

Public Comments From Individuals (as of January 20, 2012) – Submitted through the Federal Register Process

	Affiliation (if stated)	Comment
1	Not Determined (ND)	<p>Below are comments I left at this OSHA site: http://blogs.hcpro.com/osha/2011/12/feds-asking-for-healthcare-worker-flu-shot-advice/#comments Please include these same comments to the NVAC. Thank you. By Joan Mootry on January 7th, 2012 at 5:01 pm Dr. Hugh Fudenberg, one of the world's leading immunogeneticists, says that 4-5 flu shots received over 4-5 years increases Alzheimer's risk 10-fold due to the toxic adjuvants in the vaccine, including mercury and aluminum. Virologist and FDA's former Chief Vaccine Control Officer Dr. J. Anthony Morris states, "There is no evidence that any influenza vaccine thus far developed is effective in preventing or mitigating any attack of influenza. The producers of these vaccines know they are worthless, but go on making them anyway." So why would any rational person allow themselves to be so injected, or advocate it for others? If vaccines worked, why should anyone be required to be vaccinated to protect the already vaccinated? Herd immunity is a myth. For those seeking factual, well-documented information, the book "Vaccines Are They Really Safe & Effective?" by Neil Z. Miller is an excellent source.</p>
2	RN	<p>Please take a few minutes to review the following Cochrane reviews; Influenza vaccination for healthcare workers who work with the elderly http://summaries.cochrane.org/CD005187/influenza-vaccination-for-healthcare-workers-who-work-with-the-elderly and Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy adults http://summaries.cochrane.org/CD001269/vaccines-to-prevent-influenza-in-healthy-adults The abstracts are available from the websites listed and the full reports are available at a cost. Please do not assume that all of us that are questioning the efficacy of the flu shot are doing so out of fear or ignorance. we have researched the subject carefully and are requesting respectfully that our right to autonomy be honored.</p>
3	Nurse	<p>Good morning, my name is kathy and I'm a nurse at a local hospital. At my hospital you have two choices 1. Take it or 2 wear a mask the entire 12 hours you work. I am ok with vaccines but think it should be left up to the individual. If I were a patient in Nov I could refuse and nothing would happen to me but because I am a nurse I can't make that choice. I feel like my rights are not being upheld if it becomes mandatory. I do not agree with making it mandatory for health care workers.</p>
4	Student	<p>As a student in the medical field, I am concerned with the goal of 90% influenza vaccine coverage for health care personnel. I am against the flu vaccine for personal, philosophical, as well as health reasons and I want to reserve my right to opt out of getting any vaccination against my will.</p>
5	ND	<p>I would like to express my opinion regarding requiring health care workers to receive vaccinations. I do not think this is very wise, as each individual should have the choice of making decisions regarding what he should do regarding his health. There are many documented cases of people having severe reactions to various immunizations. Some people who are health care workers have even had to retire after receiving shots that affected them. One person I read about has continual fatigue and muscle pain since getting one of the recommended shots. Also, a recent study has shown</p>

		<p>that the flu immunizations only help about 1% of the time, as there are so many strains of flu. And I personally know a lot of people who still get the flu after having the shot. If a person receives 5 of the flu shots, there is a ten times higher chance of getting alzheimer's disease, according to some studies. There have been so many unnecessary efforts by the government to get people to get these shots, and the epidemic that was predicted never really happened- as the H1 N1 flu. The ingredients used in the shots, such as aluminum, and in some cases, squalene, and other chemicals can cause major reactions. There is a famous UK reporter who currently is suffering from severe psychotic episodes after getting a yellow fever shot. This has gone on for a long time, and yet the medical community refuses to admit that it is from the shot.</p> <p>My concern is that your pushing for a 90% vaccination rate will lead to mandatory vaccinations. That is simply unfair to these workers. In my opinion, we will be losing our constitutional freedom of choice which is simply not right.</p>
6	RN, Anesthetist	<p>I am a certified registered nurse anesthetist, and I'd like to have a voice on flu vaccines. I will not have a flu vaccine. The only time I've ever had the flu was a few days after receiving a flu vaccine. I am also against vaccines altogether and believe that I have the right to refuse to have any more. Thank you for allowing me this input and I would respectfully request that more research on the dangers of vaccines be undertaken.</p>
7	RN	<p>I am a Registered Nurse working in a County Hospital Intensive Care Unit. I implore you to carefully reconsider any recommendation which encourages employers to require the flu shot as a condition of employment with only medical exemptions. The flu vaccine itself is problematic due to shifting strains, changing virulence of the virus and the challenge of predicting the next year's predominant strains. The efficacy of influenza vaccine can vary from ineffective on non- matched years to as high as perhaps 80 or 90% on well matched years. The major studies that are cited by employers indicating that vaccinating health care workers reduces illness and death in elderly patients have been reviewed by the Cochrane Collaboration. The Cochrane Collaboration reanalyzed the data presented and found the results to be quite different than the conclusions the authors themselves drew. This fact in itself leads one to believe that further, unbiased research must be conducted before any mandate can be made.</p> <p>The goal of controlling infectious disease must be kept in mind. Mandating a variable and problematic vaccine will undermine the faith/ trust the people have in their governing agencies. The thought that HCWs are selfish and putting their own fears/beliefs above the safety of the patient is pathetic and transparent, most HCWs are fully vaccinated and often have received non-mandatory vaccines in addition to mandatory ones. The Flu vaccine however cannot be grouped with the highly effective vaccines against single strain viruses. HCWs are a group of highly experienced and educated people; while you may win this single battle the damage that will follow will far outweigh any potential good. Consider how the general public will respond when the HCW in their circle of family /friends speaks about being forced to receive an unwanted vaccine. That same HCW that may have never discussed the vaccine before will now talk. Many times the family, church or nurse friend's opinion is held in higher regard than that of the CDC or FDA.</p> <p>On a personal note; I have the following questions; which as of yet, no one has been able to answer.</p> <p>1) I do not get insurance or paid sick days where I work, so IF I take the shot that they are telling me too and <u>I was one of those very few people that have an adverse reaction, who would be responsible for the lost wages and medical bills?</u> If it is the hospital or the government, good, I will take the shot, if it is me then I cannot take the shot because If I was to get sick and have to take several weeks of work I would lose my home. I take responsibility to keep my body healthy and , as far as I can remember, not had a Sick Day in the last 5 years.</p> <p>2) <u>Why is it that the number of influenza vaccines administered has increased significantly over the last decade yet the number of confirmed deaths from influenza has not trended downward?</u></p> <p>3) <u>Why is it that on the years when the influenza vaccine is a complete mismatch that there is not a spike the number of confirmed influenza deaths?</u> According to the CDC website 1997-1998 was a very low match between the circulating flu virus and the vaccines, confirmed deaths those years where 720 and 1724. Low matches were identified in the following seasons; '92-'93, '03-'04 and '07-08', confirmed deaths those years where as follows 1006, 1044, 1792, 1100, 411, '08 deaths have not yet been published in the data set from the CDC that was used. On the good match years influenza deaths range from 257 deaths in '01 to 2098 deaths in '90. The average number of deaths in good match years between 1990 and 2007 is 1171.8 deaths per year, the number of deaths during the same time frame in poor match years and very poor match years is 1113.8.</p>

		http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2011-2012.htm http://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D16.jsessionid=17AA5CDFC0883FD7525471C82B8CD0D0 http://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D16.jsessionid=17AA5CDFC0883FD7525471C82B8CD0D0
8	RN	<p>I just wanted to say, that as a Registered Nurse, I do not get flu vaccines. I get migraine headaches post vaccine, that last for days. I have never had a migraine headache in my life, except post flu vaccine. I always elect to not participate in the flu vaccine program, and feel that I have a right as a human, to decline a medical procedure that carries risks. Risks that I have experienced. Offering flu shots is well and good, but remembering that vaccination is not a one size fits all policy, and some people have untoward effects. Some of those people are excellent nurses and doctors. Mandating such is a total violation of human rights in every way. I should not be mandated to have an injection that makes me sick in order to keep my job. I am proud to say that I wash my hands, take Vit D3, eat healthy and organic, and most of all exercise hard. I think that if you start enforcing health practices, you should first start with the smokers. Perhaps the obese health care workers secondary. Their lack of adequate maintenance of their health sets them up for illness of all sorts. People do not need flu shots to stay healthy, some of them need smoking cessation and weight management to learn how to stay healthy during the flu season. I strongly feel the campaign should focus on better health of the employee, and if mandating these vaccines ever becomes an issue, I should hope it comes well after imposing penalty on smokers and obese Health care workers. I am obviously, clearly against mandating any one to get a flu shot. Please hear my voice too.</p>
9	Registered Respiratory Therapist	<p>I am a licensed Registered Respiratory Therapist in the state of Colorado. I have been a therapist for 13 years (5 here in Colorado) and love it! I am very concerned about a rule under consideration at this time. This new rule would force all healthcare workers to have the flu vaccine. This rule currently does not include a declination for conscientious beliefs or religious beliefs. Even the general public, is allowed a conscientious or religious waiver in the state of Colorado; yet as well-educated, licensed, healthcare professionals we are about to be denied the opportunity to do our own research, speak with our own physician, and make the decision.</p> <p>I have been told in the two hospitals that I am employed by that if I do not wear a mask, since I made the educated decision to not subject myself to the flu shot, I would be subject to disciplinary action. In some hospitals in the metro area healthcare providers are being given buttons to wear about whether they took the flu shot with a reference to whether they care or not! I feel this violates my rights.</p> <p>As professional healthcare providers, shouldn't we be able to make an educated, informed decision about a healthcare issue that directly affects us? We are trusted with the lives of people we care for in the hospital, but can't be trusted to make an educated decision about whether we should receive the flu shot?? Do we really want healthcare providers who don't research issues, but instead just follow orders? There is something in the hospital setting called a "time-out". It is where before any procedure, the people involved do a double check..Do they have the right person, the right procedure, the right site. I feel you need to be calling a big "time-out" and make sure you won't be losing some of the best healthcare professionals in this state by excluding them from the right to make decisions about their personal health!</p> <p>Please allow the professionals whom this directly affects to be involved and have a say.</p>
10	MD	<p>I am strongly supportive of these recommendations. Resistance to influenza immunization among health care workers remains a stubborn problem with serious consequences for patients/communities in our care. I would even suggest strengthening recommendation 4 to require a mandatory influenza immunization in situations where health care employee uptake is unacceptably poor.</p>
11	LRN	<p>I am writing you about the new bill concerning mandates on the seasonal flu vaccine for health care workers. I am against it and won't get the flu vaccine or any other vaccine b/c I am in charge of my body. It is a healthy body and I want to keep it that way. When I get the flu vaccine (which I haven't had one in 5yrs) I get more colds every year. I have never had the flu or anything serious to miss days of work because I take care of myself. I</p>

