[Date]

To: [xxx]

[Designation]

[Name of College/University]

SUBJECT: School Vaccination / Testing Requirement

Dear [xxx]:

[I/We] write in connection with the school’s latest requirements regarding [enrollment / face-to-face-classes / transacting with the school / etc. – *change depending on applicable situation*]. Based on the current guidelines, [I/my son/daughter], [name and year and course], is required to either be vaccinated or to submit to regular RT PCR testing in order to [enroll / attend face-to-face classes / transact with the school / etc].

I/We appreciate the school administration’s efforts the past two years at keeping the students, faculty and the rest of the school community safe. As the country is now emerging from the pandemic and schools begin to return to regular operations, we earnestly urge the school administration to reconsider its rule requiring students to either have a vaccination card or submit to regular RT PCR testing in order to [enroll / attend face-to-face classes / transact with the school / etc] as the rule is counter-intuitive based on existing scientific data and is against R.A. 11525 and the Philippine Constitution.

Please recall that as early as July 2021, during the Delta wave of Covid, the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advised that studies showed that both vaccinated and unvaccinated people could carry high viral loads and that even vaccinated people can transmit Covid.[[1]](#footnote-1) This was confirmed by the personal experience of the community in late December 2021 to late January or early February of 2022 where majority of households experienced a visit from the new Omicron strain. Thus, since the vaccines do not stop the transmission of Covid-19, requiring them will not provide any community benefit.

Moreover, because vaccinated students can also be infected with and transmit Covid-19, a testing requirement for unvaccinated students would not only be baselessly discriminatory, but would be of no practical use to the community. In fact, the IATF resolved in February 2022 that testing should be optional for all groups (other than Priority Groups A1 [healthcare workers], A2 [60 years old and above] and A3 [with comorbidities]), and recommended symptom monitoring instead.[[2]](#footnote-2) Besides, RT PCR testing as a diagnostic tool for Covid is highly unreliable, as confirmed by the US CDC in its Lab Alert dated July 21, 2021 advising that it would be withdrawing after December 31, 2021 its request with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Emergency Use Authorization of RT PCR as a testing tool for SARS-CoV-2 and directing labs to shift to other FDA-approved methods of testing “that can facilitate detection and differentiation of SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses.” [[3]](#footnote-3)

I/We trust that the school agrees that each student is an individual with unique medical, psychological and emotional needs, and therefore families should be able to make decisions with regard to what to put in their bodies and its unique risks and benefits, in consultation with their trusted doctors and medical professionals (when needed), and free from any external compulsion. Surely, the school will understand that any form of classification or segregation of students based on vaccine status will create undue discrimination against unvaccinated students. Does the school desire to be an enabler of this?

More importantly, RA 11525 itself, which acknowledges the experimental nature of the Covid-19 vaccines, states in Section 12 that “vaccinated individuals are not considered immune from Covid-19.” To require therefore only unvaccinated individuals to undergo testing for enrollment or face-to-face classes or simply being on campus is a form of unlawful discrimination that smacks of a violation of their right to equal protection of the laws guaranteed by our Constitution’s Bill of Rights.

At this point, I/we also take this opportunity to inform members of the school administration that, in case of injury or death that arises from the experimental vaccine/booster shot that a student is compelled to take because of the school’s “*no vax/test, no class*” policy, the responsibility and liability for such injury or death may very well be placed on the school as none of the current laws, rules and regulations provide any liability protection for the school in those cases. “*We were just following the CHED/IATF*” will not be a valid excuse as our Civil Code provides in Article 7 (3rd paragraph) that “administrative or executive acts, orders and regulations shall be valid only when they are not contrary to the laws [like RA 11525] or the Constitution” and that under Article 32, anyone who violates the rights of another individual under the Bill of Rights may be liable for damages.

I/We urge you, please do the right thing and forego the implementation of any unnecessary, unethical and unlawful vaccine and/or testing requirements. I am/We are very much open to a dialogue with the school regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

[xxx]

1. https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0730-mmwr-covid-19.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. IATF Guidelines on the Nationwide Implementation of Alert Level System for COVID-19 Response (As of February 27, 2022) - “Section 6. Guidelines for Areas Under Alert Level 1. II. Detect, B. Testing Prioritization. 3. Testing shall be optional for other groups not stated above, including for community level actions wherein case management of probable and confirmed cases remain the same. x x x Instead, symptom monitoring is recommended. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/locs/2021/07-21-2021-lab-alert-Changes\_CDC\_RT-PCR\_SARS-CoV-2\_Testing\_1.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)