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Editorial: UChicago Must End Its Booster Mandate—We Are Not Lab Rats

UChicago continues to defy scientific and moral standards, dehumanizing us in the process.



by **The Editorial Board** — January 11, 2022 in **Opinion** Reading Time: 14 mins read

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Per the University of Chicago's [newly announced](#) booster mandate, all students and employees [must obtain](#) a booster shot by January 24. Those who do not comply will be barred from campus and restricted from attending in-person classes, among other activities.

This booster mandate is demonstrably unsafe, ineffective, unnecessary, inconsistent, and unethical. We've struggled beneath UChicago's draconian COVID decrees for years, but the university's booster mandate reaches a new height of absurdity.

UChicago Demands We Submit to Experimental Shots

UChicago claims to rely upon "expert" opinion in structuring its COVID regime. Yet, even advisory committees at the FDA and CDC initially declined to recommend the COVID booster for those under the age of 65.

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee [made an official recommendation](#) to approve Pfizer's application for boosters *only* for those 65 and older and certain high-risk populations [after rejecting](#), in a 16-2 vote, Pfizer's application for broader approval for the general population. The [committee](#) cited a lack of data on potential adverse effects, particularly the risks of developing myocarditis and pericarditis.

However, the FDA chose to cast aside this concern and granted "approval" anyways. But even this "approval" is itself questionable. The FDA only granted approval to *Comirnaty*, a [legally distinct version](#) of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine that *isn't actually* available in the United States. The version of the vaccine currently available in the US remains under Emergency Use Authorization, not formal approval.

Similarly, the CDC's initial recommendation that Americans under the age of 65 receive boosters was made *against* the counsel of its own Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which voted to recommend boosters *only* for those over the age of 65 or who have underlying conditions. Director Rochelle Walensky [overruled](#) this vote in an unusual departure from agency protocol. The committee later [reversed course](#), recommending a booster for 12-17 year olds. But the calculus behind its sudden 180-degree turn remains unclear, [given](#) that the initial concerns regarding myocarditis and pericarditis remain unresolved.

Vaccine-induced heart issues merit legitimate concern, especially for young males. A recent Danish study [found](#) that "pharmacovigilance reports, health system surveillance studies, and case series suggest an association between SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and myocarditis and myopericarditis. This association is thought to occur particularly after the second booster dose of mRNA vaccines BNT162b2 (Pfizer-BioNTech) and mRNA-1273 (Moderna)." An analysis published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* [reached](#) similar conclusions, particularly in males 

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[According to Diana Bianchi](#), director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, “Nobody expected [the COVID vaccine] to affect the menstrual system, because the information wasn’t being collected in the early vaccine studies.” The study’s [authors note](#) that “questions remain about other possible changes in menstrual cycles, such as menstrual symptoms, unscheduled bleeding, and changes in the quality and quantity of menstrual bleeding.”

Ironically, despite the speed with which the vaccine and booster have been infallibly declared “safe and effective” in disregard for potential long-term risks, the FDA is in no such rush to release its data on the vaccine.

According to the [FDA’s statement](#) on expanding eligibility for boosters to individuals 18 years of age and older, “Both Pfizer and Moderna are conducting post-authorization/post-marketing studies to assess known serious risks of myocarditis and pericarditis.” However, a post-authorization study is useless if everyone has already been boosted 50 times by the time the study is complete.

The Public Health and Medical Professionals for Transparency (PHMPT) filed a formal request to the FDA for the expedited release of all data on the Pfizer vaccine under the Freedom of Information Act. Members of PHMPT include well-established professors in the relevant fields from Yale, Brown, University of Maryland, UCLA, and other universities. The FDA denied this request, [arguing](#) the absence of a “compelling need.”

In fact, the FDA [requested](#) that a federal judge grant it until the year 2076 to release Pfizer’s data on the COVID vaccine, before it was [recently ordered](#) to release it all in eight months.

Despite the lack of transparency, and the booster’s observed and potential adverse health effects, UChicago forces its students and employees to accept its cost-benefit analysis: that the booster is “preferable” to the risk of contracting COVID while unboosted. In so doing, our anti-science university unsafely denies us the right to evaluate the cost-benefit analysis for ourselves.

Don’t Be Fooled! It’s Not Just One More Jab

If being “boosted” becomes a prerequisite for participation in normal life, the vaccine’s diminishing efficacy means the booster campaign will never end.

[Comprehensive evidence](#) suggests that the level of vaccination does not have a positive influence on lowering COVID cases. On these very lines, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky [contended](#) in August that vaccines *no longer* prevent transmission, despite [confident promises](#) she and many of her fellow “experts” previously made to the contrary.

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When first introduced, the boosters were posited as a way to rebuild the vaccine's effectiveness. Yet, the COVID booster contains the same formula as the original, ineffective vaccinations, which means [it, too, loses efficacy](#).

To this point, Cornell, which currently has both a mask and vaccine requirement, and a 97% on-campus vaccination rate, recently experienced a surge of COVID cases. In response, the administration declared an "Alert Level Red" zone, moved exams online, and shut down the campus. Out of the 930 confirmed cases, "Virtually every case of the Omicron variant to date has been found in fully vaccinated students, a portion of whom had also received a booster shot," Vice President for University Relations Joel Malina [stated](#).

If UChicago is planning to mandate recurring boosters (which is the only logical conclusion of its present decrees), then it should just own up and admit it immediately, rather than continue to deceive students with the false impression that these measures are temporary.

We Will Not Play Pretend—COVID Is Not the Plague

Mandates for the COVID vaccine and booster are unnecessary to protect the health of the UChicago community.

COVID has a [survival rate](#) of over 99.87% for individuals under the age of 65.

[According to the CDC](#), only 5% of "COVID deaths" are solely attributable to COVID as the cause. The other 95% of "COVID deaths" involve, on average, almost 4 additional conditions (comorbidities) or causes per death.

We will not play pretend by accepting our university's gross exaggerations of the public health risks of catching and transmitting COVID. We will not live in fear.

