

Motion 2 10-4-2021

WHEREAS the number of COVID-19 infections in Washtenaw County and at the University has been increasing significantly;

WHEREAS recent data on the vaccine effectiveness against infection by the Delta variant of COVID-19 show it is ~20-30% lower than the pre-August numbers; and

WHEREAS, at current vaccination rates, the number of vaccinated, yet infected, community members is therefore high;

WHEREAS the University of Michigan only requires unvaccinated individuals to be tested for COVID-19, only once a week, a far lower rate than at some peer institutions;

WHEREAS an unvaccinated individual, if positive and asymptomatic, is likely to spread the virus for an average of several days before being tested and quarantined;

WHEREAS many asymptomatic individuals are spreading the virus, unbeknownst to them or the University;

WHEREAS many classes are populated at high density, without social distancing and with unknown air replacement rate;

WHEREAS many individuals use imperfect masks or wear them in imperfect ways;

WHEREAS the university responded to valid criticism of its vague notifications to students not by making the notifications less vague but by ceasing to notify students and instructors at all; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the testing frequency for unvaccinated individuals be increased to twice a week, and weekly testing be conducted for all community members, at conveniently accessible sites;

BE IT RESOLVED that ResponsiBLUE not instruct vaccinated individuals to automatically check “no” as an answer to the question “Have you had close contact in the last 14 days with someone recently diagnosed with COVID-19,” which induces a false sense of security;

BE IT RESOLVED that notification of close contacts be re-established, which will be timely and include specific details, e.g., about the day and time of the class in which the individual may have been exposed.

Motion submitted by:

Michael Atzmon, Professor, Departments of Nuclear Engineering & Radiological Sciences and Materials Science & Engineering, College of Engineering

Supported by:

Duncan Steel, Robert J. Hiller Professor of Engineering, Professor of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, Physics, Applied Physics, and Biophysics Program, Senior Research Scientist, Inst. of Gerontology

Allison Alexy, Associate Professor of Modern Japanese Culture, LSA

Dante Amidei, Professor, Experimental Elementary Particle Physics, Physics Department, LSA

Juan Cole, Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History, LSA

Miranda Brown, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Professor of Chinese Studies

Kate F. Barald, Professor emerita (active) of Cell and Developmental Biology, Medical School and of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering, Associate Director, co-founder and Director emerita of the NIH-sponsored Postbaccalaureate Research and Education Program (MIPREP)

A total of 563 votes were cast in support of Motion 2 and a total of 439 votes were cast in opposition. The motion passed. 76 abstentions were recorded.

Link to News Item: <https://facultysenate.umich.edu/17002-2/>