AMENDED STATEMENT

George Mason University has not entered into any settlement with Professor Todd Zywicki. Any public reports to the contrary are false.

Also contrary to public reports, Mason has never given, and does not plan to give, any employee or student an exemption from the vaccine requirement because they claim immunity from COVID based on previously having COVID or having a COVID antibody test showing the presence of COVID antibodies. Granting such an exemption would not be consistent with current medical science or public health guidance.

Due to state privacy laws regarding personnel information and health information, Mason cannot comment on individual employees' exemption status. Mason's medical personnel review each request for medical exemptions, make a decision based on the individual's medical information, and provide responses within a week of the request being submitted.

CDC guidance states that individuals "should be vaccinated regardless of whether [they] already had COVID-19." CDC guidance also states that antibody testing "is not recommended for the purposes of vaccine decision-making," and FDA guidance states that a "[a] positive antibody test does not necessarily mean you are immune from SARS-CoV-2 infection . . . [and] does not indicate whether you can infect other people with SARS-CoV-2." The FDA also has explained that "currently authorized SARS-CoV-2 antibody tests should not be used to evaluate a person's level of immunity or protection from COVID-19 at any time."

Professor Zywicki has been treated the same as any other Mason employee and is required to comply with all Mason policies regarding vaccination, testing, face coverings, physical distancing, and other COVID safety precautions. His litigation had no impact on the consideration of his request for a medical exemption from the vaccination requirement.

Mason encourages everyone, including those who previously had COVID-19, to get vaccinated, and will continue to take the steps necessary to protect the Mason community from COVID.