UChicago Ignores Natural Immunity

If slowing the spread of this glorified flu were the goal, UChicago would recognize natural immunity as a robust protection against reinfection—but it doesn't.

As it stands, UChicago's vaccine requirement cannot be satisfied with proof of T-cell immunity or a positive antibody or antigen test. This is unreasonable, as those who have been vaccinated not only have *increased* risk for infection, but an increased risk for symptomatic infection, in comparison to those possessing natural immunity.

This is made clear by [a recent Israeli study](#), which "demonstrated that natural immunity confers longer lasting and stronger protection against infection, symptomatic disease and hospitalization caused by the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2, compared to the BNT162b2 two-dose vaccine-induced immunity."

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No, You Didn't Misread: Doctors and Scientists Are Exempt (Read the Fine Print)

The *Chicago Thinker* recently confirmed that the university exempts University of Chicago Medical Center (UCMC) employees from the booster mandate, precisely because a significant number of *doctors* will resign if forced to get the jab. The university [admitted](#) to the *Thinker* that its UCMC exemption is an attempt to maintain medical staff, since presumably a significant number of UCMC's 9,000-plus employees will resign if beholden to a booster mandate.

UChicago also exempts clinically active faculty and staff within its Biological Sciences Division (BSD) from its booster mandate, presumably for the same reason.

The lessons here are manifold.

First, UChicago is much less immune to protest than it pretends. If we speak out loudly now, we might just accomplish something.

Second, “the science” isn't what the university claims and it's actually bad business to pretend otherwise.

Consider that the UCMC's total staff is larger than the total undergraduate population at UChicago. If our university truly believes the COVID booster is necessary to save lives, why are UCMC staff—who are arguably most at risk for catching and spreading the coronavirus—exempt from the booster mandate? The answer is clear: even the university itself *doesn't believe* “the risks” posed by un-boostered employees outweigh the costs of losing crucial personnel.

Rather than allow all UChicago community members to engage in a cost-benefit analysis of our own, the university deceptively exploits tuition payers, in addition to countless employees, by forcing us to get the booster. Meanwhile, UChicago's world-renowned medical health professionals and scientists get to live quietly by a different set of rules.

Moreover, the UCMC and BSD include some of the country's top doctors and scientists, including experts in immunology. Take that in: Those who know *the most* about the booster are refusing to get it. What do these experts know about the booster that we don't? And if they're refusing to inject themselves with the booster, how is it remotely ethical to force us to inject ourselves? It's not.

UChicago's COVID caste system prioritizes the health and freedoms of a chosen few, while trampling on the rest.

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Obviously, we need instructors in order to learn. Three UChicago community members [were shot to death](#) in Chicago *in 2021 alone*, so, clearly, we also need police officers to defend our community. Yet, by imposing such a discriminatory mandate, our university wrongly suggests some lives are more valuable than others. Or, at the very least, it shows it cares more about maintaining doctors and select scientists than professors and police officers, among others.

To be clear, we're not calling for the UCMC and BSD to implement a booster requirement, but we *do* condemn UChicago for unethically discriminating against its employees and students. We'd expect such behavior from a Soviet committee, not a prestigious university purportedly dedicated to the production of knowledge in a free country.

This Isn't Just Bad Science—It's Also Wildly Unethical

UChicago directly violates established medical ethics by coercing its community members into experimental vaccination.

Free and informed consent is a precondition for *all* medical treatments and procedures, including vaccination. [For consent to be truly informed](#), the potential recipient must be proactively informed of all the observable and potential risks, side-effects, and dangers. And for consent to be truly free, the potential recipient must be made aware of all options, including the option to freely decline. Most importantly, this decision must be free of coercion, pressure, or threat of punishment.

For [the first time in history](#), universities like our own are requiring experimental vaccination as a condition of attendance and employment.

The university's threat of expulsion constitutes unjustifiable pressure, [especially considering](#) the vaccine's experimental nature; this absolutely qualifies as an element of [“duress,” “overreaching,” and “coercion.”](#)

To make matters worse, we find ourselves in a position where those who wish to infringe upon our bodily autonomy have relieved themselves of the responsibility of even having to prove their scientific assertions. Instead, they've shifted the burden of proof onto us; we must conclusively demonstrate why their hypochondriacal impositions do *not* make sense, which is a total inversion of the normal process of scientific inquiry.

Rather than allow us to engage in the intimately *personal* and inherently subjective process of making our own risk-assessments concerning these novel injections, UChicago refuses to allow us to *freely* consent or decline. Instead, it treats us like lab rats.





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First, universities across the country, including UChicago, have consistently announced their new COVID policies on a whim—not even leaving students the time or ability to create contingency plans. Second, choosing a college isn't a game of plug-and-play. It's a process that entails a significant investment of hard work, time, financial resources, and effort to find the right match.

To tell a student who has invested two or three years of hard work and over \$100,000 in tuition to attend UChicago that he must suddenly find a way to transfer to a school in a different state—a school that might not even be able to properly accommodate his specific academic interests and career track—in the middle of his winter quarter is ludicrous.

UChicago's Booster Mandate Doesn't End the Hysteria—It Enshrines It

For the past two academic years, we've endured mandatory weekly invasive COVID testing; a laundry list of restrictions on movement and socialization [enforced](#) by a suffocating surveillance-and-reporting apparatus; needless quarantines in dorm rooms, even after testing negative; lackluster online classes; [barred access](#) to countless campus amenities and resources, including libraries and gyms; and, now, [vaccine](#) and booster requirements with limited exemptions, all while footing [the same \\$60,000+](#) in annual tuition.

We went along with these initial edicts for convenience's sake, perhaps contending that compliance in the short term would mean a long-term return to normalcy.

We rationalized that after bearing one year of Zoom classes to “slow the spread,” we'd finally be able to enjoy the state-of-the-art research facilities, nerdy camaraderie, and beautiful campus we were attracted to when we first applied to UChicago.

