

**Director of Health Services
General Counsel
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881**

January 17, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am seeking public records¹ under the Access to Public Records Act, R.I.G.L. 38-2-1 *et seq.* If you are not the appropriate individual to handle this request, please forward this letter to the appropriate person and notify me thereof, or direct me to whom I should address this request.

A recent request was made of the University under the above-cited statute to obtain the data listed in Item 1 below. The response to the request was wholly inadequate. In the context of the academic research requiring the requested data, the doctor performing the research was able to obtain the very same information from the University of Connecticut in a matter of days by request. In the case of the University of Massachusetts, that institution publishes those data on a website for the public to review. The tracking and aggregation of these data are critical in the crafting of scientifically sound health policy.

In my time in the legislature, we have enabled the division of URI from the post-secondary education system of our state in order to support the vision of creating a world-class flagship university in the northeast region. We have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the university in pursuit of this worthy goal. Yet we were unable to even keep pace with our contemporary states' own universities. This cannot stand.

- 1) Any and all data that would show simple, deidentified raw number tallies comparing students hospitalized for covid-19 lower respiratory tract infection (i.e., pneumonia, bronchiolitis, bronchitis), vs. those hospitalized for serious adverse events after covid-19 vaccination, in particular, myopericarditis in young men, or anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) in either young men or women. To the extent that the University or its health services may not maintain records responsive to this request, this request shall further include data pertaining to absences of students related to COVID-19 infections or post-COVID vaccination complications, or any other data collected through any other means, that would enable the University to determine the number of students affected. The time period for this data under this request is March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022.**

- 2) Should the University not track this data, please provide me with the name and contact information of the entity that would maintain the data requested in item 1 above.**

¹ RIGL 38-2-2(4) defines "Public record" as "all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data processing records, computer stored data (including electronic mail messages, except specifically for any electronic mail messages of or to elected officials with or relating to those they represent and correspondence of or to elected officials in their official capacities), or other material regardless of physical form or characteristics made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency."

- 3) In the event that there is no formal tracking of this data, please provide my office with a comprehensive breakdown of the following:**
- a. What data are being used to craft masking and vaccination policy at the University of RI.**
 - b. Who, or which body makes the decisions regarding public health policy involving masking and vaccinations?**
 - c. What is the source of the data referenced in Item 3(a)?**

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 38-2-3(b), please specify any and all information, documents, or portions thereof, that you believe to be non-public, as well as the basis for that determination.

Furthermore, pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 38-2-3(k), I elect to receive these records via email at mike@repchip.com. I understand there may be a cost associated with retrieving and copying these documents. Please provide me with an estimated list of fees if it is expected to exceed \$10.00 and contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this request. I look forward to receiving these documents within ten business days.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael W. Chippendale

House Minority Leader
Rhode Island House of Representatives
(401) 497-4495
82 Smith Street
Providence RI 02903

CC: Daniel P. Reilly, Esq.
Counsel to the Minority Leader