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## In support of the role of education in addressing vaccine hesitancy and anxiety and COVID-19 misinformation

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WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten the lives, health, livelihoods, education goals, mental well-being, and normal social interactions of our campus, our community, our state, our nation, and our world, and misinformation and outdated information regarding COVID-19 and vaccinations have made combating this pandemic even more difficult, needlessly putting lives at risk and compounding stress during an already traumatic time.

WHEREAS the role of vaccination in eliminating or reducing the spread of pathogens has been established by over two centuries of research and experience, and several COVID-19 vaccines have been developed over the past two years with more than 6-billion doses given<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS the risk of transmission and reinfection from previous cases (sometimes thought of as “natural immunity<sup>2</sup>”) is significantly higher than the risk of transmission and reinfection from vaccination<sup>3</sup>, which have been shown to effectively reduce infections and transmission; vaccination, in addition to safety measures such as physical distancing and masking, decreases the risk of current and new strains,<sup>4</sup> and new variants<sup>5</sup> of COVID-19 and is essential to protect us all, but especially critically at-risk populations<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS cases of COVID-19 are found disproportionately among unvaccinated populations<sup>7</sup>, while safe and effective vaccination remains one of the best methods, along with physical isolation, to effectively reduce transmission, infection, and death. Consequently, becoming vaccinated helps protect individuals and our entire community<sup>8</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> *Statistics and Research Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations | Our World in Data*  
<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations?country=USA>

<sup>2</sup> *Do I need a vaccine if I've already had COVID-19? | The University of Chicago Medicine*  
<https://www.uchicagomedicine.org/forefront/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/do-i-need-a-vaccine-if-i-had-covid>

<sup>3</sup> *Reduced Risk of Reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 After COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7032e1.html>

<sup>4</sup> *What's the difference between mutations, variants and strains? A guide to COVID terminology | The Conversation*  
<https://theconversation.com/whats-the-difference-between-mutations-variants-and-strains-a-guide-to-covid-terminology-154825>

<sup>5</sup> *Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): What You Need to Know about Variants | CDC*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>

<sup>6</sup> At-risk populations include but are not limited to immunocompromised, post-surgical, ongoing therapies such as chemotherapy, and convalescent stages. Please see *COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Persons with Underlying Medical Conditions* on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/underlying-conditions.html>) for more information.

<sup>7</sup> *New COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Among Adults, by Vaccination Status — New York | CDC*  
[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7037a7.htm?s\\_cid=mm7037a7\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7037a7.htm?s_cid=mm7037a7_w)

<sup>8</sup> *Reasons for Adults to be Vaccinated | CDC* <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/reasons-to-vaccinate.html>

RESOLVED, as an institution of higher education, Crafton Hills College and SBCCD should actively promote accurate, peer-reviewed, scientifically-based analyses as part of education regarding COVID-19 and vaccinations in a manner that is unbiased, up-to-date, and as straightforward as possible. As part of this work, we ask that the administration organize and disseminate a list of faculty, staff, and administrators that will be called upon to comment and lend expertise<sup>9</sup> to messaging.

FURTHER RESOLVED, as an institution of higher education, any dialogues of Crafton Hills College and SBCCD regarding the vaccinations and the vaccination mandate must work to actively address vaccine hesitancy, anxiety, and misinformation by relying on compassion, science, and fact to guide conversations and continually acknowledge the efficacy, need, and safety of vaccinations. As part of this work, we ask that the administration organize and disseminate a list of faculty, staff, and administrators that will be called upon to comment and lend expertise to such dialogues

FURTHER RESOLVED, that while being respectful to all regardless of vaccination status, the Academic Senate calls upon all members of faculty, administration, staff, students, and the community of Crafton Hills College to make every effort to become fully vaccinated. We strongly encourage our campus community to seek the counsel of their healthcare provider and the objective, expert guidance of medical, scientific, and academic professionals, both within and exterior to our campus and district.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the Crafton Hills College faculty and community actively increase awareness and education regarding all current SBCCD guidelines addressing the risk of COVID-19, including but not limited to vaccinations, personal protective equipment, physical distancing, exposure reporting, and COVID-19 testing, in the spirit in which they were made: *The protection and safety of all.*

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<sup>9</sup> Expertise on COVID-19 is established as field researchers and specialists, epidemiologists, public health officials and educators, those involved in clinical practice, and related fields. Expertise on vaccine hesitation and anxiety is established as field researchers and specialists, public health officials and educators, medical sociologists, medical anthropologists, and related fields.