Not Truly Free: Mandatory Vaccination

When vaccines were introduced to American citizens they were questioned, but eventually accepted. Now it is known that vaccines cause serious allergic reactions, neurological disorders, and even death. Parents and individuals are beginning to doubt the benefit of vaccinations. The safety and rights of individuals must be considered before mandating vaccination. To vaccinate or not to vaccinate should be the informed choice of an individual, not a government mandate.

Every individual has his/her own personal genetic make-up which co-governs health and bodily functions. Some people are at higher risk of being injured by vaccines because of their genetic make-up. The “one size fits all” mentality of the vaccine industry is dangerous and unjust because people who are more susceptible to vaccine injuries are put at a greater risk. According to Dawn Richardson in her *C.Q. Researcher* article, there are definitely children who have a “greater biological risk” to have an adverse reaction from a vaccine (n. pag.). If the differences in individuals are not taken into account, more and more children have the likelihood of being injured or killed by vaccines.

The health of babies and children needs to be carefully protected and maintained. Dr. Patrick Quarten, M.D., United Kingdom independent health advisor, in Gary Null’s *Vaccine Nation*, states that vaccines bypass a baby’s immune system and assault the baby’s health “by the back door” (n. pag.). A person’s immune system’s function is to protect that person from disease and
sickness. Vaccines do not give the immune system the time to fight a disease and build an immunity to that disease. When vaccines are mandated, there is no consideration for the effect those vaccines may have on the individual immune systems of the babies, children, and adults who will be vaccinated.

Under “Frequently Asked Questions” on the National Vaccine Information Center it states that, “. . .There is no scientific evidence that a baby’s immune system is fully developed. . .and/or can handle. . .vaccines. . .Studies evaluating the health of infants and children given. . .[the] current federal recommendation [of vaccines], have never been conducted” (n. pag.). If these studies are not done how will people ever know how vaccines really affect children and individuals? Parents must be informed about vaccine reactions. Children’s health has been played and experimented with for too long. This must stop. In her book, Vaccines, Autism & Chronic Inflammation: The New Epidemic, Barbara Loe Fisher writes that a detailed medical history of the individual and of the individual’s family reaching as far as the extended family, not just the individual’s parents and siblings, should be conducted before vaccinating (117). There is much to consider when vaccinating a child. The “one size fits all” mentality does not allow room for this consideration.

Consideration also needs to be made for the lethal and very harmful components vaccines contain. Vaccines should not be mandated; it should be a person’s choice whether or not he/she wants those hurtful substances injected into him/herself or their children. Mercury, which is used as a preservative in vaccines, has been controversial. According to the “Frequently Asked Questions” of the National Vaccine Information Center, trace amounts of mercury are still used in some vaccines “in the form of thimerosal” and that the influenza vaccine in particular contains thimerosal (n. pag.). Mercury is a very hazardous chemical which should not be put into a
person’s body unless it is with that person’s informed consent. Mercury is only one of the dangerous components vaccines contain.

There are numerous harmful components in vaccines. The “Patient Information on Gardasil” clearly states that the Gardasil vaccine contains sodium borate (n. pag.). Sodium borate is toxic and is often used in roach killers. “Gardasil and HPV Infection” of the National Vaccine Information Center shows that girls and young women have either died or been permanently injured after receiving the Gardasil vaccine (n. pag.). Parents and individuals considering vaccination should be made aware of vaccine components so that they can make an informed decision. There are certain components in vaccines, which are not harmful unless a large amount enters the body. The body receives plenty of these said components in various ways and should not be receiving more through vaccines. The dangerous components in vaccines are yet another reason why vaccination should be the informed choice of an individual and not a mandate.

Some vaccine components and the use of vaccines in general go against certain religious beliefs and members of those religions should not be forced to do something against their faith. In her article, “Mandating a Human Papillomavirus Vaccine: An Investigation into Whether Such Legislation is Constitutional and Prudent”, Tracy Solomon writes, “A State’s interest in protecting public health is balanced against medical considerations, personal autonomy, parental rights, and religious and personal philosophy of the individual” (n. pag.). Religious rights need to be considered and vaccination should be a free choice, not a mandate.

People can obtain religious exemptions from vaccines in most of America, but they can be difficult to obtain in some places. It is a serious injustice when a government forces its people to perform actions or make statements which go against their religious beliefs. American citizens’ religious beliefs are protected by the First Amendment which is published on Find Law under
“First Amendment – Religion and Expression”, it reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. . .” (n. pag.). The government should not take away individual rights through vaccine mandates. It is hostile to the very foundation upon which America is built. Americans cannot just stand by and let their rights be taken away. The government’s vaccination policies should be based on informed consent and not be an attack on American citizens’ rights.

