



Special Political

Covid-19 Vaccine Enforcement Policies

Chairs:

Amira Jaques and Pranav Mittal

Dear Delegates,

We, Amira Jaques (ajagues@gwacasablanca.com) and Pranav Mittal (pranav.rajneesh_mittal@ast.ma) are very pleased to welcome you to Tangier MUN 2021 and to the Special Political Committee. In the upcoming conference, we will be entertaining the topic of COVID-19 Vaccine Enforcement Policies.

Topic Introduction

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Governments around the world have faced the challenge of how to respond to the recent outbreak of a novel coronavirus. Some have reacted by greatly restricting the freedom of citizens, while others have opted for less drastic policies. Due to the rapid spread of Covid, many countries were struck upon a strict lockdown which drastically affected the spread of Covid in a positive way.

As the world continues to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for the global distribution of vaccines, vaccine misinformation presents a significant and growing public health challenge — and we all have a role to play. We are focused on mitigating misleading information that presents the biggest potential harm to people's health and wellbeing. While some countries focus on educating their populace about the benefits of vaccination and leaving the choice to individuals, others offer financial incentives or have made vaccinations mandatory to ensure high coverage rates.

Enforcement is another issue. Several countries with mandatory vaccination policies opt not to enforce them. And most everyone appears to agree that vaccination programs must allow for medical exemptions. Also, due to COVID-19 constantly mutating, scientists seem unlikely to seriously affect vaccine efficacy and therefore are producing vaccines at a rate which allows those most at risk of dying or getting seriously ill from the virus—nursing home residents and those caring for them, medical workers and the elderly. Due to this, the shortages of vaccines has been a major issue and therefore has caused an argument throughout the world.

Background

In the past, the development of vaccines such as the one for smallpox in the 1800, led to the “establishment of vaccination mandates”. While the production of vaccines was being regulated by the government, over time “governments loosened requirements” when it came to the mandates that were previously established in order to ensure safety. (History of Vaccines, 2018)

Exemptions to the mandatory smallpox vaccination were allowed once the British Vaccination Act of the year 1898 provided a clause to support it. According to History of Vaccines, by the end of that year magistrates had issued more than 200’000 vaccination exemptions. (History of Vaccines, 2018)

At this time, the majority of U.S schools “required smallpox vaccination before children could attend”. As can be seen from a case by Rosalyn Zucht that was considered by the U.S Supreme Court, the exclusion of students from schools due to failure to present proof of vaccination led to many students and their families wanting to avoid such requirements by seeking help from the courts. Complaints alleged that mandates, such as ones surrounding vaccination proof, “violated the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment”. According to History of Vaccines However, the courts retorted by stating that city ordinance was a law of state and that it was “within the police power of a state to provide for compulsory vaccination”.

Recently, the validity of vaccination mandates has been a cause for concern as government representatives such as the judicial branch of the U.S federal government try to “address the conflict between individual rights and protection of the public’s health”. (History of Vaccines, 2018).“A compulsory smallpox vaccination and revaccination law went into effect in Germany. Over the next decades, smallpox deaths there dropped rapidly.” (History of Vaccines, 2018)

The need for vaccination decreased as smallpox rates declined. The addition of certain developments to vaccine supply such as the “increasing regulation of pharmaceutical suppliers” and “advancements in microbiology”, established increasing safety in the subject. (History of Vaccines, 2018)

Different Perspectives/Recent Events

According to History of Vaccines, there are 3 places that key cultural perspectives on vaccination stem from, these are; “(1) individual rights and public health stances toward vaccination, (2) various religious standpoints and vaccine objections, and (3) suspicion and mistrust of vaccines among different U.S. and global cultures and communities.” These result in a rise in tension between varying cultural viewpoints when public opinions about vaccination “include varied and deep-seated beliefs”. (History of Vaccines, 2018)

Delegates, please be knowledgeable about your country’s key cultural and political perspectives on vaccinations.

Questions to Consider

- Should the enforcement of such vaccinations be valued above an unvaccinated individual’s freedom to a working/social life?
- What is being done to distribute COVID 19 vaccines?
- Should a country’s cultural beliefs/perspectives be overlooked in order to ensure safety from diseases around the globe?
- How can countries better their vaccine enforcement policies when it comes to varying future virus outbreaks and/or mutations?

Key Terms

1. **Vaccine**: a preparation that is administered (as by injection) to stimulate the body's immune response against a specific infectious disease.
2. **Mandate**: an authoritative command, *especially* : a formal order from a superior court or official to an inferior one.
3. **Validity**: the quality of being well-grounded, sound, or correct.
4. **14th Amendment**: a state must treat an individual or class of individuals the same as it treats other individuals or classes in like circumstances.
5. **Mutation**: a relatively permanent change in hereditary material that involves either a change in chromosome structure or number (as in translocation, deletion, duplication, or polyploidy) or a change in the nucleotide sequence of a gene's codons (as in frameshift or

missense errors) and that occurs either in germ cells or in somatic cells but with only those in germ cells being capable of perpetuation by sexual reproduction.

6. UDHR: rights (such as freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution) regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons.

All Definitions are acquired from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com>

Requirements

- A position paper in relation to the topic.
 - **Due March 31st. Please email it, including both of our emails in the “to:” section and with the subject “Position Paper - [your country & your name]”.**
 - *(our emails are on the cover [1st] page of this document)*
- A resolution paper in relation to the topic, whilst being mindful of other country’s stances.
 - **Due March 31st. Please email it, including both of our emails in the “to:” section and with the subject “Resolution Paper - [your country & your name]”.**
 - *(our emails are on the cover [1st] page of this document)*
- Substantial research done on the committee’s topic.
- Proposed solutions to resolve the issue at hand.
- To be knowledgeable about the Covid regulations.
- To know all your points and motions.

Bibliography and Useful Links

- <https://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/government-regulation>
- <https://www.wsj.com/articles/vaccine-shortage-sparks-fights-over-who-should-get-first-shots-11612521001>
- <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/1/e2016385118>
- <https://www.historyofvaccines.org/content/articles/cultural-perspectives-vaccination>

- <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

MUN Procedure/Protocol:

- <https://teimun.org/mun-101-the-rules-of-procedure/>
- https://www.tangiermun.org/uploads/3/9/9/5/39954039/points_and_motions__tmun_.pdf

Writing a position paper:

- <https://www.wisemee.com/how-to-write-a-mun-position-paper/>

Writing a resolution paper:

- <https://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/>