If we got the vaccine, we thought we'd finally be able to take off our masks and breathe, sit in a classroom with our friends, hang out in our dorms, and go to parties.

Those who thought we'd be free to enjoy the normal college experience we so desperately wanted *if* we just got the first two vaccine doses were completely wrong. This isn't over. It's only just begun.

We've become lab rats in a perpetual war against a glorified flu—and there's no end in sight. UChicago continues to defy scientific and moral standards, dehumanizing us in the process.

Clearly, this is not about saving lives. It's about control. We will not be controlled.

Our demands are as follows:

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2. We demand that the university name those responsible for creating and implementing its COVID decrees, especially with regards to vaccination. We also demand it name those responsible for reviewing and approving *both* medical and religious exemptions to vaccine and booster mandates.

3. We demand that the university make a public statement to all community members explaining *why* UCMC staff and BSD personnel are not required to receive boosters, but students and other university employees are.

4. Lastly, we call on all members of our university community to fight back. This mandate is wrong. Do not allow University President Paul Alivisatos's administration to pretend otherwise.

Signed,

The 2021-2022 Editorial Board of the *Chicago Thinker*:

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Comments 81**Debbie** ⌚ 6 days ago

Just backup info on the dramatic decline in effectiveness of vaccines against omicron. Little gained by boosting and UChicago age group prime ages for myocarditis, pericarditis. You cannot control infection or transmission of omicron with the vaccines, though you can mitigate serious illness, hospitalization and death especially in patients with co-morbidities.

<https://vinayprasadmmpm.substack.com/p/vaccine-effectiveness-goes-down-the>

[https://www.wsj.com/articles/omicron-makes-bidens-vaccine-mandates-obsolete-covid-healthcare-osa-evidence-supreme-court-11641760009?](https://www.wsj.com/articles/omicron-makes-bidens-vaccine-mandates-obsolete-covid-healthcare-osa-evidence-supreme-court-11641760009?st=ojqhifz10wfaouh&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink)

[st=ojqhifz10wfaouh&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink](https://www.wsj.com/articles/omicron-makes-bidens-vaccine-mandates-obsolete-covid-healthcare-osa-evidence-supreme-court-11641760009?st=ojqhifz10wfaouh&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink)

Reply

**Garion60** ⌚ 2 days ago

That's called TREATMENT, not VACCINE. A government, college, your neighbor ABSOLUTELY SHOULD NOT have authority to determine and MANDATE how you and your doctor TREAT an illness. MARXISM otherwise.

Reply

**Blake Eremo** ⌚ 1 day ago

Who told you that the “vaccines” mitigate serious illness? Oh yea, the exact same people that told you the “vaccines” stop you from getting the disease in the first place.

Reply



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held accountable or at least held to transparency. What amazing hypocrisy demonstrated by the different requirement for the students/staff versus the UCMC.

 Reply



William Seidemann  17 hours ago

Prevent covid with Vit D3, 10000 units/day; Vit C, 3 gm/day; zinc, 50 mg/day. Ivermectin, a repurposed med used to de-worm horses kills covid. “Ivermectin” taken 50mg on day one then again on day 3 wipes out covid in 5 days=all better. Go to the animal feed store to get it. Caution though, wife got covid, if you’re taking lots of meds daily don’t go into unventilated rooms full of people. Lots of meds daily depress the immune system. Read “Virus Mania” (Jan 2021.)

 Reply



Joe  6 days ago

It’s refreshing to see students able to think for themselves, unlike most of the campus. Everyone needs to stand together on this one in order to preserve what’s left of our basic rights. It will not end here. Keep up the good work.

 Reply



Rick Cataldo  1 day ago

BRAVO!! I’ve been waiting two years to read something like this. I was beginning to fear that independent critical thought had disappeared from our universities. I would be very proud indeed if my son or daughter had played a role in creating this clear, well-documented and extremely well-written declaration. Thank you to everyone involved – you are an inspiration to us all.

 Reply



Rick  1 day ago

BRAVO!! I’ve been waiting two years to read something like this. I was beginning to fear that independent critical thought had disappeared from our universities. I would be very proud indeed if my son or daughter had played a role in creating this clear, well-documented and extremely well-written declaration. Thank you to everyone involved – you are an inspiration to us all.

 Reply



certified bruh moment  6 days ago

touch grass

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joel lehman 6 days ago

It's great to see liberal professors finally wising up to the power grabbing, medical tyranny, Covid-1984 scam. thank you. please persuade other liberal university professors to help stop this nonsense.

Reply



Steven DeLay 6 days ago

Absolutely brilliant. As you note, the emperor has no clothes, and it's well-overdue that somebody say so. Many thanks for writing this. I hope the faculty and administrators at your university (and elsewhere) come to their senses.

Reply



Papa Omegaman 6 days ago

I completely support and agree with your conclusions in this editorial.. what thinking American wouldn't? I say American only because much of the citizens of other countries are not so lucky as to have their individual liberties protected by a Bill of Rights and Constitution. Although these day legislators are handing over responsibility for their jobs to unelected panels and bureaocracrats who disrespect and disregard our Constitutional rights. Your doing the right thing young men and women.. stay the course or risk further erosion of the rights your forebears fought for.

Reply



Papa Omegaman 6 days ago

Some very valuable information here on Religious exemptions and how to properly fill out the forms etc. This is from an educator (Peggy Hall) to whom many attorneys go to understand the law on this subject. <https://www.thehealthyamerican.org/religious-exemptions>

Reply



Jan 6 days ago

Fantastic article. We'll written and well researched.
UChicago stop ignoring important data and facts – move forward!

Reply



silverfox1948 6 days ago

AFAIK, all C-19 Vaccine mandates are illegal for the following reasons:



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3. US Laws & Nuremberg Codes disallow any change in status (e.g. firing, expulsion, extra charges) for refusing to participate in experimental treatment.

4. Nuremberg Code prohibits the use of any medical treatment that has not successfully passed animal trials. No C-19 vaccine has done so.

