

September 8, 2021

Dear colleagues:

With deep sadness I read your signed letter asking for the mandatory masking, vaccination, and send to home order for everybody. I love you all, please, do not mask me and your students but love us. I understand your fears. I am a liver transplant recipient. The virus that you fear is more likely to kill me than you. Be scare of the virus but not of your students and colleagues. Be scare of the virus but not of living a healthy, happy, and productive live.

You cannot educate who you fear but who you love. Do not mask your students but love them. Please, protect yourself from the virus but mingle with us. Vaccination is available for every adult. Vaccines work relatively well (at least this is what I listen). Fortunately, this virus is less dangerous for children than the common flu (this is a fact). I trust your good judgement for protecting you and your family from the virus. In return, I ask you to trust our capacity for protecting us and our loved ones. We know more about our fields of expertise than our students, but their young immune systems are very strong, and they know it. Anyway, vaccines are available for every adult including our students. Please, do not ask me to protect from you and my students. I love you all and I love my students. This is what masking means: mask your fears of us. Do not mask your students but love them!

Fear is not a good counsellor. It seems to me that advised by fear, you picked and chose the adequate facts for justifying your wish to isolate yourself from humanity. For instance, you did not mention at all how many of our students that we sent to home last year already contracted, and recuperated from, the “sickness.” Do you care about their natural immunity? It is at least as good as the acquired by vaccination (this is also a fact). You conveniently mention the CDC and the Scientific Method for supporting your point of view. However, the “Science” is not the priest but the congregation. The necessary bureaucracy of the science is not the science. The scientific method implies discussion and contrasting opinions. Moreover, like our students, neither must of the signatories of the letter nor me are expert in the “sickness.” Like our students, we listen the opinion of the “experts” that are available to us, and we then use our best judgments for protecting ourselves and our loved ones.

Nobody can protect you and your family better than yourself. Nobody can protect me and my loved ones better than myself. My immune system is compromised; consequently, I already got three shots of Moderna...but due to my right to the confidentiality of my medical records and my unrestricted love for freedom, I will not show any probe of vaccination to anybody. I do not want to be criticized because I am vaccinated. Consequently, I will not hold a bad judgement for anyone who believe that his body, if infected, has a good chance of beating the virus. A long time ago, I decided to enjoy the freedom that this wonderful country gave to me and my family...and no fear will stop me for continue doing this!

Dear colleagues, respectfully, I disagree with you. To be alive is always risky. The best way to mitigate the risks associate to being alive is allowing everybody to exercise their freedoms. Our students are young, but they are as clever as the smartest of us. Trust them if you want to be trusted. Advise them but also listen to them. We all are equals partners in matters of how to live our lives. Remember, here we do not run to hide when things get complicated. We live in the land of the free and the home of the braves!

Regards,

Luis

A simple human being, also:



Dr. Luis Grave de Peralta, Ph. D.
Full Professor
Department of Physics and Astronomy
Texas Tech University
Email: luis.grave-de-peralta@ttu.edu
URL: www.luisgrave.com