	<p>know how to keep my body healthy by taking vitamin C, D, multivitamins, herbs.</p> <p>As a healthcare worker we are suppose to prevent disease-DO NO HARM and teach people how to do that by living a better lifestyle not by trying to inject many toxins into a body and make them more sick. Also homeopathy and natural means keep bodies healthier and free of toxins and side effects. Are we in the business of sickness or in wellness?</p> <p>Vaccines have harmful toxins in them and are causing many people lifelong diseases that could have been prevented by going the natural route. Vitamin D and exercise are 2 areas that will continually keep people from getting the flu and other diseases. The key is preventing illnesses, not just making people aware. The key is teaching people to live a healthy lifestyle by keeping their body alkaline, NOT acidic.</p> <p>Vaccines are toxic and have been for years because of all the autoimmune diseases people are getting, the allergies from vaccines and the numerous diseases that are affecting our children. As of Sept 2011, Half the U.S. children suffer from chronic disease and disorders and 21% are developmentally disable. We're not making our children healthy by injecting vaccines into them</p> <p>GOOD HEALTH IS NOT AT THE TIP OF A NEEDLE!</p> <p>GOOD HEALTH is eating right, taking vitamins, exercising. It is all natural w/NO SIDE EFFECTS. Vitamin D does so many things to keep you healthy. Please support health care workers in letting them choose their own health care choices. Health care workers should not be fired for not getting the flu shot. Informed consent needs to be advise on all medical procedures that can cause serious adverse reactions. Every nurse has the Moral Right to Conscientious, Philosophical and Personal Belief Exemption to Vaccination as every American person does. CDC, Gov't need to stop forcing people how to live their lives.</p> <p>Who will be liable for damages if a health care worker is forced to take a flu shot or lose their job and they suffer an adverse reaction?</p> <p>Please see this video about a professor of nursing who is paralyzed from the flu vaccine. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRcZZROphLM&feature=player_embedded</p> <p>If you research on pubmed.gov you will find that it states vaccines are toxic and cause other illness. Even CDC states vaccines don't work. Also if vaccine are so safe, then why did congress give manufacturers special legal immunity?</p> <p>video has good info http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk-RMI4qNvA</p> <p>What is in a regular flu vaccines...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg proteins: including avian contaminant viruses • Gelatin: can cause allergic reactions and anaphylaxis are usually associated with sensitivity to egg or gelatin • Polysorbate 80 (Tween80™): can cause severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. Also associated with inferility in female mice. • Formaldehyde: known carcinogen • Triton X100: a strong detergent • Sucrose: table sugar • Resin: known to cause allergic reactions • Gentamycin: an antibiotic • Thimerosal: mercury is still in multidose flu shot vials • <i>Aluminuim: causing Alzheimer's" or dementia.</i> <p>Again, Please consider that every nurse has the Moral Right to Conscientious, Philosophical and Personal Belief Exemption to Vaccination</p> <p>I am in the process of going for my RN, but if this passes. I will not finish the course. I will quit nursing altogether.</p>
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12	RN	<p>I have been a registered nurse for nearly forty years. I cooperated with receiving the flu vaccines for most of that time, until I learned that the flu shot contained thimerosal (which I was sensitive to in earlier versions of contact lens solution), and aluminum-heavy metals that are neurotoxic. The only way that the pharmaceutical companies that produce vaccines are going to continue "profit" on selling their vaccines is by lobbying government officials to force, or mandate our citizens, including first of all,health care providers into receiving these injections. I am adamantly opposed to such mandates. Do we not have control over what is being injected into our bodies? Is this America , where we are forced against our wills, where we are not fully informed about medical decisions, where we are coerced or humiliated into these injections? My son got the measles from his MMR. My niece died within hours of her three month old vaccines; I have fibromyalgia-very likely due to the thimerosal/aluminum adjuvants. Numerous patients and friends have informed me that they got the "flu" and were very sick after their injections. There are more cases of asthma, allergies, autism spectrum disorders and other diseases and neurological disorders since the advent of vaccines. We call this health ? The pharmaceutical companies and their heavily lobbied/brainwashed government officials only stand to profit on the backs of our citizens. This is just plan wrong ! Say no to this continued push to vaccinate our citizens !</p>
13	ND	<p>The people in the US are sick and tired of the medical community PUSHING their drugs and vaccines (vaccines are drugs too) onto us and our children.</p> <p>Millions are waking up to the obvious dangers of vaccines. The medical community is NOT telling parents when they complain that they don't want vaccines or the RISKS, that they can get an exemption form. They act like it is the LAW that children must be vaccinated. I have heard over and over from parents that the did not know they could get their children in school without vaccines by getting the exemption forms. IT IS A CRIME that parents are not told about exemption forms. School nurses DO NOT tell parents about exemption forms. This is wrong.</p> <p>I never wanted vaccines when I read the side effects. I WAS LIED to and they never told me about exemption forms. My first born was hurt by vaccines, but survived because my German baby sister gave him herbs and his screaming stopped. He could have died like many had with the same symptoms. This video by a GOOD and HONEST doctor should be showed to all of America.</p> <p>Drug companies are destroying America and killing a lot of people. This is war against the American people using biological warfare.</p> <p>http://youtu.be/efto1LpWkKw</p> <p>A concerned parent who WILL NEVER get another vaccine or give another vaccine to my children EVER again.</p>
14	Nurse	<p>I am writing to share my opinion about the discussion regarding mandatory flu vaccine.</p> <p>While I work in healthcare, which is obviously largely grounded in Western medicine, I choose alternative and complementary health practices for my own wellness. Forcing me to inject vaccine into my body- a spirital temple- is in my opinion a violation of my deeply held religious beliefs and practices. It is more than a lifestyle choice... it is who I am spiritually. I am pursuing this with the EEOC.</p> <p>The hippocratic OATH requires FIRST DO NO HARM.... you cannot honestly force vaccine on people without exposing them to risks to their own health (In the HOPES of reducing flu in vulnerable populations, where there is actually little evidence of vaccine efficacy in this regard) Further... the practices in most flu clinics fail to provide informed consent about the risks of vaccine... READ THE LABELS</p> <p>I've also suffered side effects that were never reported.... and in fact, know that most reactions never are reported... I personally observed a dozen</p>

		<p>just in my own hospital that people just do not follow through to report.</p> <p>I am a nurse and my organization went to a mandatory vaccination policy and I was terminated this week for refusing to comply with the policy. I walked away from a nearly 6 figure job because I feel so strongly about my choice in my own health. I do not believe people should be MANDATED to be injected with substances that have toxins such as mercury and others in it. Most vaccination efforts fail to provide informed consent as well- there are serious and sometimes life threatening side effects to vaccines. There are more natural ways to prevent illness/flu that are healthier and have less risk than shots. I would likely leave healthcare all together before subjecting myself to unwanted & mandated injections. As healthcare workers, we are patients as well, and we should be able to retain the right to refuse certain treatments/care just like our patients can- especially when it is done conscientiously, while implementing other wellness activities such as vitamin supplementation that strengthens immunity.</p> <p>See the healthcare worker sentiments at: http://blogs.hcpro.com/osha/2011/12/feds-asking-for-healthcare-worker-flu-shot-advice/</p> <p>Mandatory vaccine would be a travesty.....</p>
15	Pharmacy lecturer	<p>Do flu shots work?</p> <p>Not in babies:</p> <p>In a review of more than 51 studies involving more than 294,000 children it was found there was 'no evidence that injecting children 6-24 months of age with a flu shot was any more effective than placebo. In children over 2 yrs, it was only effective 33% of the time in preventing the flu.</p> <p>Reference: 'Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy children.' The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2 (2008).</p> <p>Not in children with asthma:</p> <p>A study 800 children with asthma, where one half were vaccinated and the other half did not receive the influenza vaccine. The two groups were compared with respect to clinic visits, emergency department (ED) visits, and hospitalizations for asthma. CONCLUSION: This study failed to provide evidence that the influenza vaccine prevents pediatric asthma exacerbations.</p> <p>Reference: 'Effectiveness of influenza vaccine for the prevention of asthma exacerbations.' Christly, C. et al. Arch Dis Child. 2004 Aug;89(8):734-5.</p> <p>Not in children with asthma (2):</p> <p>'The inactivated flu vaccine, Flumist, does not prevent influenza-related hospitalizations in children, especially the ones with asthma. In fact, children who get the flu vaccine are more at risk for hospitalization than children who do not get the vaccine.'</p> <p>Reference: The American Thoracic Societys 105th International Conference, May 15-20, 2009, San Diego.</p> <p>Not in adults:</p> <p>In a review of 48 reports including more than 66,000 adults, 'Vaccination of healthy adults only reduced risk of influenza by 6% and reduced the number of missed work days by less than one day (0.16) days. It did not change the number of people needing to go to hospital or take time off work.'</p> <p>Reference: 'Vaccines for preventing influenza in healthy adults.' The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 1 (2006).</p> <p>Not in the Elderly:</p>