5. EUA's can ONLY be issued/valid if there are NO other available treatments. The Fed. Gov't is now distributing monoclonal antibodies as COVID-19 treatment. This renders currently issued EUA's invalid.

Requiring a C-19 vaccine, or firing someone for not taking one, is a violation of human rights and of US Civil rights.

 Reply



Matt Andersson  6 days ago

University students and parents across the US, assume rational counter-party actors in administration: university administration, management, advisors and governance, are not coherent, rational actors. Negotiation channels with them are closed unless by alternative, agency formalities. <https://www.dissidentprof.com/8-home/169-why-are-universities-pushing-covid-vaccination>. '96, Booth

 Reply



Dmitri Karamazov  5 days ago

Strong article. I'm an undergrad at a school in Boston (yeah lol), and I've faked all my vaccine records. Planning on doing the same for the booster. Would be nice to see a policy change but using photoshop till then.

 Reply



peepeepoopoo  3 days ago

ew imagine going to harvard

filler

 Reply



K Dubbs  5 days ago

Well stated, well researched. I applaud your voice and your courage to stand up to these uninformed, propagandized academic bureaucrats who, in Chicago, and nationwide, are waging war on our youth.

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Amended to give the public the right to end experimentation on humans from that came the Haremberg case.

That prevents ANY coercion to be subject to medical experimentations.

We now know those injections do nothing to prevent transmission. Thereby nullifying the claims that they are vaccines.

And therefore there is no need, medically to subject forcefully entire populations to them.

The risks of those injections are severe and the long term risks are unknown.

Stop the madness. Respect human rights.

Reply



The Davidtollah 2 days ago

The vaccines' failure to prevent transmission makes them useless for purposes of public health. The injections provide (limited) protection only to the vaccinated, and not to others, making vaccination a matter of personal, not public, health.

Reply



Carol Crevier 4 days ago

Excellent journalism, keep it up. You need to explore the destruction of immunity that occurs with repetitive inoculations. The knowledge of this stretches back into basic animal studies, but the folks at DailyExpose.uk have explored the PHS data which signals this as well. Point your fellow students to the interviews by Michael Yeadon, PhD, former Pfizer UK Chief Respiratory Scientist by Reiner Fuellmich on Odyesee and Del Bigtree on the Highwire. He explains all, including that he and colleagues have created an app: 'How Bad is my Batch'. Look it up to find out how many serious adverse events are related to a given lot. The strength of people your age must be added to that of grey haired folks, in order for significant change to occur. Your work is admirable.

Reply



Michele Norrid 4 days ago

Carol, I agree with your recommendations on Yeadon and others. Geert Vanden Bossche is another fantastic resource. But your last comment is the most important and that is, we need our youth and this next batch of college-educated young people to stand up, speak up, and fight back. There is power in numbers and even though many of us have been saying the same things for the past 1-2 years now, this movement will only catch fire when the university kids join us.

Reply



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Reply

**Lisa O** 4 days ago

I love that as hard as universities are trying to brainwash you to the left, you allow your common sense and critical thinking skills prevail! Keep up the great work! This unvaccinated high school teacher- warrior stands with you, we need to protect our body autonomy and civil rights against tyranny!

Reply

**Alum** 4 days ago

You need also to address this to the Board of Trustees and remind them, until they capitulate, that they will ultimately be the ones bearing the legal repercussions of any such mandate, especially if there are any “vaccine accidents”, i.e. unexpected death. The manufacturers are not liable; the regulator bears no responsibility as it’s not yet approved, nor recommended, ; thus the students who did it to comply with the school’s mandate will have recourse to the Trustees, who will bear personal liability for that.

It will clarify their thinking.

Reply

**Anonymous** 4 days ago

Proud of the authors. I specialize in data, analysis, developing solutions. It appalls me when people make mandates & requirements antithetical to actual evidence.

Your point re: menstruation/reproductive health, side effects & the heart: A young woman gave birth to twins. Tragically they died of heart issues w/in days of each other 7 mth post- birth. Their mother agreed to take that untested shot (not vaccines since they do not create immunity) the day b4 their birth as the government assured her it was not only safe, but BETTER for her soon to be born babies. Both babies died within days of each other; they had been breast fed. (So double entry?) There are so many reports of these shots causing damage to young people (especially boys) hearts; this is proven fact.

? Correlation in this case? I do not know but I SURE AS HELL WOULD NOT RISK my life, future, health or that of my children til I could be as certain as humanly possible that there is NOT a correlation

Reply



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Reply

**Andrew Windsor** 3 days ago

Well written! Someone FORCING something into my body AGAINST MY WILL – This is my definition of RAPE!

Reply

**Laura** 3 days ago

I am so impressed by this piece. My family is all vaccinated, older people (me) boosted. But I am worried about boosters in younger ones, specifically college-aged sons. One is waiting to hear on application to U Chicago. Reading this was like finding an oasis of sanity, thanks to young smart people. You give me hope.

Reply

**Julia`** 3 days ago

I am a UChicago faculty and I completely agree with you. But it's not clear to me how much effect this letter will have. Would you consider starting an online petition that UChicago students and faculty can sign? If it gets enough support maybe something will change...

Reply

**ABL** 2 days ago

Dozens of universities have petitions that have been circulated in the recent weeks. To my knowledge, the administrations at all of these schools that have been presented them have denied them.

Reply

**Karen** 3 days ago

At a time when I have never been more disappointed in the American university system, the student(s) who authored this have made my day! My father chose The University of Chicago for his masters (over some school in Boston). That was more than 50 yrs. ago. The school continues to ask for money. My father has since passed. My son is now deciding where to go in the fall. UC is a contender. I will not fund any school that mandates these shots. Knowing now that UC actually tiered their requirements for different constituents is gross. Everything about it is unethical. Bravo to these students' call to action and telling the university to name those responsible! These students hold more

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Justyna Frank ⌚ 3 days ago

Thank you. I am relieved that clear and independent thought is alive and well in my alma mater.
Justyna Frank BA/MA 1987

🗨 Reply



Rebecca Nuesken ⌚ 2 days ago

I hope this is the spark that ignites college students from coast to coast. Wake up and demand the respect and autonomy you deserve. Everyone who wants a booster can get one. Rise up! Your voice benefits even those who oppose you, whether they can see it or not.

