

# PIKE MEDICAL CONSULTANTS



*We listen with our hearts.*

August 29, 2021

All Marian University Students

RE: COVID-19 Conditions and Vaccination

As each of you are aware, we are in the midst of another COVID-19 infection surge fueled by a Delta variant that has created significant infection and rapid transmission.

While it is true that infection at your age is likely to be mild, hospitalization minimal, and death unlikely, it is still very important to understand that we cannot break the cycle of recurrent infection with perhaps other variants to come without substantial vaccination rates.

This is my plea, of course, because I am an aging physician as are certain members of your own family. Our potential infection can be more symptomatic, result in hospitalization, and even carry a risk of death. Therefore, from a public health perspective, responsibility for vaccination is in the best interest of the...community. We all understand the element of personal choice and freedom of choice, but we are a...community and we have a moral and ethical responsibility to care for one another.

Dr. Gounder of the NYU Grossman of Medicine notes...the precise goal of vaccination is to slow the spread, save lives and turn COVID-19 into a disease that society can live with.

Your roommate, your teammate, your friends, your family, your faculty members and staff. Their health and wellbeing, perhaps even their lives, may be dependent on your decision-making. I heard a program recently that left me with two priorities. In general, and without drama, the current issue at hand is not about "you," it's about "we." Secondly, without a change of heart, direction, and successful vaccination numbers, we face "cycles of misery" that are unnecessary.

Please help me...help you...remain healthy and productive and successful this year. Please consider your decision-making in the realm of being a part of the "community."

Respectfully,

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