

A Vaccination Requirement is Necessary for City and School Employees

A Letter from City Councilor Marc Laredo

Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic has not gone away. Indeed, despite our initial optimism this spring, the latest news is not good. Therefore, it is time for more robust measures. That is why I, along with many of my City Council colleagues, have submitted the attached memorandum to Mayor Fuller asking her to require all city and school employees to be vaccinated (with exceptions for employees with demonstrated medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs that cannot be reasonably accommodated).

I do not take this position lightly. Mandates should be a last resort in a democratic society. I also recognize that there may be legal and collective bargaining hurdles to overcome. But we cannot let these obstacles stand in the way of protecting our families, friends, neighbors, and community.

We need to lead by example and, if we do so, I am hopeful that private employers will follow our lead (the president of the Museum of Science wrote an excellent piece in the August 23 edition of *The Boston Globe* on this topic). Please urge the Mayor and our private employers to mandate vaccinations. Together, we can stay safe and healthy.

The memorandum's operative section can be found below along with a link to the full document.

August 23, 2021

Memorandum to Mayor Fuller

In light of the growing number of cases of COVID-19, both here in Newton and across the Commonwealth, we thank you for mandating that masks be worn in all municipal buildings. We are writing to urge you to take two additional steps:

(1) expand the mask mandate to include indoor spaces in all school buildings and all private businesses that are open to the public; and

(2) require all city and school employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 (with exceptions for employees with demonstrated medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs that cannot be reasonably accommodated).

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As always, I welcome your thoughts, questions, comments, and criticisms.

Thanks,

Marc

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