

Commissioners Play Politics with COVID

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 12.02.21

On November 15, in a shockingly irresponsible decision driven by partisan politics, Brunswick County's Commissioners hypocritically [rejected](#) the COVID vaccine mandate for businesses with over 100 employees.

It's shocking because they expect us to believe it's about "personal choice" when [Brunswick County](#) already mandates that children enrolling in kindergarten receive [27 doses of vaccine against 11 different diseases](#), like diphtheria, polio, and rubella. Brunswick County mandates vaccination because it understands that keeping kids from infecting each other is too important to leave to personal choice.

It's irresponsible because their action is perfectly timed to help COVID come roaring back with kids in classrooms and folks spending more time indoors. [North Carolina](#) is well below the national vaccination rate, and averages [23.1 deaths/day](#). Brunswick County has suffered [16,771 COVID cases and 245 deaths](#). The Commissioners' reckless decision will cause more unnecessary suffering and death.

It's political because [the Commissioners](#) accuse President Biden of "overreach" even while [acknowledging](#) that President Biden [protects personal freedom](#) by allowing individuals to opt out of vaccination by getting tested instead. Brunswick County does not allow students or their parents the same freedom.

It's hypocritical because, as COVID was raging, Brunswick County implemented an entirely [new vaccine mandate](#). On [August 1, 2020](#), Brunswick County [mandated](#) that 17-year-old students receive booster shots of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV). About 3,000 Americans get [meningococcal disease](#) annually, causing 300 deaths. In contrast, [48 million Americans](#) have gotten COVID, and [773,106 have died](#).

The Commissioners didn't object to the MCV mandate, although comparatively few lives were at stake. Their fake outrage over the COVID vaccine mandate is cynically calculated to score political points at the risk of public health.

How dare they masquerade as public servants while giving COVID a chance to destroy more lives?

Vince Amoroso
Sunset Beach