

Vaccination has gained top position in terms of effective public health intervention, and millions of deaths have been prevented. Nevertheless, with the proposal of vaccine mandates, especially in the context of COVID-19, the ethical concern related to the question of individual freedom, governmental power, and societal accountability has somewhat reemerged. Even though vaccination is generally recognized as health-positive, mandatory vaccination raises the issue of coercion and integrity. Mandatory vaccination is ethically justified, however, only in the presence of a serious threat to the health of the population, the effectiveness of vaccinations is confirmed, voluntary efforts have not produced sufficient outcomes, and the mandates are balanced, focused, and deferential to personal autonomy. Compulsory vaccination may be ethically acceptable provided that the need to safeguard the health of the population exists, as well as compulsory means are reasonable and supported by evidence. State interventions to curb individual liberty are legitimate in the ethical context of public health to restrict the harm caused to others; hence, the harm principle permits the regulation of severe harm, especially during highly transmissible epidemics. (2022) proves that requiring people at the greatest exposure to serious illnesses to be vaccinated is ethically justifiable since immunization not only saves people but also alleviates the burden on the healthcare system. As a result, such mandates do not have to be universal to be justified; specific, mediated policies offer more appropriate solutions to ethical practice with respect to the autonomy of the public health profession. The second ethical rationale of compulsory vaccination is the need to support vulnerable people and uphold the integrity of the healthcare system. Ethical public health policy considers the greater good, particularly in circumstances where voluntary vaccination does not reach the

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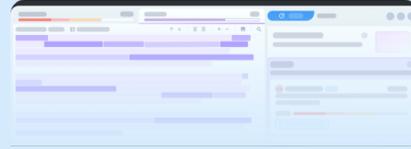
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