



## **Board of County Commissioners**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: November 17, 2021**

### **Hunterdon Commissioners Call For RVCC Trustees To Hold Hearing On College Administration Vaccine Mandate**

Hunterdon County's Board of Commissioners, at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Commissioners' meeting, have called for the Raritan Valley Community College's Board of Trustees to hold a public hearing and vote on the college's vaccination mandate for students that was implemented by the RVCC Administration without Board approval, and to hold off on implementing the policy until it has Board of Trustees approval.

Hunterdon Board of Commissioners Deputy Director John E. Lanza stated, "The college has required all students to show documentation of being vaccinated in order to register for in person classes next spring semester. We are surprised to learn, however, that the college's Board of Trustees has not held a public hearing and has not voted on this policy.

The faculty, students, parents of students and other interested parties have not had the opportunity to weigh in on this policy. That is wrong."

Lanza noted, "I am vaccinated and encourage every adult who can be vaccinated to do so. But whether you support vaccinations or not, I think everyone who understands the process of developing public policy should be concerned that the governing board of the college has not granted approval of the policy."

Lanza added, "One option the Board of Trustees should consider implementing for students is the policy Governor Phil Murphy has instituted for teachers, either vaccination or periodic testing. The public deserves a discussion on all options by the Trustees."

The Hunterdon Board of Commissioners approved Lanza's motion calling on the RVCC Board of Trustees to consider the vaccination mandate in a public setting, with all interested and affected parties having the opportunity to be heard on the matter, and to allow students the right to register for the spring semester if they are not vaccinated, until the policy is officially considered by the Board of Trustees.

Lanza also called for a communication to be directed to the Somerset Board of Commissioners, which jointly funds the college with Hunterdon County, to join Hunterdon in calling for the Board of Trustees to publicly consider the vaccination mandate.