



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of the Secretary

August 6, 2021

**SENT VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL**

Dr. William F. Tate, President  
Louisiana State University (LSU)  
3810 West Lakeshore Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

Dear Dr. Tate:

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) acknowledges receipt of your August 6, 2021, correspondence and appreciates the efforts that your system has undertaken to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 in your universities and communities. The LDH agrees that vaccination is the most effective tool in preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and deaths.

As you correctly point out, La. R.S. 17:170 clearly provides that an educational institution may, with the approval of the Office of Public Health (OPH), require immunizations, or proof of immunity, more extensive than required by the immunization schedule approved by OPH. In the correspondence mentioned above, Louisiana State University (LSU), which includes several individual educational institutions under its umbrella, has sought OPH approval to add COVID-19 immunizations to LSU's immunization schedule upon full FDA approval of the respective vaccine. This requirement would apply to entering and continuing students.

Pursuant to the applicable statute, OPH grants approval of your request to be more extensive with your vaccination requirements than the current approved OPH immunization schedule while still being supported by current CDC requirements. Specifically, this would apply to the individual institutions within your system as follows:

1. Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College
2. Louisiana State University of Agricultural Center
3. Louisiana State University of Alexandria
4. Louisiana State University at Eunice
5. Louisiana State University Shreveport
6. LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans
7. LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport
8. Pennington Biomedical Research Center

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In granting this approval, we would remind you of the applicable exemptions contained in the statute, of which you are already aware. Finally, this approval should not be interpreted as a legal opinion as to the legality of any action taken in this regard. With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Kanter, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joseph Kanter, M.D.  
State Health Officer and Medical Director

JK/csp

cc: Dr. Courtney N. Phillips, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health  
Dr. Kimberly Hood, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Public Health  
Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana's Commissioner of Higher Education  
Stephen Russo, Esq., Executive Counsel for the Louisiana Department of Health  
Matthew Block, Esq., Executive Counsel for Governor John Bel Edwards  
Robert Dampf, Chairman, Board of Supervisors of LSU