

Does your college require a COVID shot to return this fall? It mostly depends if you are in a red or blue state

More than 500 colleges and universities plan to require coronavirus vaccination for at least some of their students and employees, according to data as of [June 22] from [the Chronicle of Higher Education](#) ... The vast majority of vaccine-mandate schools are in states President Biden carried in last year's election, reflecting a deep red-blue divide. Some mandates only apply to students in campus housing.

Decisions about vaccine requirements are [shot through with politics](#). In emails obtained through public record requests, officials at public universities in Republican-led states acknowledge the sensitivity of the issue.

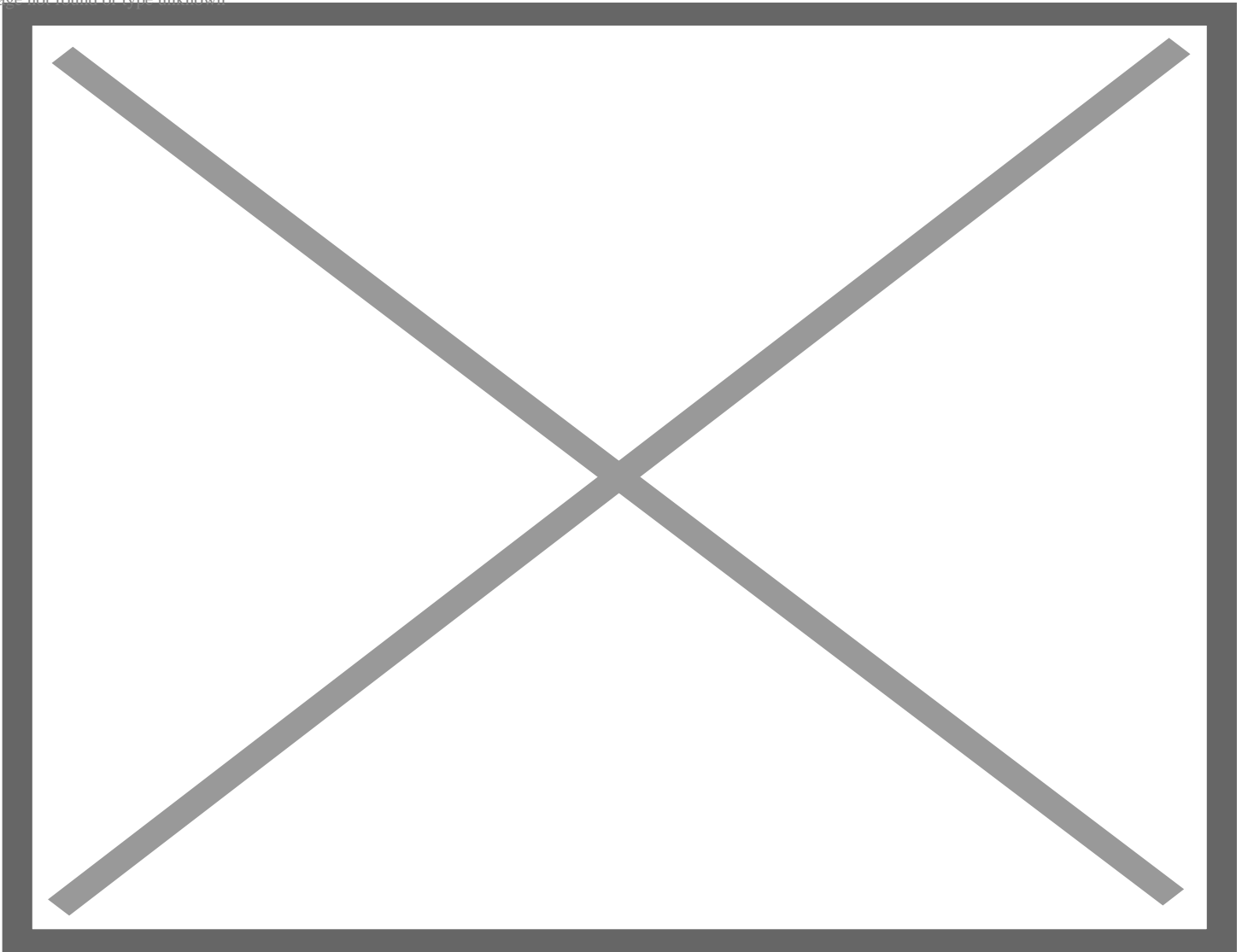
After the private University of Notre Dame in Indiana adopted a mandate in April, Daniel J. Pugh Sr., then vice president for student affairs at Texas A&M University, wrote in an email: "You could move Notre Dame to Texas ... that might reverse your decision."

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At Ohio State University, another public flagship in a Republican-led state, there is no vaccine mandate. But there will be pop-up vaccination clinics in dormitories and perhaps vaccine-incentive raffles of free football tickets. "We decided together that we're going to look at this not through a political lens, we're going to look at it through a public health lens," said Ohio State President Kristina M. Johnson.

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