	<p>In a review of 64 studies in 98 flu seasons, For elderly living in nursing homes, flu shots were non-significant for preventing the flu. For elderly living in the community, vaccines were not (significantly) effective against influenza, ILI or pneumonia.</p> <p>Reference: 'Vaccines for preventing influenza in the elderly.' The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.3 (2006).</p> <p>What about the new Swine Flu shot?</p> <p>Some of the H1N1 (swine flu) vaccines are made by Novartis. These shots are made in PER.C6 cells (human retina cells) and contain MF59, a potentially debilitating adjuvant. MF-59 is an oil-based adjuvant primarily composed of squalene.</p> <p>All rats injected with squalene (oil) adjuvants developed a disease that left them crippled, dragging their paralyzed hindquarters across their cages. Injected squalene can cause severe arthritis (3 on scale of 4) and severe immune responses, such as autoimmune arthritis and lupus. Ref: (1): Kenney, RT. Edleman, R. 'Survey of human-use adjuvants.' Expert Review of Vaccines. 2 (2003) p171. Ref: (2): Matsumoto, Gary. Vaccine A: The Covert Government Experiment Thats Killing Our Soldiers and Why GIs Are Only the First Victims of this Vaccine. New York: Basic Books. p54.</p> <p>Federal health officials are starting to recommend that most Americans get three flu shots this fall: one regular flu shot and two doses of the vaccine made against the new swine flu strain. School children who have never had a flu shot are targeted for four shots in the fall - twice for seasonal flu, twice for pandemic swine flu. (July 15, 2009 news)</p> <p>HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has been talking to school superintendents around the country, urging them to make plans to use buildings for mass vaccinations and for vaccinating kids first. (CBS News, June 12, 2009.)</p> <p>Is Mandatory Vaccination Possible? 1946: US Public Health Service was established and Executive Order (EO) 9708 was signed, listing the communicable diseases where quarantines could be used. 1946 and 2003, cholera, diphtheria, TB, typhoid, smallpox, yellow fever, & viral hemorrhagic fevers were added.</p> <p>April 4, 2003: EO 13295 added SARS to the list.</p> <p>April 1, 2005: EO 13295 added 'Influenza caused by novel or re-emergent influenza viruses that are causing, or have the potential to cause, a pandemic.' EO 13295 also: The president gave the Sec. of HHS the power to quarantine, his or her discretion. Sec of HHS has the power to arrange for the 'apprehension and examination of persons reasonably thought to be infected.' A cough or a fever could put a person at risk for being quarantined for an extended period of time without recourse.</p> <p>January 28, 2003: Project BioShield was introduced during Bush's State of the Union Address. This created permanent and indefinite funding authority to develop 'medical countermeasures.'</p> <p>The NIH was given authority to speed approval of drugs and vaccines. Emergency approval of a 'fast tracked' drug and vaccine can be given without the regular course of safety testing.</p> <p>December 17, 2006: Division E: The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREPA) was added as an addendum to Defense Appropriations Bill HR 2863 at 11:20p on Saturday night, long after House Committee members had signed off on the bill and gone home for the</p>
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16	ND	<p>No, NOooooo, and NOOOOOOOOOOOO!</p> <p>I prefer to get my immunity the natural way, not being injected with junk that doesn't work, is a "guess" as to the flu strains, spreads the FLU around from vaccinated people, and is filled with DNA and lots of harmful adjuvants and preservatives. No MANDATES, let people make their OWN decisions. This used to be a country with freedom.....</p>
17	ND	<p>Vaccines must not be mandatory, even for health care workers. People must have the right to make personal medical decisions for themselves and their children.</p> <p>There is considerable doubt about the risk/benefit ratio for flu shots.</p> <p>We do not know enough about why some people have serious adverse reactions and how to treat those reactions.</p> <p>Most flu shots are still made with thimerosal which contains mercury, known to be highly toxic even at nanomolar concentrations. Historical studies of mercury exposure show that people vary widely in their ability to withstand/process/detoxify mercury exposure.</p>
18	ND	<p>Viruses mutate constantly but you want us to believe you can eradicate them?</p> <p>Get your guns, whips and CHAINS and tell it like it is, Americans will be SLAVES.</p>

		<p>You will have to use that gun on me because I will NOT SUBMIT to forced vaccination. I will NOT let ANYONE force me to put poison in my body.</p> <p>Rethink this before the populace rises up as one and impeaches all of your demigods and your jobs are gone.</p>
19	ND	<p>This is a violation of personal rights! Its plan and simple, vaccination of any kind should be a choice for the individual. Your trying to take away a person's right to choose. Go down this path... what will be next?</p>
20	Health care worker (not specified)	<p>I am writing to you today to tell you that one of the reasons I live and work in Colorado is that you offer three vaccine waivers. I fill out each one every time just to make a point. I do it for myself and my kids. I also work in the healthcare field. Right now I have a medical waiver, as I work with the military and they will only accept that. I think they are wrong, but they aren't changing their stance any time soon. In fact, they just added rabies vaccinations for all soldiers, even though there is less than no reason for it and our soldiers are already inundated with vaccines.</p> <p>This should apply across the states, no exceptions. Everyone - every single person - should have the right to decide what to put in their body and what not to.</p> <p>As a healthcare worker, if I was forced to take a vaccine, I would quit my job first under duress. Vaccines have injured myself, two of my children and my husband. My mother also died of ALS and was a part of a medical trial, one of the first questions they asked her was to list all the vaccines she'd ever had in her life. She had taken some "test" ones back in the 70s.</p> <p>Vaccines are not all they are cracked up to be and can and do paralyze, maim and kill people - if someone wants a vaccines, more power to them, but don't force their choice on the rest of us. Personally, my thyroid is fried due to vaccines that I was forced to take in the military, as well I have arthritis issues due to the them as well. In fact, the vaccines I was given were so questionable I was told I could not give blood for ten years. They would never tell me however, what it was I was given and since that time I have been unable to find out what it was via my own Army medical records.</p> <p>Please do not remove the rights of individuals toward vaccines. Any vaccines. Everyone works because they have to, seldom do people go to work for the sheer joy of working, but rather to help support themselves or their families. Don't take away their right to make the choice for their body regarding unneeded vaccines.</p>
21	ND	<p>I absolutely do NOT believe the flu vaccine should be mandatory!</p>
22	A compilation of blog entries from OSHA's blog were submitted by a single contributor.	<p>Comments from OSHA Blog at http://blogs.hcpro.com/osha/2011/12/feds-asking-for-healthcare-worker-flu-shot-advice/</p> <p>By P on January 4th, 2012 at 8:13 pm Is OSHA not suppose to be the ones to protect the worker? Does anyone know what toxins and carcinogens are in the flu shots? These vaccines are NOT tested,nor proven safe. we are the guinea pigs.It bothers me to know that the government and all of it's departments are taking away people's freedom.It SHOULD NOT BE MANDATED.</p> <p>By Irene on January 6th, 2012 at 5:41 pm</p>

