**Letter to UMass – Amherst**

**4/29/21 Letter to Co-Directors of the Public Health Promotion Center (the University Health Services)**

**abecker@uhs.umass.edu** **and** **jhescock@uhs.umass.edu**

Dear Ms. Becker and Mr. Hescock,

I was both surprised and concerned that you are urging UMass students to get a Covid vaccine. As you should know, the following are some (but not all) of the concerning issues associated with these vaccines:

* All of these vaccines are still in the experimental phase; they were only given an emergency use authorization, which means that none of them has ever been tested for long-term safety and efficacy. When media reports say they are generally ‘approved’ by the FDA, that is misleading. These injections have not gone through the routine safety processes which usually take many years.
* There are already numerous reports of deaths and dangerous side effects such as anaphylactic shock due to these vaccines, including among young people. Cases of blood clotting have also been reported, not only among J&J recipients but also among recipients of Covid vaccines made by other companies, despite the impression that this issue only pertains to the J&J shot.
* Young people are statistically at close to zero risk for serious illness due to Covid; getting an experimental vaccine potentially poses a greater danger than the illness itself.
* There is little, if any, evidence that there is significant risk of Covid being spread by healthy people (i.e., asymptomatic transmission).
* The drug companies that manufacture these vaccines do not claim that they actually stop the spread of Covid. They specifically make no claims that it can stop infection or transmission. This calls into question whether “vaccine” is even the most appropriate term to use for them.
* The drug companies that manufacture these vaccines are totally shielded from legal and financial liability for harm caused by any vaccinations—including these experimental vaccines—even if they knowingly cause harm. This diminishes their incentive to improve safety.
* All previous attempts to develop vaccines to address coronavirus-type illnesses have ended in failure due to what’s known as “Antibody Dependent Enhancement” (ADE), which basically means that a person’s immune system turns on the person’s own body with the potential to cause serious harm and even death, particularly if confronted with the live virus later on. Since the trials on the Covid vaccines were unprecedently short, serious complications such as ADE and others not yet known are a genuine possibility.

At the core of responsible medical treatment is the concept of informed consent: no adult should be asked to accept a medical intervention without understanding its risks and benefits. Your email does not provide any information on the potential harm that may befall otherwise young, healthy college students if they get this vaccine, and does not inform them that these vaccines are experimental in nature and that there is no information on the long-term efficacy and safety of them. You also state: “Vaccination is the most effective way to ultimately stop the spread of the virus….” Many virologists, epidemiologists and doctors disagree with that statement, and even the vaccine manufacturers do not make this representation. I’ve never seen any studies that prove your assertion, and have seen studies to the contrary. I am interested in receiving from you citations to the scientific studies that prove your assertion.

There is nothing more precious to parents than their child’s health and well-being. You are urging healthy young people who are statistically at nearly zero risk of danger from Covid to receive an experimental vaccine that may cause serious life-long health problems and even possibly death. Since the drug companies that produce these vaccines are totally shielded from liability for any harm they may cause, it is my assumption that you will personally assume responsibility and financial liability for any harm that befalls students who take your advice or succumb to your urging to receive this injection. It is also my assumption that UMass as an institution would be liable since this communication urging vaccination is on behalf of UMass.

I look forward to hearing back from you regarding this matter,