

From: [McDow Rose Anne](#)
To: SOMALL-L@LISTSERV.TULANE.EDU
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 1:51:48 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Sent on behalf of Dr. Robert Lynch



Dear Tulane Health System colleagues,

I am certain that all of us have heard the encouraging news about two COVID-19 vaccines being highly effective and safe. If all goes as planned, we will most likely see hospital workers offered the vaccine potentially as early as next month.

Being vaccinated won't immediately end masking and PPE use, even though it will confer a higher degree of protection to our staff. The real benefit of the vaccine, though, will come not from preventing spread in the hospital. We have shown that properly used, PPE does that. The real gain of the vaccine is in preventing infections in the community – which unfortunately is where most healthcare workers are acquiring the disease now. In Kansas City, where the disease is surging, one of our sister hospitals has dozens of employees who can't work due to COVID-19 acquired outside of the hospital, or because they are quarantined as a result of exposure. This is obviously compounding their ability to deal with the surge. Effective vaccines could largely prevent such a situation.

As for the pandemic itself, things won't return to normal until the majority of the population has acquired immunity through infection or vaccination. Effective vaccines should drastically shorten that time and profoundly reduce all the mortality, morbidity, and lost productivity which would result from relying on infections to produce immunity.

If we rely on infections to do it, at least 200 million Americans will need to have been infected and recover. How long will that take and at what cost?

Let me be clear – the vaccine will be completely voluntary. No one will be required to take a COVID-19 vaccination. But I will take the vaccine not only for my own safety,

but also to hasten the end of the pandemic and all the damage the shutdowns are doing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Lynch
CEO
Tulane Health System

Rose Anne McDow

Rose Anne McDow, CPCS, CPMSM
Director, Medical Staff Services
Tulane Health System

RoseAnne.McDow@HCAHealthcare.com

Lakeview Regional Medical Center
A Campus of Tulane Health System
95 Judge Tanner Boulevard
Covington, Louisiana 70433

Office: (985)867-4076
Fax: (985)867-4020
Cell: (985)264-0037

Tulane University Medical Center
1415 Tulane Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Office: (504)988-4257
Fax: (504)988-2211
Cell: (985)264-0037



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