	<p>This email has been submitted as a single comment.</p>	<p>I do not think anyone should be mandated to get the flu shot. I've never gotten the flu shot and have never gotten the flu neither have any of my children.</p> <p>By Joy Dieguez on January 6th, 2012 at 5:48 pm This should be a choice, not a mandate. Those who choose to not be vaccinated pose no risk to those who are vaccinated. As a healthcare provider, I can make an educated decision on the risks versus benefits.</p> <p>By Katie Beecher on January 6th, 2012 at 6:03 pm Absolutely NOT. Flu shots are not safe, even though the government claims that they are. The government denies that what happened to her can even happen yet they have paid out millions of dollars in claims. Three years ago my mother got a seasonal flu shot and she is completely paralyzed to the point where she can't even sit up or feed herself. She was only 65 and perfectly healthy. Her neurologists said they had seen the same reaction MANY times before. This is the link to her video. Please watch it! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRcZZROphLM</p> <p>By Angie on January 6th, 2012 at 6:36 pm ABSOLUTELY NOT. It has been proven that the flu shots aren't even effective. It's the handwashing, good eating, and plenty of rest that will help prevent everyone from getting the flu. If a healthcare worker wants to get the shot on their own by all means-but I happen to know that many do not!</p> <p>By Robin Ballou on January 6th, 2012 at 6:45 pm ABSOLUTELY NOT! Flu shots are not effective and many people such as myself have reactions. It is a human right to be in charge of your own body and dictate what goes into it. No one should be forced to put things into their bodies to keep their jobs. I am a health care professional and washing hands is more effective than getting the flu shot. Lets stick to good hand washing. Thank you</p> <p>By Jan Houston on January 6th, 2012 at 6:47 pm No. Read the vaccine insert. They have never been proven to work. Let the healthcare worker decide for themselves.</p> <p>By Lexie Romeo on January 6th, 2012 at 6:57 pm I'm less inclined to trust the safety of being around a freshly vaccinated person than an unvaccinated person. Vaccinated people shed some of the diseases they are vaccinated against, and I won't even get into the fact that several of them get sick from the vaccine, especially the one for the flu. Freshly vaccinated healthcare workers are the ones who should be wearing masks. Unvaccinated people are not sick by nature. If they're sick, you'll know, and you can simply give them sick leave. They're not walking around constantly spreading diseases. That notion is simply absurd and no one with half a brain would believe it.</p> <p>Besides, you can't argue that vaccines are insufficiently effective to work in those who get them when you're trying to make us believe in herd immunity. If they're not 100% effective in those injected with them, why do you continue to lie to use about herd immunity being based in reality? Thing about it. The flu shot has been shown to be what? 60% effective at best? Even if 100% of people get them, that means only 60% may not get the flu. Herd immunity, according to you, means 90% of people are protected, right? Your vaccine is apparently not even effective enough to guarantee herd immunity when everyone is injected. Why then would you force this poison on people? Are you still pretending to protect the people, or are you protecting the financial incentives passed between the pharmaceutical companies and the CDC? Let's just put it all on the table here.</p> <p>Don't force people to accept poison for my sake. I will not be the one to blame when they become sick and/or disabled.</p> <p>I've spent most of my childhood sick and I'm stronger for it today. My husband has been vaccinated too much because he's ex-military and he gets everything that passes by. I don't, but even when I do sometimes get sick, it lasts about 25% as long as it does for him, and I don't suffer whereas he</p>
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	<p>claims to. Who is faring better there? The vaccinated or the unvaccinated person? Our child is completely unvaccinated and never gets sick. She may have a fever for five minutes, a runny nose here and there, but she never seems to 'come down' with anything. Nothing keeps her down. She has an amazing immune system. She's just like my completely unvaccinated cousins. They were more healthy than I was.</p> <p>The yellow fever vaccine caused me to get bronchitis which worsened to asthmatic bronchitis, and finally asthma. I lost two weeks of school which is interesting when you consider that the reason for creating vaccines was to keep kids from getting sick so their parents wouldn't have to stay home with them and spend time away from work. Vaccines were supposed to positively impact the economy and had nothing to do with the actual welfare of the children essentially being tested on.</p> <p>So no thanks. Tell the pharmaceutical companies to keep their vaccines, and if a healthcare worker says no, it's their body. Don't let the pharmaceutical companies rape them for profit, and let's stop feeding people the crap that vaccines are the new messiah. I'm sick of hearing it.</p> <p>By Lori Saporito on January 6th, 2012 at 7:01 pm</p> <p>Flu shots should NOT be mandatory. Educating health care workers to adopt a more whole food diet, practice lifestyle activities such as exercise and proper rest and supplementing with Vitamin D3 will all boost their natural immunities without the toxic overload vaccines have to offer.</p> <p>By Heather on January 6th, 2012 at 7:01 pm</p> <p>What is the point of a yearly shot that only protects against 2 or 3 strains? Making it mandated is taking away freedom...our freedom to make our own decisions on what enters our bodies.</p> <p>By Terri on January 6th, 2012 at 7:01 pm</p> <p>Flu vaccines are only 59% effective for people age 65 and younger and are not 100% safe for 100% of the population. No one should be forced to have medical intervention that they do not want. Where are the independant studies that show that flu vaccines, taken year after year, are safe? Why are pharmaceutical companies exempt from liability if someone is injured or dies from their products? All other companies in the US are liable for the safty of their products. Do NOT take Americans rights away and force them sacrifice one person for the "welfare of the many". Haven't we been through this already with the Nuremberg Trials?</p> <p>By Amy Paul, RN on January 6th, 2012 at 7:07 pm</p> <p>This should absolutely not be a mandate. the flue shot is ineffective, and the adjunct ingredients pose serious health risks. If the government dares to require me to inject poison into my body, I, and many other nurses, will leave the field for good, making the nursing shortage even worse.</p> <p>By stephani on January 6th, 2012 at 7:10 pm</p> <p>Noooo dude that's so idiotic jabbing yourself with metal and live/dead virus which does cause most people to feel less than great and lower your Immune system thus making you very prone to sickness thru the cold season educate don't be ignorant it is most definitely not bliss especially when an incident occurs and It deeply affects your life</p> <p>By toni bark on January 6th, 2012 at 7:10 pm</p> <p>as an MD in a public health masters, I've read the third party studies and the flu shot is not only ineffective, it is problematic. the formaldehyde and mercury can cross into the blood brain barrier due to it's effect on tight junctions. It can also leave the lymphocytes sluggish for weeks to months and that is counter productive.</p> <p>It also prevents cross reactivity to other strains, again counter productive.</p> <p>Vitamin D in high enough doses and hand washing is safe and effective.</p> <p>should not mandate something that has risk of harm and little if any benefit;</p>
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	<p>By Jenny Barton on January 6th, 2012 at 7:15 pm Flu shots should NOT be mandatory for any reason anywhere! Dangerous, slippery slope! Choice is what makes us free citizens. I have never and will never get the flu vaccine. My choice. How awful is I have to be breaking the law one day...</p> <p>By Anne McElroy Dachel on January 6th, 2012 at 7:17 pm We need to ask what exactly is motivating the government to mandate a vaccine that has been found to be largely ineffective by the Cochrane Collaboration, an international not-for-profit organization providing up-to-date information about the effects of health care. The Cochrane Institute has compiled data from 40 flu seasons worldwide. and they have "concluded from the studies that there is no clear evidence to suggest that the flu jab offers any more protection than cheaper, hygiene-based methods such as hand-washing." Anne Dachel, Media editor: Age of Autism http://www.ageofautism.com/</p> <p>By S Loire, MA TC on January 6th, 2012 at 7:18 pm Each person deserves the right to choose to be vaccinated or not. Health care workers deserve the same right, esp. since the flu shot has questions surrounding its efficacy. HHS should NOT have a goal to reach 90% vaccination rate. This is not a good goal and goes against health care choice for all people. Spend out tax dollars on more honorable and wise goals.</p> <p>By Anne McElroy Dachel on January 6th, 2012 at 7:19 pm We're not told here that neither the doctor nor the vaccine maker is liable for any adverse reactions to a vaccine. Injured parties have to instead go through a long and arduous process called Vaccine Court where claimants are up against government lawyers defending a government program using government money. Few people ever get their day in court. Anne Dachel, Media editor: Age of Autism http://www.ageofautism.com/</p> <p>By Linda Caraway, RN on January 6th, 2012 at 7:21 pm I would like it to remain a person's choice whether to vaccinate or not. I have Type 1 diabetes for many years, have worked in nursing for 25 years and had the flu shot only once. That one time I did, I immediately became sick with the flu and have never had the shot again. By the way, I never had the flu before that and haven't gotten it since. Work on closing down cigarette factories if you want to remove peoples choice.</p> <p>By Dr. Wendy on January 6th, 2012 at 7:23 pm This is absurd. NO ONE should be mandated to receive ANY vaccine. EVER. We have the right to decide what goes into our bodies, and which risk is greater- that of getting a disease, or that of having an adverse reaction to a vaccine. Why should those in the health field be denied that right? The flu vaccine is notoriously ineffective, as several have already pointed out. Most people who do the research, rather than just believing what they're told, decide that the risk isn't worth any benefit there may be.</p> <p>By Anne McElroy Dachel on January 6th, 2012 at 7:25 pm We not told here that most of the flu vaccine available comes with mercury in the form of the preservative thimerosal. This additive has never been tested or approved by the FDA yet it's allowed in vaccines. Levels far exceed the amount that can be safely processed. People need to educate themselves on the risks associated with vaccination. Anne Dachel, Media editor: Age of Autism http://www.ageofautism.com/</p> <p>By Alicia Steele on January 6th, 2012 at 7:40 pm</p>
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	<p>Flu shots – and vaccines in general – carry significant risks that everyone needs to be aware of. As several others here have pointed out, they aren't terribly effective either. In my opinion, the benefits do not outweigh the risks. We should certainly not be forcing these risks on anyone. I feel that no medical intervention should be mandated to anyone – and that includes vaccinations. It is a personal decision that should be based on facts about the pros and cons and should not be administered without informed consent.</p> <p>By Val Lovelace on January 6th, 2012 at 7:41 pm I disagree that flu shots (or any vaccines for that matter) should be mandated for healthcare workers (or for the general public!). It's my body and I want my rights protected. There is as much information showing vaccines damage health as there is supposedly documenting their efficacy. Mandated vaccines in healthcare scenarios already prevent me from being able to volunteer in a hospital in the state of Maine because I choose not to vaccinate. Our immune systems are not designed to function properly with intramuscular injection – in fact, our immune systems require being challenged from time to time with viruses in order to evolve and remain healthy. We go to great lengths to actually destroy our bodies' abilities to adapt and respond to pathogens. So-called "modern" society has come to a point where there is supposed to be a pill for or shot for everything. We fear illness and death and are willing to spend seven times more than any other country to live longer with greater chronic disease – at a devastating cost. Just say "NO" to vaccines. Say "YES" to whole non-GMO foods, health diet, and REST when weakened or sickened. I want to maintain our right to honor the sanctity of the human body and right to choose what level of healthcare we deem best for ourselves. Period.</p> <p>By Dr. Jon Duris on January 6th, 2012 at 7:46 pm Flu shots, or any shots for that matter, should not be mandated. The mandate should be for informed consent and freedom of choice. The flu shot in particular has not been shown to reduce the incidence of influenza or the number of deaths from influenza. Mandating a seemingly ineffective shot is junk science. In a supposedly "evidence-based" age of medicine, how is this shot still in existence in the first place?</p> <p>By Kim Phelps on January 6th, 2012 at 7:56 pm Absolutely not! No one should be forced to subject themselves or their families to the current poison laced and poorly tested vaccines that are perpetrated on the unsuspecting masses. Not OK to use the US populations as guinea pigs for the purpose of big business. Until there is a total overhaul of this medical practice that is less than effective, less toxic substances used in the manufacturing and the goal redirected to protect humanity not line the pockets of the share holders of big pharma, I say NO!</p> <p>By Rebecca on January 6th, 2012 at 7:59 pm "Do you think this action by the HHS makes mandatory flu shots for all healthcare workers more likely?" Yes, I think the action will make mandatory flu shots more likely. However, I don't think any adult should be mandated to receive treatment without fully informed consent. "Mandating" is a subtle form of denying rights, and our government is already moving in that direction in other areas. As many others have stated, there is little research that documents efficacy of flu vaccines.</p> <p>By Christine Cameron DiLillo on January 6th, 2012 at 8:01 pm Health care workers, and all people, should decide for themselves whether they should get this vaccine. There are risks involved with all vaccine that is why informed choice is a must!</p> <p>By mb on January 6th, 2012 at 8:03 pm No way it is our rights to decide what we want to take what risk we want no one esp, the gov. can tell people what to do with our bodies. we have been trained we know the risks and they are not even proven effective I dont want more toxic junk injected into my body just to keep a job!!! no amt of money is worth that</p>
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	<p>By Michelle Young on January 6th, 2012 at 8:05 pm Everyone, whether a healthcare work or not should have the right to choose what goes in to their body! There are real risks involved with vaccines. Everyone deserves a right to true informed consent. I don't feel the flu shot or any shot should ever be mandated.</p> <p>By Jim Brandau, DC, C.Ad on January 6th, 2012 at 8:05 pm No mandatory vaccines! I can think of nothing more invasive of a persons individual freedoms than mandated vaccines.</p> <p>By Heather Edwards on January 6th, 2012 at 8:05 pm Under NO circumstances should an individual be mandated to receive any vaccines!</p> <p>By Vicki B, RN on January 6th, 2012 at 8:07 pm ABSOLUTELY NOT! I am a healthcare worker and my organization went to a mandatory vaccination policy and I was terminated for refusing to comply with the policy. I walked away from a nearly 6 figure job because I feel so strongly about my choice in my own health. I do not believe people should be MANDATED to be injected with substances that have toxins such as mercury and others in it. Most vaccination efforts fail to provide informed consent as well- there are serious and sometimes life threatening side effects to vaccines. There are more natural ways to prevent illness/flu that are healthier and have less risk than shots. I would likely leave healthcare all together before subjecting myself to unwanted & mandated injections. As healthcare workers, we are patients as well, and we should be able to retain the right to refuse certain treatments/care just like our patients can- especially when it is done conscientiously, while implementing other wellness activities such as vitamin supplementation that strengthens immunity.</p> <p>By Shawn Christenson PT on January 6th, 2012 at 8:09 pm Vaccination should be an individual CHOICE, not mandated by anyone!! Are we not a free country? Is this country becoming a puppet of drug companies? I will support my right to chose. No one will force that upon me!!</p> <p>By linda on January 6th, 2012 at 8:15 pm i really wish the government would stop trying to save me from myself!!! it is not their job to force me to take something that i choose not to take. the flu vaccine is not 100% effective. i don't feel that i need to put poisons in my body to be healhy! on the contrary, i eat right and build my immune system so that i don't get sick. and so what if i did get the flu?? i doubt i will die from it. survival of the fittest!!! sure some people will die from the flu, but we are all going to die of something. what about the poison additives put in those vaccines? no thank you government!! NO ONE, HAS THE RIGHT TO FORCE ME OR ANYONE ELSE TO TAKE VACCINES OF ANY KIND!! i don't care what your opinion is. if you want to take, have at it, but who do you think you are to tell me i have to? no one should lose their job because the choose not to take it. you have to wonder what really behind that one!!!</p> <p>By Dr. Amy on January 6th, 2012 at 8:30 pm There is no clear evidence showing efficacy of the flu vaccine. It is of great concern to me that it is pushed so greatly (especially on pregnant women), especially when we don't know what the long term effects of this might be. How can something that is not proven effective & is filled with toxins be mandated? It is unfortunate, but we have to wonder what the government's true motivation for this push is. Why don't we think about improving our diets and getting a little exercise to make our bodies healthier and more resilient?</p> <p>By janice on January 6th, 2012 at 8:34 pm It is not the government's job, responsibility or role to recommend or mandate immunizations.The Fda has been wrong on so many things- thylidimye just to name one.Because I have made changes in the way I eat and take care of myself I no longer have the health problems that</p>
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	<p>plagued me for 40 years and am now healthier than I was at 30. I don't need the flu vaccine to further weaken my immune system. If I can do it anyone can. Why don't we just mandate that everyone should become a vegan. (I am being facetious of course) The people that get the flu shot should not worry about those that don't if they truly believe that the flu shot is going to keep them from getting the flu.</p> <p>By Carol on January 6th, 2012 at 8:43 pm Why should HCWs have fewer rights than patients, especially when they become the patient?</p> <p>By J Stewart on January 6th, 2012 at 8:44 pm This is a free country. Mandatory flu vaccinations is an OUTRAGEOUS violation of that. Every person should have the choice to make for themselves and their health and should not be forced into it or reprimanded for not choosing it.</p> <p>By Ruth, RN on January 6th, 2012 at 8:47 pm ABSOLUTELY NOT! Flu shots are not effective and many people have reactions. It is a human right to be in charge of your own body and dictate what goes into it. No one should be forced to put poison into their bodies to keep their jobs. I am a health care professional and washing hands is more effective than getting the flu shot. Educating health care workers to adopt a more whole food diet, practice lifestyle activities such as exercise and proper rest and supplementing with Vitamin D3 will all boost their natural immunities without the toxic overload vaccines have to offer. If the government dares to require me to inject poison into my body, I, and many other nurses, will leave the field for good. Do we no longer live in a free country where we have the right to refuse medical treatment just to keep our jobs? Even our patients have the right to refuse treatment.</p> <p>By Lori on January 6th, 2012 at 8:50 pm NO! NO! NO! Health care workers should NEVER be forced to risk such serious complications! The flu shot is dangerous and doesn't even work well. What is happening in this country is CRIMINAL! To force people to choose between their convictions, health, and feeding their families. Absolutely absurd and UNAmerican!</p> <p>By KFuller on January 6th, 2012 at 8:57 pm My body....MY CHOICE</p> <p>By KFuller on January 6th, 2012 at 8:57 pm My Body....MY CHOICE.</p> <p>By R Stewart on January 6th, 2012 at 9:10 pm If a healthcare worker has an adverse reaction to the vaccine, do they sue OSHA? Health care workers are citizens, and deserve the right to choose what is best for them. You cannot legislate health.</p> <p>By Heather on January 6th, 2012 at 9:13 pm I am a health care worker. I never get the flu shot because of the little extras in it. Eff that noise.</p> <p>By AWells on January 6th, 2012 at 9:18 pm Absolutely not. The last I checked, this is a free country, and people were allowed to do their own research and do a risk/benefit analysis for themselves. Given that the flu vaccine effectiveness changes from year to year, while the risk of adverse reactions remains constant (see packaging insert re; preservatives, like mercury and formaldehyde), I don't understand why a federal mandate would be appropriate. A mandate requiring people to have the shot regardless of the associated risks is a violation of their constitutional rights (particularly given that this is a federal mandate</p>
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	<p>attempting to control the state sale of a vaccine) without there being a valid reason – ie; a pandemic or a localized outbreak, for which the vaccine would be effective.</p> <p>By Laurie on January 6th, 2012 at 9:43 pm I can't believe that a gov agency can even think about taking away a persons basic freedom to decide what goes in to their bodies. These shots are contaminated and loaded with mercury and aluminum which are both toxic to the brain. Stop setting goals to inject people with toxins and let people make up their own minds. This is suppose to be a free country!</p> <p>By AC on January 6th, 2012 at 9:46 pm NO! They cause all sorts of immune problems and these shots aren't effective as we are being told. If you read the CDC's own literature it shows that if 100 people are vaccinated against the flu, only 1.5 will avoid getting the flu. Any data suggesting other results are a blatant lie. Do your research and find out why aluminum and various vaccine ingredients cause devastating side effects over time.</p> <p>By Teresa on January 6th, 2012 at 9:49 pm Vaccines are a medical choice – an intervention dealing with one's health. There is much evidence that some will get fatal, acute or chronic reactions. You can't make someone get a medical procedure that has potential to harm – NO MANDATES- FREE CHOICE.</p> <p>By Debbie Thompson on January 6th, 2012 at 10:00 pm NO! No one should be forced to get toxins injected into their bodies.</p> <p>By deborah345 on January 6th, 2012 at 10:02 pm No forced shots in order to have the job. One should not have to inject themselves with biologicals and chemicals in order to maintain their job. Do it and the rates of flu will actually go up considering the flu shot actually lowers immunity and are near worthless anyway.</p> <p>By Suzanne Arena on January 6th, 2012 at 10:04 pm I prefer to build my immunities without this shot. The one time I received it at work, I was asked if I was allergic to eggs and feathers and no mention of a known , ethylmercury. There was no disclosure either. Rhode Island is one of those backward States that doesn't disclose this fact. I was given no choice to have it with, or without. Since my initial shot I have researched for years and read hundreds of scientific documents that conclusively validate Why not to vaccinate. Big Pharma using me or my children as we All have "Allergic to Mercury" on our medical records. I will never agree to a mandate for this shot. If they want to make money, vaccinate the Sex Offenders and take away their impulse. Lots of money there.</p> <p>By Andrea on January 6th, 2012 at 10:12 pm Whatever happened to freedom of choice and it's my body. You can't take away a person's freedom of choice just because they are a healthcare worker. You should not have to submit to injecting poison into your body in order to keep your job. It has been shown that adding a Vitamin D supplement is MORE effective than the flu shot.</p> <p>By Mary Thomas on January 6th, 2012 at 10:13 pm Absolutely not! I am an occupational therapist who works in a large hospital that is considering mandating the flu vaccine next year. Although I love my job and have been at this hospital for 10 years, I will not allow someone else tell me what I have to put into my body. Flu vaccines contain very harmful ingredients and have very little efficacy. This is supposed to be the USA, land of liberty, freedom of choice, yet the government is going to take a basic right away from me? I don't think so! This is all just a big scheme by Big Pharma to bring in more \$ as if they don't have billions already.</p>
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	<p>By Mike on January 6th, 2012 at 10:30 pm You are all wrong absolutely. Sure, vaccines don't work well, especially the flu vaccines. Good science has shown that. You even get a dose of mercury, one of the most powerful neuro toxins out there. But it's okay because the U.S.H.H.S. and it's bitch, the CDC say so. Why does anyone bow down to the CDC. The CDC is packed with bureaucrats and pseudo-scientists that do exactly what the big medical corporations and Big Pharma want them to do. Flu shots are just another issue like "water fluoridation." Ineffective or not, as soon as it's blessed by the criminal CDC, the rest of you can pack your bags and go home.</p> <p>By Lauren on January 6th, 2012 at 10:34 pm NOPE! The flu shot is not save for everyone. Until it is absolutely 100% safe, then no way. Too many people contract Guillain-Barre syndrome after their jabs. I have NEVER had a flu shot and I have NEVER had the flu! Fancy that!</p> <p>By A Higgins on January 6th, 2012 at 10:36 pm Vitamin D has been shown to be more effective at preventing flu than flu shots. Would you mandate that all healthcare workers have their vitamin D levels checked and take supplements if needed to ensure their immune systems can fight off flu? Could they be fined or fired for lack of compliance? If you couldn't mandate that safe regimen, you shouldn't be able to mandate demonstrably less-effective flu shots, which carry more risks of reactions and side effects.</p> <p>By Barbara on January 6th, 2012 at 10:40 pm No-one should be required to have flu or any other vaccines if they don't want to. It's risky and the flu shots don't work anyways. Full of toxic ingredients! I do not eve get the flu shot, nor do my children, and we never have the flu. Imagine that!</p> <p>By noshots4me on January 6th, 2012 at 10:41 pm Last time I checked I lived in the United States of America and we were supposedly a free country. Vaccines carry risk. Vaccines, including flu vaccine, are of questionable efficacy. Therefore, vaccines should be a choice, not mandated ever for any person for any reason. Period. End of discussion. Really OSHA? Seriously? GET OUT!</p> <p>By Karen Genet on January 6th, 2012 at 10:46 pm There's no clear evidence that they work. The vaccines are NOT tested,nor, given the toxic ingredients, are they proven safe. Everyone should be educated in ways to take care of themselves including basic hygiene and vitamin D. I don't ever get the flu shot for myself or my family and we have never had the flu. Like others, it bothers me to know that the government and all of it's departments are taking away people's freedom.It SHOULD NOT BE MANDATED.</p> <p>By overmydeadbody on January 6th, 2012 at 11:12 pm It is absurd that EMPLOYERS (healthcare or otherwise) are allowed to require MEDICAL PROCEDURES of employees or they are DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. What kind of world are we coming to? Everyone thinks they can PLAY DOCTOR making medical decisions for others without having ANY KNOWLEDGE of the employees health history or risks and WITHOUT ANY LIABILITY in the game. It also engenders a discriminatory attitude against those who have a MORAL CONFLICT with vaccination. This is a very slippery slope kind of thing and SHAME ON our government for pushing this flawed premise that everyone can and should be vaccinated with impunity. This IS A TYRANNY OF MEDICINE. This DENIES healthcare freedom, religious freedom, informed consent rights and the DIGNITY of the human person. Vaccine MANDATES and employer "required" vaccines = a CRIME against humanity.</p>
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	<p>By JC on January 6th, 2012 at 11:29 pm This is ridiculous!!! Do you have any idea how many people I know that get that disgusting shot and still end up with the flu? My friend had the H1N1 vax and I ended up catching it from her when she came down with it! In fact, she gave up the flu shot for herself and her family this year because she said they have gotten the flu every year despite the shot. The gov't is acting as if the shot actually works! Why not tell them to boost their Vitamin D intake during flu season, as well as take elderberry syrup, some omega 3 and visit a chiropractor regularly! Oh, right. Because that wouldn't make them any more money!</p> <p>By Victoria on January 6th, 2012 at 11:50 pm ABSOLUTELY NOT! I got violently sick every year I had flu vaccine "offered" by my employer. I'd quit that job if they would not let me stop taking it.</p> <p>By victor pavlovic on January 7th, 2012 at 12:06 am Let's face it, not everyone is interested in injecting themselves with vaccines that are dangerous, maybe some of us are healthier without them.If you and your family feel that you need this stuff injected into you feel free, but leave the rest of us alone, we will take our chances, just as we have for thousands of years before the first vaccine was marketed.</p> <p>By Kathleen Murphy on January 7th, 2012 at 1:04 am No! I will never forget how my grandfather was in perfect health (he worked out every day at the YMCA for 3 hrs! I've never been able to do that!) and he was talked into having the first flu shot of his life and died of the flu immediately afterwards. How disgusting that mandatory-mercury-injections, which is what flu shots really are, could seriously be up for consideration. And don't tell me that flu shots are 'safe' when the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled vaccine makers have no liability from injury, including death, resulting from their "unavoidably unsafe" products (22 Feb 2011, Bruesewitz v. Wyeth No. 09-152). Shame on whoever proposed this reprehensible legislation!</p> <p>By Bonnie on January 7th, 2012 at 1:22 am You are trying to break the very "back bone" of our health care system (maybe that is your intention?) by requiring health care workers to be INJECTED, against their WILL, with an unknown toxin. Last I knew, we lived in the UNITED STATES of AMERICA! Freedom of CHOICE. I've been an RN for 40 years and NEVER will I allow this. You have your priorities all wrong. It saddens me our world has come to this.....big PHARMA in charge.....doctors in tow.</p> <p>By AnnMarie on January 7th, 2012 at 1:31 am No, it should not be required. It should be up to a person what enters or does not enter their body.</p> <p>By Renee on January 7th, 2012 at 1:33 am No. Medical decision? 2 words: Informed Consent.</p> <p>By Gabriela on January 7th, 2012 at 2:23 am there should be an exemption for religious or philosophical beliefs. mandatory is not American.</p> <p>By Jennifer Mitchel on January 7th, 2012 at 4:04 am</p>
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	<p>Flu vaccines should NOT be mandated. No vaccine should be mandated. It is not the government's role to decide who receives medical interventions and the flu vaccine has no proven efficacy. This is a violation of our rights for the profit of vaccine manufacturers.</p> <p>By Hsiu-Li Lefaver on January 7th, 2012 at 4:09 am No, vaccines should not be mandatory. This is America...land of the free! We do have choices.</p> <p>By tenaya on January 7th, 2012 at 6:31 am No. I don't need the government to make health decisions for me. This is not for the greater good, as it will cause more harm in terms of adverse affects, not to mention the violation on personal rights.</p> <p>By Schooligans on January 7th, 2012 at 10:24 am I am against forcing anyone to get any big pharma medications including flu shot and vaccines. The proof of safety and efficacy is simply not there. Didn't this used to be a free country?</p> <p>By Lorie on January 7th, 2012 at 11:08 am Sadly, it was mandated in our hospital, last year. Legislation is sorely lacking to protect us healthcare workers. We need to have a philosophical objection waiver. I have invested my life,& \$\$\$ to obtain an MSN. If I don't roll up my sleeve, I shall be terminated soon. My career ended. What choice do I have? What about my rights? Mandatory vaccination is abhorrent. Apparently, we do not live in a free society. We are ruled by big pharma and uneducated government officials. (Who often have a financial conflict of interest in drug companies...) Hand washing and adequate Vit D3 supplementation. The University of TO study & others have proved this unequivocally..... PLEASE stop this insanity. Allow choice. Incidentally.... did anyone notice that the NVAC committee recommending this has a person from the Novartis drug co on there.... gee no conflict of interest there eh?</p> <p>By Vicki, RN, MSN, MBA on January 7th, 2012 at 11:55 am While I work in healthcare, which is obviously largely grounded in Western medicine, I choose alternative and complementary health practices for my own wellness. Forcing me to inject vaccine into my body- a spirutal temple- is in my opinion a violation of my deeply held religious beliefs and practices. It is more than a lifestyle choice... it is who I am spiritually. The hippocratic OATH requires FIRST DO NO HARM.... you cannot honestly force vaccine on people without exposing them to risks to their own health (In the HOPES of reducing flu in vulnerable populations, where there is actually little evidence of vaccine efficacy in this regard) Further... the practices in most flu clinics fail to provide informed consent about the risks of vaccine... READ THE LABELS PEOPLE!</p> <p>By NurseAGAINStmandatorySHOTS on January 7th, 2012 at 12:33 pm It is wrong It is ineffective It doesn't actually reduce deaths It actually carries unacceptable risks It violates individual rights It benefits bigPHARMA- pills and shots aren't the answer for everything It ignores more effective ways of preventing flu</p>
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	<p>It regularly violates informed consent It is wrong! I hope OSHA is getting the message, looking at this comment stream, there is a HUGE number of people who don't accept the premise/intent of flu vaccine. See Dr Mercola http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2008/11/18/do-flu-shots-work-ask-a-vaccine-manufacturer.aspx</p> <p>By JMD on January 7th, 2012 at 2:19 pm First, you are assuming that flu vaccines are effective, and that is a long shot... Second you are assuming that all people's immune systems are the same. That is lazy "cookie cutter" medicine and untrue. Third, you are completely ignoring the side effects of the vaccines of which there is a long list...and you are exposing the health care workers to these side effects without their consent. Fourth, we know that vaccines lower your immunity for weeks after and you are doing this to people who work with diseases! As an RN, I have seen more illnesses in my colleagues this year... requiring antibiotics and steroids than ever before ...all people who got the flu vaccine. I chose not to get it and have been healthier than all of them...but I am mandated to wear a mask... which leads me to my last point THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET A FLU VACCINE I AM ANY MORE LIKELY TO SPREAD THE FLU! This is an attempt to bully health care workers. You have no evidence that just because you get the flu vaccine, you can't spread the flu...do you? This is appalling behavior and I will do everything I can to prevent this from happening...time to go to the supreme court!</p> <p>By SUSANH on January 7th, 2012 at 3:16 pm As a nurse I have been refusing vaccine for the past 5yrs an am healthier than the nurses that take it year after year. I rarely take off work for sick time(rarely sick) while my counter-part nurses that took the vaccine do take sick time off. ONE SIZE DOSE NO FIT ALL! Making it mandatory will probably end up w/nurses & doctors leaving the field. This will create a nurse/doctor shortages. It is my body and I am responsible for it! There is NOT one single evidence that vaccines keep people from getting sick. It really does the opposite. But there is study after study showing that vaccines are giving us diseases. GOOD HEALTH IS NOT AT THE TIP OF A NEEDLE! GOOD HEALTH is eating right, taking vitamins, exercising. It is all natural w/NO SIDE EFFECTS. Vitamin D does so many things to keep you healthy. Vaccines are full of toxins, mercury, carcinogen, Triton X100, Polysorbate 80. Which are causing cancer, allergies, dementia, etc., many illness that could have been prevented. Vaccines suppress the immune system making us more sick. As of Sept 2011, Half the U.S. children suffer from chronic disease and disorders and 21% are developmentally disable. Do we want to continue this trend? USA children are growing up to be sicker than when I grew up in the 60s. We're not advancing in the healthcare system if our own children are more sick than we are.</p> <p>Health care workers should have the RIGHT to choose what is injected into their body. Health care workers should not be fired for not getting the flu shot. Informed consent needs to be advise on all medical procedures that can cause serious adverse reactions. Every nurse has the Moral Right to Conscientious, Philosophical and Personal Belief Exemption to Vaccination as every American person does. CDC, Gov't need to stop forcing people how to live their lives.</p> <p>By Roberto on January 7th, 2012 at 5:51 pm How toxic and dangerous is the Flu shot and how fast can the Flu vaccine affect your brain and your ability to remember? Here is an adverse reaction that was reported to NVIC on 1990-07-12</p>
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23	ND	<p>Making flu shots mandatory is another step away from freedom in this country. Flu shot effectiveness is very questionable, and we should have a choice. It seems absurd to me to let folks smoke, even nurses and health care workers - yet require flu shots. A person's lifestyle and diet have more to do with getting the flu then whether they have gotten a shot. Are the Feds going to start controlling our diets too?</p>
24	Therapist (not specified)	<p>This isn't something that should be forced on to people especially health care professionals I am a therapist and I never receive the flu shot and I don't plan to please do not make this mandatory!!!</p>
25	Physical therapist	<p>I am a Physical Therapist in the Acute Care Setting. I do not feel that it is the government's right to infringe upon my right as a human being to make a choice regarding whether or not I receive the influenza vaccine. I understand that we as healthcare workers have a requirement to protect our patients, but we are capable of doing that within the restraints of our judgment as well. From personal experience with negative and adverse effects from other vaccinations, although not allergic reactions, I personally choose to not get the influenza vaccination. I, as well as my fellow healthcare professionals, protect my patients by following protocols regarding minimizing exposure and transmission of the influenza virus via personal protective equipment and hygiene. These protocols are in place in all healthcare facilities, and these should be recognized in order to maintain my, and my fellow healthcare workers', personal right to refuse the influenza vaccine. Besides that the influenza vaccine is a medication, and as a consumer, I have a right to make my own informed decisions, just as the patients that we care for in the healthcare field have a right to refuse the medications that the doctor's may prescribe for them. Studies have shown that the influenza vaccination may have some adverse effects, as well as beneficial, so I should have an option to decline it if I wish in order to avoid those possible adverse effects.</p>
26	President &	<p>First off, let me say that any premise proclaiming that a robust public health is gained through vaccination is in itself such a deeply misguided notion</p>

