

COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate

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INTRODUCTION/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

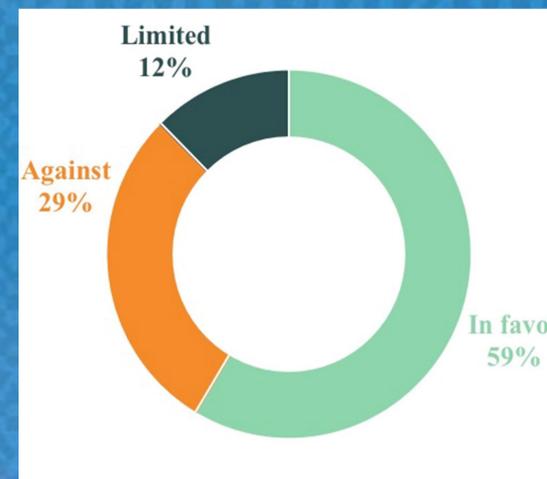
COVID-19 has greatly impacted the lives of healthcare workers. As the pandemic continues, nurses and other healthcare professionals are being told they need to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This mandate has become part of an ongoing question of ethics, self autonomy, and the perceived safety of the vaccine. Nurses are expected to adhere to the Nurses Code Ethics, which states it is the nurse's responsibility to be a role model for their patients when it comes to healthcare (American Nurses Association enterprise, 2015).

RELEVANCE and SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS

This policy affects society because it requires nurses to become vaccinated against COVID-19, which could protect future patients. In addition, when members of society see that nurses are becoming vaccinated against COVID-19, they will be more likely to obtain a vaccine as well because nurses have a strong influence on society. Patients tend to trust what their doctors and nurses say, partly related to their level of education and expertise. Therefore, a patient will likely listen to the advice of a doctor or nurse regarding what is best for their personal healthcare. If a patient sees that the vaccine is impacting health care workers in a positive way, then they will likely opt to get the vaccine as well.

How do you feel about places of work requiring vaccination for employment?

This chart below shows the percentage of people out of 4,912 survey participants who are either in favor of mandating the COVID-19 in the workplace, those against the mandate, and limited which is those who believe that the vaccine should only be mandated for employees who deal with the public (American Nurses Association, 2021).



(American Nurses Association, 2021)

STAKEHOLDERS / KEY PLAYERS

- Health Care Providers
- Patients
- Patients' Families
- Vulnerable Populations

IMPLICATIONS for the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

This policy is important to nursing because it is the nurse's responsibility to be a role model to the public as well as follow principles of justice, beneficence, and maleficence (Visagie, 2021). This mandate has affected all nurses, but a study shows that only 22.51% of healthcare workers were hesitant to obtain the vaccine (Biswas et al., 2021). This shows that while the vaccine is still very new, most health care providers trust the safety and efficacy of the vaccine.

CONCLUSION

Today, there have been over 700 million doses of the vaccine administered in the United States (Centers for Disease Control, 2021). Nurses are role models when it comes to health promotion and health protection. This means that when a nurse models obtaining a new vaccine such as the COVID-19 vaccine, patients will be more likely to obtain it as well. Some healthcare providers are hesitant related to getting the vaccine based on efficacy, and this plays in a role in ethics and in keeping all patients safe.

REFERENCES

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