🗨 Reply



The Mob ⌚ 2 days ago

at some point i need to ask, why bother? haven't all of this rag's editors already gotten internships at the federalist/national review/fox/toilet paper usa?

🗨 Reply



D Fink ⌚ 2 days ago

Interesting – what a cogent, measured, in-kind response to a well-reasoned, analytical and evidence-based piece..... wink. (Likely penned by a member of UC administration).

🗨 Reply



Andrew ⌚ 2 days ago

Bravo to the authors. Thank you for your willingness to stand up and clearly articulate this position. It is long past time to push back forcefully on these insane policies. Those who advocate these moves could have, a year or more ago, claimed misplaced hysteria. At this point we have entered the territory of mere authoritarian banalities. What a tragedy that such a former bastion of the enlightenment as University of Chicago is in such a state. Sic transit gloria mundi.

🗨 Reply



David ⌚ 2 days ago

You 10 journalists are exceptional. It's so rare to find that in the Ivy League. It makes one want to weep, observing the docility and obedience and apathy of most of your contemporaries—iAmerica's future ruling class.



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Leon Davies 10 hours ago

Thank you for your courage and erudition. As a lifelong biologist and psychologist with an interest in the history and philosophy of science, I think this statement (along with all these supporting comments) will go on the record of important documents proclaiming human freedom over authoritarianism. I hope my first University (Oxford) lives up to its intellectual ideals, and indeed its motto, and produces its own version.

Reply



Igor Chudov 2 days ago

'2000 UofC MBA here.

I applaud a well reasoned, well written, and very timely article written by the board.

Time to wake up to the reality and see that the “experimental vaccine” experiment has really failed, and Omicron embodies this failure. As future scientists, we know that experiments fail and this is not the first failed experiment in the history of biology or medicine — but it is the largest.

In addition, since perhaps about half of students just had an active case of Covid, giving more spike-protein-producing boosters to young people who just recovered from the spike-protein virus, means putting them in heightened danger of adverse cardiac and neurological events.

To those who think that “the worst case is that the vaccine does not work”: actually there are much worse “worst cases”. The 20 year old history of very well financed history of mRNA tech had NO successful, approved products before “Covid Vax”.

It is not a good time for virtue signaling.

Reply



BetsyG 2 days ago

Journalism is alive and well among these college thinkers!

Faith is restored. the younger generation is not so damaged that they cannot see and sense the stranglehold of tyranny.

May your well written words and criticisms go viral across campuses globally.

Reply



AG Fairfield 2 days ago

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to know about institutional corruption at UChicago. My advise as an old boomer is investigate how much funding this group brings in and you will understand another reason why they get special treatment.

 Reply



Fauchi's Ouchie  2 days ago

Well done on a nicely written and rational article! There are staff and faculty members who will stand with you. Someone in a previous comment suggested creating an online petition to send to the University. That's a good idea! Something has to change because the booster carousel is not a long term solution. I'm so glad you decided to make a public stand. I hope this builds momentum and brings change to these draconian campus mandates. Stay strong and don't back down!

 Reply



Informed  2 days ago

It was too late already in 2000:

[.https://centerforaninformedamerica.com/regressive/](https://centerforaninformedamerica.com/regressive/)

DEATH, TAXES, AND EDUCATION
BY DAVE MCGOWAN | NOV 4, 2000

 Reply



Dave C.  2 days ago

Young people at UChicago are at tiny risk of hospitalization from any Covid variant. Natural immunity from Omicron infection may stop the pandemic. There is significant evidence of myocarditis and pericarditis (heart inflammation) in young people from the Moderna & Pfizer mRNA vaccines. This can cause PERMANENT damage to your heart. There is risk of blood clots with the J&J adenovirus vaccine. Based on previous safety criteria, all three of these vaccines would have been withdrawn. Getting boosted risks permanent health damage.

Resistance means students, faculty, and staff MUST NOT COMPLY. Make them expel or fire you. Lawyers are willing to file class-action lawsuits based on the overwhelming evidence cited in the editorial, and now have backup from the Supreme Court. The UChicago stood up for speech freedom. The vaccine issue is just as serious. My father was an alumnus of the University of Chicago (PhD, 1965). He and his instructors would never have stood for this.

 Reply



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God bless you, this medical tyranny must stop. The reason all these Universities have forced these illegal mandates, goes back to Fauci. He threatened pulling all federal research money for not mandating an illegal EUA vaccine. Sue them, the law is on your side.

 Reply



R. McDaniel  10 hours ago

This was a very good article! These vax mandates are unlawful and unethical. Ask yourself, why would I spend \$100,000 on an education I can't use because I am either permanently disabled or dead due to the booster requirements? School doesn't seem that important anymore. My life or a scroll? 🙄 Threaten your school with the collective withdrawal of all tuition by all students if the boosters aren't eradicated!

 Reply



Garion60  2 days ago

That's called TREATMENT, not VACCINE. A government, college, your neighbor ABSOLUTELY SHOULD NOT have authority to determine and MANDATE how you and your doctor TREAT an illness. MARXISM otherwise.

 Reply



Shelly Pearce  2 days ago

Great letter. All arguments that have been put forth in other forums— except for one point not directly addressed is the fact that the students already submitted to their two jabs (one for J& J). Only time will tell how it will effect their fertility and birth defects. Not a trade I'd be willing to take for the "beautiful campus and parties". Should have "not complied" at the outset.

 Reply



Jim  2 days ago

Very encouraging to see this. I hope you are successful.

 Reply



Darshan  2 days ago

Well said!