	Co-founder Health Advocacy in the Public Interest	<p>to begin with that I have a hard time understanding the follow-up ideology related to it such as laws dreamed up to force vaccines on the public of any disposition or class.</p> <p>In every town I have lived I have met scores of people with shocking stories of the nightmares of vaccination and the injuries that followed. I am sad to report meeting people with families affected by the injury of one or more member (strange I never meet people with stories of serious injuries from the flu.)</p> <p>I find it untenable that vaccine mandates are even considered. Vaccination is a medical procedure. Forcing a medical procedure on anyone is a violation of basic human rights. Period. Add to this the known risks (committee members should read the vaccine inserts if unclear about this)</p> <p>Suffice it to say, vaccine injuries include serious, life threatening, even fatal outcomes including permanent, lasting illness whether from a vaccine related stroke, allergy, neurological impairment or death, this injuries destroy families who are hit a hard blow emotionally, physically and financially. The hardship due to care of the vaccine victim is hard to imagine. (committee members please watch in it's entirety the link below to better and more fully understand)</p> <p>Any attempt to FORCE & MANDATE vaccines whether at school, on the job or anywhere is in my opinion cruel and unfair, and against every thing an open and free society stands upon.</p> <p>Medical care should stay a personal medical decision carefully considered by physician and patient with complete and full informed consent about the REAL risks, not the candy-coated industry/government misinformation I see regurgitated across the every communication channel.</p> <p>Ps. The amount of unreported vaccine injury is shocking. DO NOT trust the medical profession, pharma industry or government numbers of reported vaccine injury as these are completely unreliable <i>feel good</i> numbers and so under-reported as to be meaningless. (don't believe me... again see link below)</p> <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRcZZROphLM</p>
27	RN	<p>This is regarding the requested input related to mandated vaccines. I think vaccines should be a private matter for all individuals and it is nobody's business if a person vaccinates or not. Since when do people have to inform the public (govt, employers, schools, etc) of their health care decisions? The rise in vaccine recommendations and mandates is making our people in America and the world sicker. I also think it is unconstitutional for people to mandate that healthcare workers receive any vaccine but they are doing this in our nation already so why ask for input?</p> <p>Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania has already done this and now won't hire anyone that smokes either.....so they take it one step farther and soon they will be making all decisions for all employees and it is not right and violates individual and God given rights. What if a business would not hire someone that vaccinates or what if a business only hires smokers? Will that be allowed too and can it go both ways? If a business mandates employees to be vaccinated, some businesses should be able to mandate no vaccines at all for employees right?</p> <p>What next, will Geisinger not hire anyone that owns a cat at home or drives an SUV vs a v4? Can they refuse to hire people that eat butter or can you also mandate everyone to eat margarine (which is also bad for you)?</p> <p>However, the other argument is, if healthcare workers are making a living from injecting poisons into everyone else, causing death and injury to</p>

