

To the Editor:

Ohio State seldom misses an opportunity to enunciate a slogan or imitate another institution's actions, no matter how good, bad, or irrelevant. The university is at it again with its just-announced mini-giveaway for vaccinated students, faculty, and staff.

In a pale imitation of the DeWine administration's attention-getting but failed VAX-A-MILLION lottery, Ohio State allocates \$50,000 to make 100 awards consisting of gift cards and tickets to football games. That's 100 awards for a population, potentially, of 65,000 students and more than 20,000 faculty and staff.

Ohio State follows the state's poor policy of making all vaccinated persons eligible instead of creating an incentive, however small, specifically targeted at the unvaccinated. In other states, free pizza and beer serve as cost-efficient incentives at least as effective as million-dollar lotteries, according to national research.

The institution also fails by not mandating vaccinations for the fall semester. Rutgers was the first public university to do so, and each week another one or two Big Ten universities follow. Indiana University has twice defended its policy in court. There is no doubt that mandates are legal. President Johnson's failure to act is inexplicable and dangerous.

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