

To whom it may concern,

My name is Allison Porter. I am a registered nurse with a BSN. I currently work in a facility here in Ohio as an ICU nurse and open-heart surgery nurse. I started in the medical field when I was 16 years old, I currently am 26 years old. I have endured a lot in the 10 years I've been in this field. This isn't just a career choice it's a passion to care for others on their darkest days and their happiest days! However, not once did I endure anything like this COVID-19 pandemic. This virus has opened up the eyes of not only public citizens but also healthcare workers. This pandemic has brought out a whole new side of the meaning of health and safety.

Over the course of 2020 I had the pleasure/honor to work with the COVID-19 patients. I was re-deployed at the time back to the ICU to care for these particular patients, I enjoyed this because I felt as a nurse I was doing my part in the middle of this chaos! I wore the protective PPE day in and day out, I followed my facility's guidelines and took proper precaution not only with my patients but with my family as well. I myself contracted COVID-19 December of 2020. My husband came home not feeling well got tested and he had a positive test. Per my facility's requirement I had to test as well and remain quarantined. When I tested I also got a positive result which resulted in both of us being quarantined with our two kids that are under two years old. Therefore, I have developed antibodies according to my bloodwork and according to my PCP I will continue to test positive and no one knows exactly how long. With all that being said, if I have the antibodies what good with the vaccine do for me? If I got to test weekly because I refuse the vaccine Won't it always be a positive test? Or what if I refuse all of it in general due to my choice and my opinion of my own being's safety? These are questions that that myself and others have. I've worked with these patients, I've endured the virus myself, I watched my family go through this pandemic with contracting the virus themselves and I've seen the recovery and the death that this virus can cause. However, I am not sold on getting this vaccine for numerous reasons.

Start with how long will the vaccine last? Could I potentially die from this vaccine? Will I become sterile not be able to have any more children? What are the long-term effects for myself and my potential offspring if I choose to have any more children? How can someone mandate a vaccine that is not FDA approved? How can this vaccine get pushed through so quickly yet it takes numerous years for any other vaccine to develop and be tested prior to human use? Will I lose my job if I decide not to get this vaccine? Will I have to pay for a weekly test out of my pocket so I don't have to get the vaccine? These are all questions that I'm asking myself and my peers. I worked a whole year in the ICU with these patients and yes I contracted the virus and yet I'm still alive and breathing. I know that might not be the case for everybody however, there are people who die of all sorts of causes were they tested for Covid prior to that cause? Maybe the patient didn't necessarily die from Covid, they could've died of a gunshot wound however, when they got tested in the ER for Covid they were positive. Is that a Covid death?

With all these questions racing in my head, I can't help but to think what's next!! I do this job to help others heal and have a successful quality of life. However, with these mandates I do not feel as I'm getting the same care and respect in return! I love my job, it's not just a job it's a

passion and desire to take care of people and families. Just because I don't get the vaccine doesn't mean I don't care, doesn't mean my care would change, doesn't mean I won't do my job to the fullest. Every day I clock in I say in my head that I'm gonna make a difference in somebody's day whether that be get them a cup of water, tell them we will take our best care of you before they get put under anesthesia, talk to the family and let them know their loved one is in good hands, or even as simple as sitting down and talking to the patient getting to know who they really are. None of that will change just because I choose not to get the vaccine. Will I still continue to take proper precautions according to my facilities guidelines-yes I will. Will I continue to take caution when I don't feel good and when I don't feel I'm up to par to go to work-yes I will. Will I put your loved one in jeopardy because of my ignorance and not feeling well and showing up to work anyways-no I will not. However, what I will do is, I will care for your loved one, I will give them the best care that they deserve, I will treat them as one of my own family members and I guarantee you that I will be the best nurse that I can be. I will continue to put my patients health and safety first!

Just because I don't feel the vaccine is needed at this time, doesn't mean as a healthcare worker I will stop doing my job. As a health care worker I didn't come into this field because it was easy, I didn't come in this field to raise cain. I came into this field to make a difference in peoples lives and to help others. I can and will continue to take care of patients with or without Covid-without subjecting my body to this COVID-19 vaccine.

Thank you for your time and just keep in mind that I will always care for my patients with the upmost respect and best interest in mind! I do not need to be subjected to a vaccine to show my patients are my main focus! I chose this field to help others, not to harm them!

Thank you,  
Allison Porter