymptomatic individuals. If you are experiencing any symptoms,*

*contact your health care provider or call 614-292-4321 to schedule a test.*

**Complete eLearning**

You will need to complete an eLearning (computer-based learning) module on actions you can take to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus as an unvaccinated individual. This eLearning is required to be completed within 14 days of being assigned. The eLearning will be automatically assigned to your BuckeyeLearn transcript. You will receive an email from BuckeyeLearn when the module is assigned to you.

**Follow Safe and Healthy Behaviors**

You will be required to wear a face mask at all times while indoors, even if the university updates its current protocols for individuals who are vaccinated.

If your exemption is temporary, you will be required to complete the university's COVID-19 vaccination requirement at the end of the exemption period.

Please note that these protocols may be updated to reflect changes in the prevalence and spread of COVID-19. For more information about Ohio State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and on-going updates, please visit the [Safe and Healthy Buckeyes website](#).

Thank you for doing your part to protect yourself, your loved ones and the Buckeye community.



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281 W Lane Ave, Columbus, OH 43210

[osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

**From:** [BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu](mailto:BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu) <[BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu](mailto:BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 2:16 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** You have been assigned COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education (Student) in BuckeyeLearn

\*\*This message is from an unmonitored mailbox. Replies to this mailbox will not be read\*\*

Dear [REDACTED]:

EIP ADMIN has assigned the following training item to you:

**Title:** COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education (Student)

**Vendor/Provider:** Wexner Medical Center

**Training Description:** Welcome to the COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education. In this 15-minute course, you will learn the symptoms of COVID-19, how it is spread and ways to prevent it, and the requirements for a COVID-19 unvaccinated individual.

Please visit your [transcript](#) to manage your assigned training.

If you are concerned about clicking a link in an email (such as this one), you can open an internet browser window and navigate to [buckeyelearn.osu.edu](http://buckeyelearn.osu.edu) to log into the system directly.

The Ohio State University - **BuckeyeLearn**

CSOD SYSTEM ID: 18457498

**From:** [BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu](mailto:BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu) <[BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu](mailto:BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 8:13 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education (Student) is due in BuckeyeLearn on 11/4/2021

**\*\*This message is from an unmonitored mailbox. Replies to this mailbox will not be read\*\***

Dear [REDACTED]:

Your training is due for the following item:

**Title:** COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education (Student)

**Training Hours:** 0 Hours 15 Minutes

**Vendor/Provider:** Wexner Medical Center

**Due Date:** 11/4/2021

**Training Description:** Welcome to the COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education. In this 15-minute course, you will learn the symptoms of COVID-19, how it is spread and ways to prevent it, and the requirements for a COVID-19 unvaccinated individual.

Please visit your [transcript](#) to manage your scheduled training.

If you are concerned about clicking a link in an email (such as this one), you can open an internet browser window and navigate to [buckeyelearn.osu.edu](http://buckeyelearn.osu.edu) to log into the system directly.

The Ohio State University - **BuckeyeLearn**

CSOD SYSTEM ID: 18451664

**From:** [BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu](mailto:BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu) <[BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu](mailto:BuckeyeLearn-noreply@osu.edu)>

**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 8:13 PM

**To:** [REDACTED] >

**Subject:** Training is due in BuckeyeLearn

\*\*This message is from an unmonitored mailbox. Replies to this mailbox will not be read\*\*

Dear [REDACTED]:

Your training is due for the following item:

**Title:** COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education (Student)

**Training Hours:** 0 Hours 15 Minutes

**Vendor/Provider:** Wexner Medical Center

**Due Date:** 11/4/2021

**Training Description:** Welcome to the COVID-19 Vaccination Exemption Required Education. In this 15-minute course, you will learn the symptoms of COVID-19, how it is spread and ways to prevent it, and the requirements for a COVID-19 unvaccinated individual.

Please visit your [transcript](#) to manage your scheduled training.

If you are concerned about clicking a link in an email (such as this one), you can open an internet browser window and navigate to [buckeyelearn.osu.edu](https://buckeyelearn.osu.edu) to log into the system directly.

The Ohio State University - **BuckeyeLearn**

CSOD SYSTEM ID: 18451662

**From:** [shs-covidtesting@osu.edu](mailto:shs-covidtesting@osu.edu) <[shs-covidtesting@osu.edu](mailto:shs-covidtesting@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 4:14 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** NON-COMPLIANT: Missed Last Week's COVID-19 Test



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## The Ohio State University

February 1, 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

We noticed that you did not complete your required weekly COVID-19 test last week, which is a requirement for the following:

- All students living in university housing on all campuses, regardless of vaccination status.
- All student members of social sororities and fraternities, regardless of vaccination status.
- All students and employees who have an approved exemption for the university's vaccination requirement.
- All students and employees who have taken no action on the university's vaccination requirement.

We understand things come up, but weekly testing is required and a [critical part of helping our university fight and contain COVID-19](#).

If you have not already, please schedule your test for this week using MyChart. Step-by-step instructions for scheduling are available [online](#). If you need MyChart assistance, please email [MyChartTechSupport@osumc.edu](mailto:MyChartTechSupport@osumc.edu) (may take up to two business days to respond), or call MyChart Support at 866-966-6975, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### **I am in all virtual classes, do I need to test?**

Yes.

### **I recently tested positive for COVID-19. Am I exempt from testing?**

Those who test positive for COVID-19 are exempt from testing for 90 days after their test. If your results have not been provided to the university through a Wexner Medical Center testing site, Jesse Owens North, regional campus testing center or Student Health Services, you will need to submit your results via the third-party testing form at [go.osu.edu/SelfReportTest](http://go.osu.edu/SelfReportTest).

Once you receive an email from Contact Tracing approving your test submission, you will be exempt from testing for 90 days after the test date. If you are awaiting approval of your test submission, please continue to wait and do not test again.

### **What if I filed a testing exemption?**

The current program only allows for testing exemptions for those who are unable to test for 90 days after receiving a positive COVID-19 test result.



Full details of the testing program can be found by visiting the [Safe and Healthy website](#). If you have additional questions, please contact us at [shs-covidtesting@osu.edu](mailto:shs-covidtesting@osu.edu).

Thank you for doing your part to advance a safe and healthy Ohio State.



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