

My name is Alison Fujito. I have been a violinist with the Pittsburgh Symphony for 34 years.

I requested a medical exemption from their vaccine mandate, based on my medical history, and I provided a letter from a doctor approved by my employer, the letter was accepted — but my employer stated that they could not find a way to allow me on stage without "endangering my vaccinated colleagues."

My offer to mask and to test weekly was rejected by my employer, in spite of President Biden's directive to require vaccination OR weekly testing.

I am to be placed on unpaid administrative leave, with no benefits, with termination as the end result if I remain unvaccinated. (Ironically, I can then buy a ticket and sit in the front row as an audience member, as long as I provide a negative test.)

Meanwhile, last week, members of a visiting dance troupe were permitted to rehearse and perform unmasked with the Pittsburgh Symphony, because they had passed a PCR test — an option that is denied to me even *with* a mask.

On August 6, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky stated on CNN that COVID vaccines cannot prevent infection, nor prevent the vaccinated individual from transmitting the virus[1]. A recent study from University of Oxford found that vaccinated individuals carry just as high a viral load with the Delta variant as unvaccinated individuals [2].

So far, 8 fully-vaccinated members of the Pittsburgh Penguins (Guentzel/Aston-Reese/Malin/Carter/Rust/LeTang/Crosby/Dumoulin) plus their coach (Mike Sullivan) have recently tested positive for COVID-19. That's 8 out of 23 team members, all fully-vaccinated. They have been infected. I have not, but I'm the one who stands to lose my job.

Last month, the CDC listed on their website 30,270 Covid hospitalizations, and 10,857 Covid deaths, *all fully-vaccinated*. The CDC does not track asymptomatic, mild, or even moderately severe cases, leaving us to wonder how many cases have been spread by fully-vaccinated individuals.

If this is about health and preventing viral spread, then we should simply be testing everyone, vaccinated or not.

Instead, we are ignoring 2 crucial tenets of basic medical ethics:

1. "First, do no harm."

Do not do "just a little" harm, do not do an amount of harm that somebody rubber-stamped as "acceptable," and above all, do not do harm to some people in order to make other people feel protected. First, do **NO HARM**.

2. Secondly, Article 6 of UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights states:

*"Any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned.. The consent... may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without disadvantage or prejudice."*

And perhaps most relevant of all:

*"In no case should a collective community agreement or the consent of a community leader or other authority substitute for an individual's informed consent."* [3]

These cornerstones of human rights and basic medical ethics are now being violated on a population-wide level.

I beg the Pennsylvania legislature to put a stop to these unreasonable and destructive measures that are not based on settled science. We are now living in a caste system based on a one-size-fits-all pharmaceutical treatment for which there is no accountability or liability anywhere when things go wrong.[4]

Thank you for hearing me.

Sincerely,  
Alison Fujito  
Violinist, Pittsburgh Symphony

[1] <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/05/health/us-coronavirus-thursday/index.html>

[2] <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34650248/>

[3] [http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=31058&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=31058&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

[4] <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/covid-vaccine-injury-claims-mount-recourse-is-lacking-those-harmed-2021-10-19/>