**From:** Erin

**To:** DPH-Testimony, Reg (DPH)

**Subject:** 105 CMR 130, Hospital Licensure-Vaccination Requirements

**Date:** Tuesday, August 1, 2023 4:52:34 PM

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I apologize this was sent via email, I do not have access to word.

I went out of work on a stress leave in mid-late January and went back to work April 1.

I was having facial reactions to the hospital provided face masks that consisted of facial contact dermatitis, facial swelling and eczema on my eye lids. My facial reactions started in mid-October 2021. I was prescribed two rounds of steroids and followed up with an allergist. The allergist was unable to find the cause of my contact dermatitis, labeling it as etiology unknown. I followed up with Occupational health through work. They gave me hypoallergenic face masks that I still had the same reactions to. My PCP, nor the allergist, nor the dermatologist nor the epidemiologist from the MA dept of health could say whether there was or was not a correlation to the facial issues I was having and the two doses of Moderna that I had received in Jan and Feb 2021. None of the above individuals could say whether the facial condition I was experiencing would or would not worsen after receiving the booster. If the facial condition I was experiencing worsened I would not be able to wear a mask and would not be able to work as a bedside nurse. I was notified in January 2022 that I was mandated to receive the booster by March first or I would be terminated. I submitted my PCP written medical exemption which was denied by the faceless and nameless hospital panel. Of note, I had an elevated Antinuclear antibody test (ANA) at this time which is an indicator of an inflammatory response. I was uncomfortable adding anything into my system with the current issues that I was having. I had Covid in December and had antibodies which was confirmed by blood work. While out on leave I continued to email the panel to please review my request and approve my exemption submitting the Pfizer adverse events documentation which had contact dermatitis listed as an adverse event. I also explained that the covid vaccine and boosters did not prevent contraction and did not prevent transmission of the covid 19 virus so it was unclear to me how mandating the vaccine was safer for patients that staff were caring for. I had been denied a medical exemption 3 times and was deferred to receiving the booster until June 30 and was informed my exemption would not be approved. Interestingly the individuals who received the first 2 doses of the covid 19 vaccine before August 2021 had to receive the booster by March 2022. The individuals who received the first doses of the covid vaccine after August 2022 had to receive the booster by June 2022. How was it acceptable that I cared for patients during this time without a problem and patients were safe yet I would not be allowed to continue caring for patients after this deadline I was given because it would be unsafe for me to care for patients without a booster even though one was still contagious with

covid-19 after receiving the booster. I left my job as a bedside nurse where I worked for

13 years because of the vaccine mandates. I am also the benefit provider for my husband and two young children. I ask that there not be mandates for Covid-19 vaccines.

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