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3 Title: MSMS Efforts to Mitigate the COVID-19 Pandemic
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5 Introduced by: James Mitchiner, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation
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7 Original Author: James Mitchiner, MD
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9 Referred To: Reference Committee D
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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**
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14 Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic is now entering its third year, with more than 2.3 million
15 cases in Michigan and 34,000 COVID-related deaths reported to date, and
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17 Whereas, efforts to reduce the spread of COVID by government, industry, academic
18 institutions, health systems, public health departments, and school districts are ongoing and well-
19 publicized, and
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21 Whereas, multiple studies have proven the value of COVID vaccinations to protect the
22 public in general, and at-risk populations in particular, from hospitalizations and mortality related
23 to COVID, and
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25 Whereas, multiple medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, the
26 American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy
27 of Family Physicians, among others, have issued public statements supporting mandatory
28 vaccinations for health care workers, and
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30 Whereas, there are multiple reports of irresponsible physicians disseminating
31 misinformation and disinformation through public speeches and social media, about the alleged
32 dangers of vaccinations and the ineffectiveness of masking, and touting so-called "therapies"
33 against COVID, in the absence of peer-reviewed scientific data to support their opinions, and
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35 Whereas, MSMS's efforts to combat COVID to date have been lukewarm at best, with no
36 known town halls, press conferences, public service announcements, or published opinions
37 promoting mandatory health care worker vaccinations or castigating physicians who promote
38 unscientific recommendations; therefore be it
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40 RESOLVED: That MSMS takes a more assertive position in favor of requiring COVID-19
41 vaccinations for health care workers (with legitimate exceptions), using all available public mediums
42 to do so.
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45 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000-\$2,000 for new MSMS policy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

"Our fight against COVID-19 and its effects continues. Many have been vaccinated, and we have made great progress bringing life back to the way it was early last year. Still, COVID is not gone. In fact, it is changing and spreading and right now infecting an increasing number of people who, in most cases, have yet to be vaccinated.

As we have throughout this pandemic, Michigan physicians stand with our colleagues throughout our state's health and hospital systems, and we support their efforts to protect their staff and patients by requiring health system staff to be vaccinated.

The vaccine is safe, it works, and is needed to protect both patients and vital medical staff." – MSMS Board, July 2021

Relevant AMA Policy:

"We stand with the growing number of experts and institutions that support the requirement for universal vaccination of health workers. While we recognize some workers cannot be vaccinated because of identified medical reasons and should be exempted from a mandate, they constitute a small minority of all workers. Employers should consider any applicable state laws on a case-by-case basis." – July 2021, AMA Press Release

Sources:

1. Morse S (editor). AMA urges Supreme Court to uphold vaccination mandates. Healthcare Finance (January 3, 2022). <https://www.healthcarefinancenews.com/news/ama-urges-supreme-court-uphold-vaccination-mandates>.
2. American College of Physicians, et al. Joint statement in support of COVID-19 vaccine mandates for all workers in health and long-term care. Joint Statement in Support of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates for All Workers in Health and Long-Term Care (acponline.org)
3. Rubin R. When physicians spread unscientific information about COVID-19. JAMA. Published online February 16, 2022. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.1083