	<p>hundreds of thousands they give vaccines to, why not inject them too.....let them suffer the damages of vaccine injury too since they are making a living poisoning others.</p> <p>I am a registered nurse and know many other nurses who say they will leave nursing, and some have, if they are forced to vaccinate. So this will affect the health care (er uh sick care) industry in many ways if these mandates are enforced.</p> <p>Lastly, all mandates need an opt out and I already discussed this with those who I vote into office. EVERYONE should have an opt out exemption for medical, religious and philosophical reasons. Just because someone is a nurse or doctor does not mean they agree with injecting animal dna and aborted fetal tissue and other toxins into their bodies.....many physicians are coming forward and voicing the dangers of vaccines with their patients....finally. Better yet, government needs to get out of health care all together and let people make their own medical decisions. The lobbyists for the vaccine makers and drug companies need to be put out of a job as they are the ones making the decisions by buying those that are in the government to pass laws thru large donations.</p> <p>So, hopefully you receive many comments. And for those who want vaccines, let them get them.....and if vaccines actually worked, which they don't, but if they did, those who get them should not be concerned with those of us who refuse them. It is an individual medical decision like any other medication or procedure and people need to be given INFORMED consent which sadly does not happen when vaccines are involved. Anyone that actually reads the package insert usually refuses vaccines....the risks far far outweigh any alleged or assumed benefit....the only people that benefit are the people making millions on the ignorance of the masses. Real health care workers focus on the more natural wellness areas and I am just thankful that we have many real professionals in our life that understand the importance of individual health care and WELLNESS decisions...it is not one size fits all and no health procedure including any vaccine, should be mandated on anyone.</p> <p>I also find it disturbing but not surprising that on the govt website in this regards, all of the reported "stakeholders" are benefiting financially from vaccines and the mandates.... and even norvitis pharmaceuticals was included....I think you should include organizations and individuals with opposing views as well for a real debate and discussion such as nurses and doctors that no longer vaccinate patients or themselves, the National vaccine information center in virginia, the international medical council on vaccines, generation rescue, families that have vaccine injured children or adults they are now caring for, and so many more organizations that are educating the masses about dangers of vaccines and making informed decisions. Vaccines cause injury and there is a real risk to being a victim so it is government's responsibility to have correct information and a fair even playing field on these groups and correct information on the websites.</p> <p>I actually don't care if people vaccinate or not but don't want the government telling me or others what to do about our own health. We should be provided with correct information then allowed to make our own decisions in private and not bullied if we choose to refuse.</p> <p>I also think it very irresponsible for the government and health care providers to state vaccines are safe and not to inform the masses of the VAERS underreporting and the real dangers and life threatening side effects of vaccines. The flu shot causes GBS, would you rather get the flu or become permanently paralyzed for the rest of your life?</p> <p>We also need to inform people of the reality that the flu shot does not protect from the thousands of strains of wild flu.....it is a guessing game each year what strain is used...and most people I know that get the flu shot, also get the flu. People who don't get it, remain healthy all winter. Sadly, it is always presented by the those that work in govt and healthcare providers who make money from flu shots, as if it is a safe product with no side effects at all and will definitely protect without a doubt from the flu and that is nonsense. The only way to sell it is to misinform the people who buy it and that is just wrong...and in my view is false advertising and marketing.</p>
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28	RN	<p>I am an RN in a health care setting and am totally against the mandated flu vaccine.</p> <p>First of all you are assuming that the vaccine is effective enough to mandate it and there isn't enough proof that it is. Second of all you are ignoring the side effects and no one cares if the health care workers end up with them. There is a long list! I work in a hospital that is pushing the vaccine and this year there were many more nurses sick with bronchopneumonias and sinus infections that required heavy antibiotics and steroids to treat. That is unacceptable! Third, you are assuming that if you get the flu vaccine, you can't spread the flu. There is no evidence for this and I don't believe that is the case.</p> <p>The journal of virology published an article stating that children who were not vaccinated had more antibodies against more flus in a more healthy manner than the children who were vaccinated. I</p> <p>Believe that is the case for health care workers, We also know that vaccines lower your immunity for up to 2 weeks after the flu shot...and you are doing this to the workers who work in the most germ infested areas... How about recommending that people be more healthy and take a little extra vitamin D during flu season? I feel very strongly about this. strong enough to leave the profession in order not to compromise my health!</p>
29	ND	<p>Absolutely not! Independent studies prove that it's ineffective and the reports of negative outcomes have been covered up. What an outrage to attempt to perpetrate this on any segment of the population! Use our money to educate about hand washing, whole foods, and Vitamin D3, instead of pushing this poison.</p>
30	RN	<p>I am a Registered Nurse working in a County Hospital Intensive Care Unit. I implore you to carefully reconsider any recommendation which encourages employers to require the flu shot as a condition of employment with only medical exemptions. The flu vaccine itself is problematic due to shifting strains, changing virulence of the virus and the challenge of predicting the next year's predominant strains. The efficacy of influenza vaccine can vary from ineffective on non- matched years to as high as perhaps 80 or 90% on well matched years. The major studies that are cited by employers indicating that vaccinating health care workers reduces illness and death in elderly patients have been reviewed by the Cochrane Collaboration. The Cochrane Collaboration reanalyzed the data presented and found the results to be quite different than the conclusions the authors themselves drew. This fact in itself leads one to believe that further, unbiased research must be conducted before any mandate can be made.</p> <p>The goal of controlling infectious disease must be kept in mind. Mandating a variable and problematic vaccine will undermine the faith/ trust the people have in their governing agencies. The thought that HCWs are selfish and putting their own fears/beliefs above the safety of the patient is pathetic and transparent, most HCWs are fully vaccinated and often have received non-mandatory vaccines in addition to mandatory ones. The Flu vaccine however cannot be grouped with the highly effective vaccines against single strain viruses. HCWs are a group of highly experienced and educated people; while you may win this single battle the damage that will follow will far outweigh any potential good. Consider how the general public will respond when the HCW in their circle of family /friends speaks about being forced to receive an unwanted vaccine. That same HCW that may have never discussed the vaccine before will now talk. Many times the family, church or nurse friend's opinion is held in higher regard than that of the CDC or FDA.</p> <p>On a personal note; I have the following questions; which as of yet, no one has been able to answer.</p> <p>1) I do not get insurance or paid sick days where I work, so IF I take the shot that they are telling me too and <u>I was one of those very few people that have an adverse reaction, who would be responsible for the lost wages and medical bills?</u> If it is the hospital or the government, good, I will take the shot, if it is me then I cannot take the shot because If I was to get sick and have to take several weeks of work I would lose my home. I take responsibility to keep my body healthy and , as far as I can remember, not had a Sick Day in the last 5 years.</p> <p>2) <u>Why is it that the number of influenza vaccines administered has increased significantly over the last decade yet the number of confirmed</u></p>