Forcing individuals to vaccinate goes against American citizens’ rights, especially since all other healthcare is optional. In her book Fisher writes,

The right to informed consent to any medical procedure that carries a risk of injury or death, including vaccination, is a human right. The right to make an informed, voluntary decision about what you are willing to risk your life or your child’s life for is at the very heart of what it means to be free in a democratic society that values the life of each individual (111).

Fisher clearly shows why a vaccination mandate is against American rights and culture. How can a country call itself free if it forces unsafe procedures upon its people without their consent, approval, or even knowledge? The American people need to be made aware of the dangers of vaccines and not allow their children to be subjected to this treatment if they believe it is unsafe or wrong for that child.

When people are made aware of vaccine dangers and risks, they can then make an informed choice whether or not they wish to vaccinate. The basic rights of a human being are endangered when chancy medical procedures are performed on people against their will. George J. Annas in his article, “Mandatory Shots for Flu?; NO: The Practice of Medicine and Nursing Must Be Based on Informed Choice.”, states that the medical practice is built “on informed choice” (n. pag.). An informed choice is not a forced injection. It is very frightening that the American
people are allowing the government to take away their freedoms in such subtle yet significant ways.

The government requires vaccines based on herd immunity. They believe, as do the vaccine creators, that if every individual is vaccinated, even if the vaccines do not work for all, enough people will be immune to diseases and therefore keep the population safe. They say that vaccines should be mandated for the greater good. The reason they require vaccines for diseases which are very scarce or “dead” is that these diseases could always return and that vaccines will prevent a renewal or outbreak. Gail H. Javitt et al in their article, “Assessing Mandatory HPV Vaccination: Who Should Call the Shots?”, write,

The theory of herd immunity, in which the protective effects of vaccines extends beyond the vaccinated individual to others in the population, is the driving force behind mass immunization programs. Herd immunity theory proposes that, in diseases passed from person to person, it is difficult to maintain a chain of infections when large numbers of a population are immune. With the increase in number of immune individuals present in a population, the lower the likelihood that a susceptible person will come into contact with an infected individual. There is not threshold value above which herd immunity exists, but as vaccination rates increase, indirect protection also increases, until the infection is eliminated (n. pag.).

Herd immunity requires that the majority if not the entire population be vaccinated in order for it to work. If most people are immune to a disease, then it is not likely to spread or create a real emergency. The theory of herd immunity was designed to protect countries from disease.

The theory of herd immunity does not consider the individual effects of vaccinations. When
public health looks only towards the greater good instead of the distinct people involved it is more likely to harm those individuals than protect them. In her book, Fisher writes that even though vaccinations have eliminated and reduced certain diseases there are many, many vaccinated children who are suffering from other dysfunctions (15). Individuals are being ignored because of the herd immunity theory and the “one size fits all” mentality of vaccinations. This mentality does not leave room for personal beliefs, medical history, or the possibility of adverse reactions.

Health issues and personal reasons must be considered by the government in regards to vaccinations. People cannot be put at risk for the “greater good.” Herd immunity does not consider individual concerns or dangers when trying to protect the whole. Mandating vaccines not only attacks people’s rights, but puts them personally at risk. In his article, “Mandating Vaccination: What Counts as a ‘Mandate’ in Public Health and When Should They be Used?”, Matthew K. Wynia backs up the individual’s position, “Public health must consider the benefits to individuals, not just the community as a whole. . .” (4). If the government is not concerned with individual people then how can it properly care for its people as a whole? The health of distinct persons is just as important as the entire community.

If individuals are not taken into account, then the population as a whole is not being protected. It is being abused. The “one size fits all” mentality is a generalization of society and individuals. Herd immunity does not leave room for individualized healthcare and personal rights. Certain people have a higher probability of death or injury from the very harmful and even toxic components which many vaccines contain. Vaccines should be made with safe ingredients, not hazardous ones. Before people are vaccinated they should be made aware of the components of the vaccine or vaccines they are to receive so that they can then make an
informed decision as to whether or not they wish to be vaccinated. People also need to be told about the possible side effects vaccines may cause either from their components or the combination of ingredients contained in vaccines.

Some religions stand in contradiction to certain vaccine components or even the use of vaccines. By law, those individuals whose religious beliefs prevent them from vaccinating should not be forced to do so. A country is not truly free when its people or their children are forced to receive injections which may harm them, especially when all other health care is not required. Mandated vaccination undermines American citizens’ rights. It is an attack on the very core of American liberties. How can a country be called free or even safe if it does not consider distinct bodily safety and religious beliefs, but instead ignores those rights and forces dangerous injections on those it has promised to protect? Vaccination is a dangerous medium and one to be thoughtfully and carefully considered before use. Vaccines should not be mandated because they have dangerous risks and attack individual rights.

Works Cited


