

Communication from Public

Name: Harold Schierholt

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mr. Feuer: Please find attached a copy of a letter to Los Angeles City Councilwoman Martinez regarding the City of Los Angeles' proposed indoor vaccine mandate. It is my understanding that your office is currently drafting the language of this ordinance. I hope my letter provides some insight into the impact such a mandate would have on a tiny group of rare individuals who are unable to be vaccinated due to their disabilities. I thank you and Ms. Martinez most sincerely for taking the time to consider what I have to say. Very truly yours,
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August 24, 2021

The Office of Councilwoman Nury Martinez
200 North Spring Street, Room 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Joana Reyes, Legislative Aide

Subject: Restricting access to public spaces without proof of vaccination

Dear Ms. Martinez:

I wish to bring to your attention members of our community like myself who *cannot*, rather than will not, be vaccinated because we have life threatening preexisting conditions or because we are receiving treatments with which the COVID-19 vaccine could interfere, posing a significant risk to our health and lives. If you would like to confirm the validity of the following information, please feel free to contact Dr. Francine Hanberg at (818) 843-1819. She has my permission to confirm my representations. I ask that you treat this personal medical information as confidential and only share it on an as-needed basis based upon your best judgement.

I am a 57 year old male who has been on Social Security Disability since 2012. I have an extensive educational background, I hold a California state issued license to practice a profession, and I have decades of executive experience directing corporations with hundreds of employees. My disability is driven by:

- Common Variable Immune Deficiency and Specific Antibody Deficiency, which make me unable to produce one or more immunoglobulins. I produce only a 4% antibody response to most vaccines because my body lacks a significant part of the innate immune response enjoyed by healthy individuals. Therefore, I will receive little or no benefit from a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Myasthenia Gravis, which is a complex and very serious autoimmune disease that can lead to the complete paralysis of the muscles that enable me to breathe.
- Cerebral Vasculitis, which is inflammation of the blood vessels in my brain.

Treatments for these conditions enable me to live and occasionally enjoy some of life's simple pleasures, like a special night at the movies with my son, a graduation ceremony or wedding, a concert at the Hollywood Bowl, a celebratory meal in a restaurant. These pleasures are rare and special.

Essentially, I have personally lived a pandemic lifestyle for almost 10 years. I'm exceedingly selective about where I go and who I see. My family and friends know they must be exceptionally careful around me. I have not stopped living, but everywhere I go I risk contracting any one of many serious and possibly fatal infections.

I cannot and should not receive the COVID-19 vaccine for several reasons. First, doctors have tested my immune response many times, with many different types of vaccines, and my body simply does not produce the desired antibody response. Second, it is known the COVID-19 vaccine can worsen vasculitis, and therefore worsen my tenuous status and could be fatal. Lastly, the COVID-19 vaccines were not tested in patients with Myasthenia Gravis (MG), and MG crisis after vaccination has been reported.^[1]

All of my doctors have advised me not to get vaccinated because of my life threatening health problems. These health problems have rendered me permanently disabled and prevented me from living a normal life.

The policies you are considering would further isolate me and others like me because our rare medical conditions prevent us from being vaccinated. We are rare and therefore our tiny numbers will have no impact on protecting the

public and ending this horrific pandemic. If it were safe I would eagerly get vaccinated, and I encourage all who are able to do so, as this also benefits me. Please do not punish people like me who, through no fault of our own, cannot be vaccinated.

The recently adopted Los Angeles city ordinance that requires Los Angeles city employees to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by early October allows the employees exemptions for medical or religious reasons.^[2] The city and county should grant residents and visitors the same exemptions for entering public spaces. Similarly the mandate should require all to be fully vaccinated with a minimum of 2 mRNA doses or one J & J dose. By approving one mRNA dose which provides little protection you appear not genuinely interested in protecting the public but rather motivated to punish the unvaccinated.

Because our goal is to decrease virus transmission, it is important to keep in mind infected vaccinated persons transmit as much virus as the unvaccinated. In fact, 61% of COVID cases in Israel were fully vaccinated (in the month ending 7/20/21) while 80% of adults were vaccinated and the Delta variant comprised 90% of cases.^[3] This is particularly relevant to Los Angeles with our population close to 10 million (Israel has 9 million). We do not have comparable US data because CDC is not tracking vaccine breakthroughs unless they are hospitalized or die. Exceptions include some large clusters such as the recent Provincetown, Massachusetts, cluster - resulting from July public celebrations - of close to 500 COVID cases where 74% of those infected were fully vaccinated.^[4] The CDC returned to recommending masks for vaccinated persons indoors based on this circumstance. Since then the cluster has expanded to close to 1000 COVID cases, again 74% of the infected were fully vaccinated.

In the letter of authorization to Elisa Harkins, Global Senior Director, Regulatory Lead at Pfizer, Inc., dated August 23, 2021, RADM Denise M. Hinton, Chief Scientist for the FDA, states that one of the conditions of the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization is that Pfizer, Inc., must report "cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children and adults" to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System within 15 days of receiving information about a case.^[5] Clearly the FDA already recognizes that the vaccine has the potential to cause life threatening inflammation in people's bodies. Mandating vaccines for the rare few who already suffer from life threatening inflammation like cerebral vasculitis imposes an unreasonable risk to their lives.

Should you adopt vaccine mandates to restrict access of the unvaccinated to public spaces, I respectfully urge you to provide a Medical Exemption Card, completed by a California licensed Physician, which may be carried by rare individuals like me for whom vaccination poses a significant risk of a dangerous outcome due to our pre-existing medical conditions.

I extend my sincerest gratitude for your time and attention to this matter,

Harold Schierholt

Cc: Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney
Kathryn Barger, LAC Supervisor, 5th District

[1] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8272681/>

[2] <https://mynews1a.com/government/2021/08/18/los-angeles-city-council-approves-vaccination-mandate-for-city-workers-3/>

[3] <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/israel-covid-delta-variant-two-month-record-masks-indoors-1.9937892>

[4] <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7031e2.htm>

[5] <https://www.fda.gov/media/150386/download>; page 9, paragraph F.