		<p><u>deaths from influenza has not trended downward?</u></p> <p>3) <u>Why is it that on the years when the influenza vaccine is a complete mismatch that there is not a spike the number of confirmed influenza deaths?</u> According to the CDC website 1997-1998 was a very low match between the circulating flu virus and the vaccines, confirmed deaths those years where 720 and 1724. Low matches where identified in the following seasons; '92-'93, '03-'04 and '07-08', confirmed deaths those years where as follows 1006, 1044, 1792, 1100, 411, '08 deaths have not yet been published in the data set from the CDC that was used. On the good match years influenza deaths range from 257 deaths in '01 to 2098 deaths in '90. The average number of deaths in good match years between 1990 and 2007 is 1171.8 deaths per year, the number of deaths during the same time frame in poor match years and very poor match years is 1113.8.</p> <p>http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2011-2012.htm</p> <p>http://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D16.jsessionid=17AA5CDFC0883FD7525471C82B8CD0D0</p> <p>http://wonder.cdc.gov/controller/datarequest/D16.jsessionid=17AA5CDFC0883FD7525471C82B8CD0D0</p>
31	RN	As an RN and a mother, I am completely against mandating any vaccines. Vaccination is a medical procedure that comes with many serious adverse outcomes. Forcing anyone to take such a risk with their own health is criminal in my opinion. I have never ...
32	EMT	Why should health care workers not have the right to their own bodies? The flu shot is not effective. It contains ingredients never meant to be in the human body. The fact there is a mandate being proposed proves that enough health care workers agree the risks outweigh the benefits, here. I see a monetary agenda, here. How much are the pharmaceutical companies paying for this to be done? There are certain medical conditions that require patients to avoid vaccinated people, due to shedding. Who will take care of the patients, if the person caring for the patient is not supposed to be around them? Who will be responsible for injuries? This will cause less people to be in healthcare, knowing our personal choices have been taken from us.
33	HCP (not specified)	It should NEVER be mandated that healthcare workers receive the flu vaccination. We should be able to choose! I have opted out every year and will continue to do so. Thank you!
34	D.C.	I do not believe the government should have the right to force vaccination of any kind on anyone. People's approach to their own health is their choice, and there are much better options than "shots" with much less risk of any side effects. I am 37 years old and have never had a flu vaccine...or the flu. As a health care professional I have a much better understanding of the benefits and risks of vaccines in general, and a greater appreciation for the human body's inherent ability to protect itself the best way possible. If and when I "get sick" my immune system is doing its job and providing me with much better defenses against future illness than a vaccine. That's my choice - and only my choice.
35	ND	<p>This is my comments re: the attempt/plan to get 90% participation in the influenza vaccinations by healthcare workers. I am against mandatory flu vaccination of healthcare workers.</p> <p>-The flu shot is far from being anywhere near even 70% effective.</p> <p>-Many people get sick from the flu shot.</p> <p>-I am allergic to eggs, which the flu shot is made with. I spent 9 years getting desensitization shots, so even though I can eat eggs occasionally, if I had them every day, I would develop problems again. So actually injecting something into me....well, I don't think it would be wise. And if I had to wear a mask every day as an alternative would take away from the personalization with me patients. It would also make it much harder to communicate with my patients.</p> <p>-I feel it violates my rights as a citizen.</p> <p>-The general population who comes into the hospital and gets exposed to the hcw, can easily get exposed to any other persons with the flu by simply going to the store, church, movies, hardware store.....</p>