 Reply

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I absolutely agree with everything you wrote. Ultimately, the institution of coercive medicine being administered without consent has to be one of the most odious political developments in human history. If this is not stopped, there really is no point to ever talking about human rights again since obviously the government will have set the precedent that they can force you to submit to pretty much any injection or procedure they want. Forced sterilization. Forced psych meds. Forced suicide at the age of 65. Basically, anything.

 Reply



Jason S  2 days ago

To the Editors:

You might wish to strengthen a basic point. The only ethical justification for mandates such as these is the argument which holds that “it’s not about your rights – your decision to not vaccinate (or boost) is putting others at risk”.

However, this is and has been false, and all the moreso since Omicron. You note in your article that natural immunity is superior to the vaccine in reducing transmission – and this is true. But the vaccinated are in fact also transmitting COVID at a higher rate than the unvaccinated (i.e. the vaccines have NEGATIVE efficacy).

UK data supporting this: <https://eugyppius.substack.com/p/ukhsa-vaccine-efficacy-statistics-532>

Danish data supporting this: (see page 6 – statistically significant negative efficacy against Omicron for both Pfizer and Moderna):

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.20.21267966v2.full.pdf>

This, of course, is showing a negative benefit. The cost of the vaccines – myocarditis, pericarditis, menstrual problems, potential trigger for latent cancer – isn’t even considered. The CBA for these vaccines is overwhelmingly negative, especially for those who aren’t elderly.

You all should be prepared to walk. Your leaders at UChicago have failed you, as have most of our leaders nationwide, in willingly bringing in authoritarianism based on an unprecedented pack of lies.

 Reply



truth  2 days ago

Totalitarians and commies don’t care about you when are we going to learn that.. They have a plan and they do not plan on stopping..

Plandemic glad people finally recognize..



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Reply

**Alan Herriman** 2 days ago

If memory serves, the University of Chicago was instrumental in the Manhattan project. I was a little kid but I knew those folks were real scientists who brought in the atomic age – for better or worse. A few years later I was myself a “rocket scientist” and the science I knew ushered in the space age. Those were glorious times. But now I’m seeing “science” being so badly used so as to trample our basic rights. Next will I have to get boosters if I want to collect Social Security payments? Barring any such draconian measures, with zero comorbidities, I will pass. Three cheers and kudos to those UChicago students who are standing up to this current politically correct madness.

Reply

**Benjamin** 2 days ago

Bravo! I am delighted that some students are demanding accountability from administration, who have always been able to have their cake and eat it too. Your demands should be amended to included a partial refund of tuition and fees.

Reply

**Mary** 2 days ago

I think I might fall over. These students are proof that intelligent humans still exist. Thank GOD for you. You are blazing the path for ALL of us. Please do not give up. You are HOPE. You are the embodiment of HOPE. PLEASE do not forget that.

Reply

**David** 2 days ago

Most informative and articulate response there has been. Much success to you and your right to have Freedom of Choice as endowed by our CREATOR and our US Constitution. Will add the vaccines do not live up to the Nuremburg Code, which the US signed onto, making what is happening and those forcing it upon anyone... “War Criminals”... committing War Crimes, for they are no different then Mengele....and we have promised those who were.... NEVER again...

Reply

**David M** 2 days ago

Most informative and articulate response there has been. Much success to you and your right to

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different than Mengele....and we have promised those who were.... NEVER again...

Reply



Johan 2 days ago

Very inspiring. I can only hope that these young people represent future leaders of our country. It's hard to stand for truth against overwhelming group think, but you all have done it. Thanks for your well-researched, fact-based piece and being clear about your demands. You have emboldened many others who know the truth and feel the same. Stay strong!

Reply



Norsksoul 2 days ago

The Vaccinated and UnVaccinated have one thing in common: Neither will ever be fully Vaccinated.

Reply



Victor 2 days ago

I'm an MBA alum and you make all of us proud. UChicago still a beacon of free thinking.

Don't stop here. Create a petition and you will surprised how many will sign.

Reply



George 2 days ago

Let us not underestimate the courage and bravery mustered by the authors of this article. In a time where to dissent is to risk expulsion and defamation, these students and authors are sticking out their necks to pursue what they deem right and just. I am facing similar edicts and crackdowns at my school, and going against the grain is no picnic. I hope that these students are successful in their efforts and, in turn, inspire others to summon the moral courage to resist unscientific and unlawful commands.

Reply



George 2 days ago

Let us not underestimate the courage and bravery mustered by the authors of this article. In a time where to dissent is to risk expulsion and defamation, these students and authors are sticking out their necks to pursue what they deem right and just. I am facing similar edicts and crackdowns at





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 Reply**Toni**  2 days ago

Hello...I am a 60 year old Grandma so not one of you but I just had to write to you and let you know that your editorial is the best defense I've read for informed consent and the freedom to choose. I have saved your piece so that future generations, of my family at least, never forget what has been done. Yes indeed we have been the lab rats in the greatest evil experiment in the history of mankind. I have never trusted the shots because it takes years for a vaccine to be created and released for public use. We are at the very beginning of seeing the results of forcing the "vaccine" onto the public. I am terrified to see what will happen to the children forced into taking the shot including my nephews who have both suffered heart issues afterwards and 2 of my grandchildren.

I have to believe there will be accountability one day for all those responsible for this. There are so many who have perpetrated this evil. Fauci, his fellow politicians as well as the propaganda media are just a few of the many tyrants and authoritarians who will go down in history as collaborators in the greatest evil science experiment of all time. Thank you for bravely defending the freedom to choose for all of us!

 Reply**Em**  2 days ago

I'm reading this in Australia, where some universities have (for the first time) just mandated 2 injections with no option of testing in order to start term 1 in February, including my alma mater. I'm beyond angry at this madness and coercion. Thank you for your article: I can only hope that enough critical thinking students protest at my children's university prior to the mandate deadline.

 Reply**Jim Ateoi**  2 days ago

Never Again—The Universal Spirit of Nuremberg—Enforce the Code—It will never end until we end it.

