

Open letter to the People of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the Government of Saskatchewan and its Regulatory Authorities

We are a group of vaccinated and unvaccinated healthcare professionals who believe that the way through this pandemic is to unite, not divide our community.

Pandemics are a societal emergency, not just a medical emergency, and as a societal emergency it is necessary to hear and consider all the voices of that society if a united response is to be achieved. Many voices are not being heard, and they need to be.

Today we stand with workers in multiple vocations in opposition to the vaccine mandates in the workplace and in the community. The citizens of this province have been placed under tragic and draconian conditions of threat and coercion with regards to the covid-19 vaccine, and medical procedures submitted to under threat and coercion are fraught with ethical concerns.

A bedrock principle of ethical and humane medicine is the need for the patient's free and informed consent, including when receiving a vaccine. Consent that is obtained under threat and coercion is automatically rendered morally, legally and medically invalid, and this makes vaccine mandates antithetical to the delivery of healthcare.

We are not opposed to vaccinations. We are opposed to mandates and coercion.

We have many reasons supported by the scientific literature and real world data for opposing these policies:

1. Multiple studies confirm that SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in use in Canada do not prevent infection with the covid-19 virus. Nor do they prevent transmission. Indeed, the viral load of vaccinated and infected individuals is no different from unvaccinated and infected individuals. (1,2,3). Daily data in Saskatchewan confirms this phenomenon - we see high numbers of breakthrough cases every day and current statistics show that more than 20% of covid-19 hospitalizations are in fully vaccinated individuals.
2. Vaccine mandates will not prevent the collapse of a healthcare system. The most effective way to protect a healthcare system is through the adequate provision of resources and personnel, and that will not be achieved through coercion, division and restrictions. Furthermore, the provision of resources must coincide with the reality of the system's needs. Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated problems that already existed in our healthcare system. In fact, 2020 and 2021 are the first

years in the last several that we did not have “hallway patients” in our hospitals. And the data in the latest Saskatchewan Health Authority annual report actually indicates fewer hospital and ICU admissions between April 2020-March 2021 than in the previous year of 2019-2020 when Covid-19 was not circulating (4).

3. The unvaccinated public should not be blamed for systemic failures and the lack of government planning. Instead, we urgently need to examine real solutions for improving our system capacity during this pandemic and beyond.
4. The province must recognize that tens of thousands of recovered covid-19 patients already have acquired superior natural immunity to the virus. Historically, the scientific community has recognized natural immunity as longer lasting and more robust than vaccine immunity. Indeed, a recent study out of Israel shows vaccinated individuals were 6-13 times more likely to become infected than individuals who had recovered from Covid-19 but did not have any doses of a vaccine (5).

Broad antibody and memory cell responses are found in people with prior SARS-CoV-2 infections (6). It follows that the many healthcare workers who have recovered from covid-19 are in fact less likely to transmit the virus to fellow workers and patients than vaccinated individuals. This fact must be taken into account in all government policy decisions concerning vaccination requirements. Failure to do so is anti-science, arbitrary and discriminatory.

5. Our healthcare system is already struggling to provide sufficient service to the public. We cannot afford to lose a single healthcare worker to these mandates. These staff members have worked tirelessly through the pandemic for the last 19 months and they should not be considered dispensable simply because they are making a personal medical choice. Furthermore, this discrimination leads to an obvious exacerbation of personnel shortages.
6. The vaccines are already showing signs of waning efficacy with the delta variant. In August 2021, 40% of covid-19 deaths in Saskatchewan were fully vaccinated individuals and on any given day, approximately 15% of new cases are fully vaccinated individuals. As Israel was the first country to achieve high vaccination rates, their data can help us predict how the vaccines will perform in the coming months. Unfortunately, their data shows that in Israel the majority of Covid-19 hospitalizations are in fully vaccinated individuals (7).

Recent studies put the efficacy rate of the vaccines in preventing infection below the 50% cut off criteria that would be required for an emergency use authorization (8). Of greater concern is the fact that vaccines which reduce symptoms in the host but do not prevent transmission are what leads to more virulent variants. This has been the reality since the vaccine campaign started all around the world (10,11).

7. As with any injection, these vaccines carry risks that individuals should be free to weigh for themselves. Health Canada has warning labels on these vaccines for anaphylaxis, myocarditis, pericarditis, capillary leak syndrome, thrombosis, thrombocytopenia and neurological events such as Bell's Palsy and Guillain-Barré Syndrome. There have been deaths attributed to these vaccines. We have absolutely no data on long term effects. And these vaccines differ significantly from traditional vaccines in that they are using novel mRNA technology. We cannot assume that all side effects will show up in the typical timeline of other vaccines. It takes significant time to establish cause and effect, and this is part of the reason that vaccines traditionally take years to develop.
8. According to Pfizer's own criteria for clinical trials, the current investigational vaccine for SARS-Cov-2 is in Phase 3 which typically lasts for 1-4 years (12). According to Pfizer's own documentation for their SARS-Cov-2 vaccine: the effects on human fertility are not known (Part 1:7), safety and efficacy have not been established in pregnant women (Part 1:7.1.1) and risks to newborns and infants who are being breastfed cannot be excluded (Part1:7.1.2)(13). Do not forget the tragic side effects and permanent harm to thousands of babies around the world from a medication touted as safe and effective that was aggressively marketed: thalidomide (14).
9. When using vaccines whose long term effects are unknown, it is imperative to protect those who would benefit least from the vaccine from the potential risks associated with that vaccine. Children under the age of 18 have the lowest risk for serious disease and are often asymptomatic (15,16). Positive PCR tests do not give any indication of the severity of the illness.

Vaccine mandates violate Charter and human rights and create divisions in our society. Our legal team believes that vaccine mandates violate section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - "the right to life, liberty and the security of the person" as well as section 2 "freedom of conscience and religion" (18). When asked about vaccine passports, Saskatchewan's own SHA CEO Scott Livingstone was quoted on June 30, 2021 "Even giving your health card number is personal health information. Banks are not allowed to ask for your health card number and nobody else is for a form of ID. It is personal information, and so is vaccination status."(19)

Coercive vaccine mandates are divisive and are not grounded in scientific evidence. They have significantly eroded public trust in government and the healthcare system. Mandates divide communities. Vilifying the unvaccinated is not an effective or ethical public health measure. We call on our authorities to immediately rescind vaccination mandates, and return to the ethical delivery of medicine founded on the free and informed consent of the patient.

Sincerely,

A group of doctors, nurses and health care workers from all areas of medicine throughout Saskatchewan. Due to the recent unlawful persecution of doctors many of our members feel forced to sign anonymously for the present time. Some of our members will sign as individuals.

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