

Ethical Issues in Vaccination

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The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group and revise or adapt them as needed. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

Questions:

- What stood out the most to you in this interview and why?
- What ethical obligations do members of the public have regarding vaccination?
- In your opinion, what ethical obligations do parents have when making decisions about vaccinating their children
- From an ethical perspective, what are some of the benefits and concerns associated with introducing mandatory vaccination for children attending primary and secondary school?
- Do you think health care providers have an ethical responsibility to get the flu shot? Why/why not?
- Do you think flu vaccination should be mandatory for health care providers? Why/why not?
- Why do you think some parents have hesitation regarding vaccinating their children?
- What are some of the systemic barriers that may contribute to lower vaccination rates?
- Rob Strang highlights respectful listening as an important part of addressing challenges around vaccine hesitancy. What does respectful listening look like in practice?
- Rob Strang mention the use of the peer influencer model as a useful strategy flu vaccine campaigns. Discuss how this model might be used in campaigns for childhood vaccination.
- Do you think that the influence of social media could be harnessed in order to promote vaccination? Why/why not?
- How do you think public health could best support individual providers in having conversations about vaccination?
- Compare public health initiatives such as anti-smoking campaigns, campaigns to address obesity, public safety campaigns about helmet use, and campaigns promoting vaccination.
 - What do they have in common and how do they differ?
 - Why are the ethical issues raised by these campaigns different?

Resources

Websites:

Immunize, Immunization Canada: <https://immunize.ca/>

Department of Health and Wellness, Nova Scotia, Immunization:
<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/cdpc/immunization.asp>

NSHA, Infectious Disease and Immunization: <http://www.nshealth.ca/immunizations>

Articles:

Attwell, K. & Freeman, M. (2015). I Immunise: An evaluation of a values-based campaign to change attitudes and beliefs. *Vaccine*, Volume 33, Issue 46, 17 November 2015, Pages 6235-6240
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0264410X15013821>

Au, M. (2019). 'There's a Proven Public Health Strategy We Could Use to Encourage Vaccination'. Article published in *Slate*, Medical Examiner, March 8, 2019. [accessed January 9, 2020]
<https://slate.com/technology/2019/03/public-health-strategy-vaccination-smoking-media-campaign.html>

Canadian Society for Hospital Pharmacists. (2014). Influenza Immunization for Healthcare Workers: Statement
[https://www.cshp.ca/sites/default/files/files/publications/Official%20Publications/Position%20Statements/Influenza%20Immunization%20Statement%20\(2014\).pdf](https://www.cshp.ca/sites/default/files/files/publications/Official%20Publications/Position%20Statements/Influenza%20Immunization%20Statement%20(2014).pdf)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2012) Talking with Parents about Vaccines for Infants Strategies for Health Care Professionals. Information for Health Care Professionals. [accessed January 9, 2020] <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/patient-ed/conversations/downloads/talk-infants-color-office.pdf>

Corben, P., & Leask, J. (2016). To close the childhood immunization gap, we need a richer understanding of parents' decision-making. *Human vaccines & immunotherapeutics*, 12(12), 3168–3176. doi:10.1080/21645515.2016.1221553. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5215493/>

Cortes-Penfield N. (2014). Mandatory influenza vaccination for health care workers as the new standard of care: a matter of patient safety and nonmaleficent practice. *American journal of public health*, 104(11), 2060–2065. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2013.301514.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4202972/>

Damnjanović, K., Graeber, J., Ilić, S., Lam, W. Y., Lep, Ž., Morales, S., ... Vingerhoets, L. (2018). Parental Decision-Making on Childhood Vaccination. *Frontiers in psychology*, 9, 735. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00735. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6008886/>

Dubé, E., Gagnon, D., Ouakki, M., Bettinger, J. A., Guay, M., Halperin, S., ... Canadian Immunization Research Network (2016). Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy in Canada: Results of a Consultation Study by the Canadian Immunization Research Network. PLoS one, 11(6), e0156118. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0156118. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4892544/>

Haelle, T. (2016). As More Parents Refuse Vaccines, More Doctors Dismiss Them -- With AAP's Blessing. Article published in Forbes, August 29, 2016. [Accessed January 9, 2020] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tarahaelle/2016/08/29/as-more-parents-refuse-vaccines-more-doctors-dismiss-them-with-aaps-blessing/#b3b2cc11f228>

Halperin, B., Melnychuk, R., Downie, J., & Macdonald, N. (2007). When is it permissible to dismiss a family who refuses vaccines? Legal, ethical and public health perspectives. Paediatrics & child health, 12(10), 843–845. doi:10.1093/pch/12.10.843 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2532570/>

Kodish, E. (2014). 'The ethical negligence of parents who refuse to vaccinate their children'. The Washington Post, June 26, 2014. [accessed January 9, 2020]. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2014/06/26/the-ethical-negligence-of-parents-who-refuse-to-vaccinate-their-children/>

McCarthy, C. (2016). Why we need to make it harder for parents to refuse vaccines. Blogpost on Harvard Health Blog, published September 6, 2016. [accessed January 9, 2020] <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/why-we-need-to-make-it-harder-for-parents-to-refuse-vaccines-2016090610258>

McDonald, N. (2018). Working with vaccine-hesitant parents: An update <https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/working-with-vaccine-hesitant-parents>

Some articles require access with an institutional login. If you need assistance in accessing an article please email NSHEN administrator Krista Mleczko-Skerry at Krista.MleczkoSkerry@iwk.nshealth.ca