 Reply**skeeter**  1 day ago

Wow...best summary I've read so farIf I was a politician I would hire all these authors immediately to work for me.....

Is UofC giving refunds ?? A "covid discount" ?? They should...

 Reply

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I am a physician. You have to be a genius to get accepted into U of Chicago. So I am not surprised that this long awaited letter comes from this heralded institution.

These are not 'vaccines.'

They have killed one of my family and injured many of my patients.

It is our youth that we are sacrificing at this false altar of public safety.

Thank you students.

This battle is about your freedom.

 Reply



T Lewis  1 day ago

I heartily agree with this editorial. These students and employees are not your slaves, U. Chicago. They have control over their own bodies. THEY are the ultimate authority about what goes into their bodies and what healthcare treatments or non treatments they will follow. So glad to see these young people thinking for themselves and pushing back. I hope those hurt by these immoral vaccine mandates sue the University for harm.

 Reply



Michael Pepper  1 day ago

On display here by these students are the virtues of courage, backbone, clear reasoning, prudential thinking, temperance (with a sharp edge), fairness (justice), and participatory community and democracy, writ small and large. Oh, nearly forgot to mention this obvious one: Their unflappable aptitude for "exposing," disrobing the bureaucratic and technocratic emperors, all of whom seem to think they are safe and fully clothed behind their collective fig leaves.

As a foreigner from Tennessee, may I assign them a reading list, as they draft their responses and slowly recover their credibility (and underwear): (1) Brave New World, (2) 1984, (3) Animal Farm, (4) Fahrenheit 451, (5) Medical Nemesis, (6) Deschooling Society, (7) What Are People For? (8) Jabberwocky.

For extra credit, they ought to read what Paul Kingsnorth and David Cayley are thinking, writing, and saying nowadays, as an antidote and inoculation against the disease of groupthink and authoritarian mimicry. "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

These young people are sowing seeds of hope in our dark and ominous times when the basis of hopefulness rests on such tremulous, shaky grounds. Thank you!

 Reply

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JC Richards  1 day ago

Courage is rarely found in a mob, but often in the face of one. Bravo.

 Reply



ScottH  1 day ago

Great letter. Well thought out, very reasonable and persuasive arguments. And it will be completely ignored by the University.

These students need to find a lawyer that will take a class action lawsuit. The University should be for the financial damage it is inflicting on these students if they choose to not take the bioweapon. An attorney's letter is a lot harder to ignore.

 Reply



Augusto Pinochet  1 day ago

Excellent work gentlemen.

We will end this Covid madness one way or another.

 Reply



ScottH  1 day ago

Great letter. Well thought out, very reasonable and persuasive arguments. And it will be completely ignored by the University.

These students need to find a lawyer that will take a class action lawsuit. The University should held responsible for the financial damage it is inflicting on these students if they choose to not take the bioweapon. The more students that stand together and give the University an ultimatum the better. An attorney's letter is a lot harder to ignore.

 Reply



Jtrafx  21 hours ago

The Israelis are doing this to murder Americans and destroy our country from within because we no longer want to be their btch

<http://www.jewishledger.com/2020/11/the-jewish-connection-to-the-covid-vaccines/>

 Reply

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everyone who values their freedom to stand up and stand together. We need young, old, parents, employees, teachers, students, everyone pushing this back and when we are victorious we need to ensure we never come this close to edge again.

Reply



Henry 10 hours ago

UofC may be where “fun goes to die”, but you’ve just demonstrated that some brave and serious thinkers go there, too. Excellent article that cogently details why vax mandates are immoral and illegal. Keep up the good work! (Disclaimer: I’m vaxed and boosted, so not antivaxxer, just anti-mandate. As a Boomer, I made a deliberate, informed choice – a choice that everyone should be able to make for themselves without coercion.)

Reply



Philip R Rowe 8 hours ago

Yes please keep up with your opinions

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/12/05/1059828993/data-vaccine-misinformation-trump-counties-covid-death-rate>

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Editorial: We Demand UChicago Return to In-Person Learning

Give us an education or return our tuition.



by **The Editorial Board** — January 10, 2022 in **Opinion** Reading Time: 7 mins read

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The University of Chicago’s [decision](#) to stall winter quarter and impose two weeks of remote “learning” defrauds students of the quality education [we purchased](#) with our tuition dollars.

In blatant [disregard](#) for the well-being of students, UChicago delayed the start of winter quarter until January 10 and mandated that the first two weeks of instruction be entirely virtual. This irrational, anti-science announcement came on December 23, just eleven days before we were due to resume in-person instruction.

We condemn UChicago’s return to “Zoom University.” And we demand a significant reduction in tuition for every week of in-person classes and campus amenities limited or denied.

If Our Schoolwork Were as Lousy as UChicago’s Policies, We’d All Fail

UChicago prides itself on being one of the leading research institutions in the world. It fails to live up to its namesake when it refuses to rationally substantiate its decrees, of which this most recent shutdown is the prime example. If we students submitted a paper as lacking in rigor as the university’s latest COVID policies, we’d get failing grades.

The university attempts to justify its renewed lockdown by strategically and deceptively diverting attention from the minimal severity of Omicron toward the number of cases.

In an attempt to substantiate its return to remote “learning,” UChicago cited “assessments from medical experts that infection rates from the Omicron variant will continue to rise substantially in the next few weeks with the projected infection peak coming in early to mid-January.” But while Omicron is indeed rushing through the country at a [breakneck](#) pace, that’s only part of the story. The other, *more important*, part of the story is that the recent COVID surge does not pose a threat to the survival of UChicago community members.

Without even controlling for comorbidities, the survival rate for Americans under 65 who have contracted COVID since February 2020 [is 99.87%](#). Moreover, COVID risks have declined with the onset of the Omicron variant.

Case in point: Cornell University recently experienced a surge of over 900 Omicron cases, but [didn’t record](#) a single instance of severe illness.

Meanwhile, South Africa’s case hospitalization rate amid its Omicron wave [declined](#) to one-eleventh of the

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instead treating it like the bubonic plague.

To make matters worse, the university has yet to provide any proof that delaying winter quarter will even have a positive effect on [lowering Omicron cases](#). Nor has it substantiated its claim that there is “increased stress on the medical system,” especially in light of Omicron’s comparatively low hospitalization rate.

We are *overwhelmingly* likely to survive this virus, students and professors alike. There is no scientific justification for another COVID lockdown—period. Sadly, this fact is lost on our university, which [continues to ditch scientific rigor](#).

If the University’s ‘Experts’ Are So Credible, Name Them

UChicago repeatedly cites “experts” when attempting to justify its COVID decrees, but refuses to release the names of these individuals. This is inexcusable.

If the university trusts its decision makers, it should have no problem sharing their names with our community. Transparency is only inconvenient if there is something to hide.

Who are these anonymous experts crafting university policy? What are their names and credentials? What data are they relying upon? Who is calling the shots?

Our professors rightly demand that we students substantiate and cite our work, but UChicago fails to live up to its own, most basic of standards.

If We Don’t Condemn UChicago’s Lunacy, This Will Become the Norm

UChicago presently suggests January 24 for the resumption of in-person classes, but deceptively refuses to fully commit to this date. Instead, UChicago states that we will only be permitted to start living our lives “if conditions allow,” and that there may be need for “ongoing intervention and adaptations,” whatever that means.

The first [so-called requirement](#) for a “safe” return to in-person instruction was receiving the COVID vaccine. The second [so-called requirement](#) for a “safe” return was receiving a COVID booster. The latest so-called requirement is now a delayed quarter and two weeks of Zoom classes from home. When will this unrelenting series of shifting goalposts end? It won’t, unless we start speaking up.

Zoom University is a [terrible](#) “substitute” for in-person education. It is also [isolating](#). In his petition [demanding](#) a return to in-person instruction, fellow student Jonah Kaye rightly points out that “there are steep mental health risks associated with another transition to remote learning.” He cites evidence pointing to the dangers of education and



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The chance of a UChicago student or professor dying from Omicron is practically zero—but, by going remote again, UChicago will be *directly responsible* for significant, adverse consequences to students' mental and physical well-being. If our university truly valued “the science,” it would prioritize our health by allowing us to fully engage in our education and lives.

Regardless of politics, all members of the UChicago community should stand united in opposition to this insane administrative diktat. This shouldn't be about right or left. It is much simpler than that. Do we want to spend our lives behind screens, terrified of a glorified flu? Or will we commit to resume living and learning? If we wish to be happy, healthy, thriving individuals, we must choose the latter.

Our demands are as follows:

- 1. We demand that the University of Chicago recommit to stellar, in-person instruction. Until it does so, we demand that the university implement a significant tuition reduction, specifically the portion of tuition devoted to classes and access to school facilities, for every week of in-person classes and campus amenities limited or denied.**
- 2. We demand that the university provide full financial compensation for all students whose travel accommodations have been disrupted by its latest COVID decrees.**
- 3. We demand that the university name those responsible for creating and implementing its COVID decrees, particularly its remote-learning policies.**
- 4. Finally, we encourage all members of our university community to speak up. Call out the university's COVID response for the idiocy it is. This won't end, until we hold UChicago accountable.**

Signed,

The 2021-2022 Editorial Board of the *Chicago Thinker*:

Audrey Unverferth (Publisher & Editor-in-Chief, '22)

Evita Duffy (Managing Editor, '22)

Declan Hurley (Vice President, '24)

Matthew Heck (Chief Newsletter Author and Senior Editor, '22)



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Comments 8

Brian Kent ⌚ 3 days ago

This is a great application of common sense! Kids are not science experiments; I fully support your fight for equality. Here is my letter to the mayor, please use if it helps your cause.

<https://www.bkstrength.com/bkvis/2022/01/06-letter-to-lori-lightfoot>

💬 Reply

Peter Boone ⌚ 2 days ago

Excellent article – a key flaw of mandates is they discourage personal enquiry and research.



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 Reply

Epep  2 days ago

The CDC is giving them money.

The overall aim is fear and Mass Formation Psychosis. It's worldwide. They want a generation mentally ill misfits, cutoff from ancestry. Who'll then follow a leader without question. To destroy nations and become gods. It's the owners of Blackstone and Vanguard.

Do not comply.

 Reply

James Matteson  2 days ago

Great article. One of the best I've seen. Question, are the powers that be not looking at the Vaers data.... <https://openvaers.com/covid-data>

Over a million adverse reactions including 21000 deaths. Not safe and not effective.

 Reply

Steven DeLay  1 day ago

Absolutely brilliant. As you note, the emperor has no clothes, and it's well-overdue that somebody say so. Many thanks for writing this. I hope the faculty and administrators at your university (and elsewhere) come to their senses.

 Reply

Cape Tribulation  1 day ago

Good editorial. However the student body, notoriously Socialist as is its faculty and administration, is getting a dose of how a Socialist system operates: by brute force. Be careful what you ask for; you just might get it.

 Reply

Ask Questions  19 hours ago

I loved your article and have been waiting for more college students to WAKE UP and speak truth to power. THANK YOU! You mentioned that UC wants to have "control" over its students but what you didn't answer was "why"? This article linked below, attempts to answer that question. Early treatment

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“In 1999, Ralph Baric, funded by the U.S. government, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, figured out how to take an animal virus and have it be able to infect other species, different animals, in other words, cross-species infection.

Finish reading article here: <https://truthbasedmedia.com/2022/01/16/the-plan-to-tag-us-for-the-new-world-order-slave-system/>

Reply



Philip R Rowe 8 hours ago

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/12/05/1059828993/data-vaccine-misinformation-trump-counties-covid-death-rate>

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Disgraced FBI NO. 2 Andrew McCabe Tells UChicago Students the Feus Should Be weaponized Against Conservatives

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