		Thanks for listening. I really hope you don't make the flu shot mandatory. I never had the flu until I had my son almost 28 years ago. Then I got it twice over the next 2 to 3 years. Now it's been 22 years since I had it. So, again, why get it and risk getting sick?
36	ND	Flu vaccines should NOT be mandated. No vaccine should be mandated. It is not the government's role to decide who receives medical interventions and the flu vaccine has no proven efficacy. This is a violation of our rights for the profit of vaccine manufacturers.
37	ND	<p>Flu shots, or any shots for that matter, should not be mandated. The mandate should be for informed consent and freedom of choice. That will keep this country better than all of the others.</p> <p>Plus, the flu shot in particular has not been shown to reduce the incidence of influenza or the number of deaths from influenza. Mandating a seemingly ineffective shot is junk science. In a supposedly "evidence-based" age of medicine, how is this shot still in existence in the first place?</p> <p>Please keep our country free from intrusive government mandates!</p>
38	ND	There should be an exemption for philosophical or religious practices. also job protection for those who choose not to vaccinate.
39	HCP (not specified)	I find it hysterical that the feds are asking health care workers for flu shot advice now after my employer MADE us get one in Oct./Nov. I unfortunately got one against my own wishes. My hospital's goal is 90% participation. In the future we won't be allowed to work if we don't get it. Now you just need to wear a mask for 4 months everyday all day. Really, who can do this? Give me some sick days. I will stay home when I am sick!
40	ND	It is absurd that EMPLOYERS (healthcare or otherwise) are allowed to require MEDICAL PROCEDURES of employees or they are DISCRIMINATED AGAINST. What kind of world are we coming to? Everyone thinks they can PLAY DOCTOR making medical decisions for others without having ANY KNOWLEDGE of the employees health history or risks and WITHOUT ANY LIABILITY in the game. It also engenders a discriminatory attitude against those who have a MORAL CONFLICT with vaccination. This is a very slippery slope kind of thing and SHAME ON YOU for pushing this flawed premise that everyone can and should be vaccinated with impunity. This IS A TYRANNY OF MEDICINE. This DENIES healthcare freedom, religious freedom, informed consent rights and the DIGNITY of the human person. Vaccine MANDATES and employer "required" vaccines – is a CRIME against humanity.
41	ND	I prefer to build my immunities without this shot. The one time I received it at work, I was asked if I was allergic to eggs and feathers and no mention of a known , ethylmercury. There was no disclosure either. Rhode Island is one of those backward States that doesn't disclose this fact. I was given no choice to have it with, or without. Since my initial shot I have researched for years and read hundreds of scientific documents that conclusively validate Why not to vaccinate. Big Pharma using me or my children as we All have "Allergic to Mercury" on our medical records. I will never agree to a mandate for this shot. If they want to make money, vaccinate the Sex Offenders and take away their impulse. Lots of money there.
42	ND	I would want the right to choose. What if that person has an invisible illness, maybe an autoimmune disease and we are forcing them to be vaccinated or to be fired. Yikes. That's just hypothetical of course... I also often take the position that to protect my own rights, I must fight for those same rights for others and I would like to have the right to refuse.
43	Public citizen	Absolutely not. No one should be required to take any vaccine they don't accept willingly. As a member of the general public, I would feel much safer being treated by a healthcare worker who is unvaccinated rather than one recently vaccinated.
44	ND	Please do not pass any regulation forcing health care workers to be injected with the flu vaccine. Individuals should reserve the right to determine what is acceptable risk to their health.

45	LPN/ student RN	<p>Hello! Thanks for reading my comments on influenza vaccine coverage for health care personnel.</p> <p>After reading the draft report and doing some studying of my own, I believe the flu vaccine should be offered to HCP but not made mandatory, nor should those who refuse based on medical, philosophical, or religious reasons be penalized for doing so. We must remember that HCP are also patients at some time or another themselves, needing care for their own conditions or simply going for well visits. Patients have the autonomy to refuse vaccines; why deny HCP? We should also have this right to make informed decisions, based on our research, studies, and experiences. We already know that a small percentage of persons receiving the flu vaccine will experience adverse effects - possibly life-threatening - but how do you know who will react, and who will not? NO ONE should be forced to play "Russian Roulette" with their health if they do not wish to take the risks, no matter how "insignificant" those risks are to researchers and/or the powers that be.</p> <p>Notably missing from the draft is the topic of visitors in the <i>general</i> hospitalized population (protocol regarding immunocompromised patients were already addressed). Visitors sometimes come in with illness, and they do not always wash hands/ use sanitizer/ proper cough & sneeze hygiene, whereas HCP are already versed in these preventative strategies and are actively employing them. The risk of spreading an illness would be much greater from the general public rather than HCP! Why aren't we educating & screening visitors for s/s illness? Would this be more cost-effective than mandating vaccines?</p> <p>I probably wouldn't have questioned the National Vaccine Advisory Committee's recommendations had it not been for my own history of allergic reactions to multiple foods and environmental substances, including a reaction to a recent vaccine (tetanus) containing numerous ingredients. How do I know which component(s) caused my hands and face to swell? There are also multiple components to the influenza vaccine (take a look at the vaccine inserts written for HCP), which can change seasonally. How would my immune system react to them? Even if I didn't have a hyperreactive immune system, would I still want to inject myself with some of these ingredients? (Again, read the inserts.) To my knowledge there are no adequate long-term studies done on the safety and efficacy of the seasonal flu vaccine - just a lot of unknowns. I believe that mandatory influenza vaccinations are irresponsible due to this lack of long-term study.</p> <p>Again, flu vaccines should be made available to those who wish to have them, but NOT made mandatory. For those who make the informed decision and choose, for whatever reasons, to not have the vaccine, they should not be penalized or discriminated against.</p>
46	ND	<p>This is ridiculous. Is the US a free country or slowly but surely becoming a dictatorship. Vaccination should be voluntary and NOT mandatory. Our Health, Our Choice.</p> <p>I suppose this has nothing to do with money?</p> <p>I OPPOSE!</p>
47	RN	<p>I am a registered nurse in Indiana and I am very upset about the current vaccine mandates by my hospital. I have never received an influenza vaccine and I never plan to. I believe that it is a serious violation of my civil rights to be "forced" to do so in order to keep my job. Many of our physicians, especially the neurologists, are well aware of how dangerous the influenza vaccination is. They have cared for people with serious neurological side effects from the shot. It is NOT a very effective vaccine (around 60% efficacy) according to the CDC. Health care workers should NEVER be asked to place themselves at risk of serious life-altering side effects. AND they should never be forced to choose between their livelihood and their convictions. I believe strongly that what you are doing is criminal.</p>
48	ND	<p>My son was vaccine-damaged and developed chronic respiratory illness as a result. He was healed by homeopathy. Since then, I have researched vaccine safety and the lack thereof. Flu vaccines, in fact any vaccines, result in adverse reactions, and have never been proven to be either effective or safe.</p> <p>Nor has the US studied the adverse impacts of flu and other vaccines. (Recent research in Europe shows that vaccinated children are 2-5 times more</p>

		likely to get a number of diseases including respiratory, adhd, seizure, autism, etc.) There are more effective alternative ways to remain healthy liked increased Vitamin D3, healthy diet, homeopathy, herbal cures, etc. Health workers should be allowed freedom as to how best protect their immune system from the flu and any other ailments, government has no business mandating these kinds of personal decisions for its citizens. Lastly, herd mentality is a theory that has never been proven and is designed to sell vaccines. Vaccines have to do with lining the pockets of pharmaceutical bigwigs, not the health of the US population.
49	RN	ABSOLUTELY NOT! Flu shots are not effective and many people have reactions. It is a human right to be in charge of your own body and dictate what goes into it. No one should be forced to put things into their bodies to keep their jobs. I am a health care professional and washing hands is more effective than getting the flu shot. Educating health care workers to adopt a more whole food diet, practice lifestyle activities such as exercise and proper rest and supplementing with Vitamin D3 will all boost their natural immunities without the toxic overload vaccines have to offer. If the government dares to require me to inject poison into my body, I, and many other nurses, will leave the field for good, making the nursing shortage even worse.
50	ND	<p>I do not agree that healthcare workers or anyone else should have to be vaccinated against their will. These vaccines are often found to be dirty and are not safe for everyone. Not everyone has an immune system that can handle vaccines. People who get them may still get the flu and risk their health at the same time. A healthcare worker should have a choice. If they get the flu, they should be required to stay home. Who will be responsible if someone has a bad outcome as a result of receiving this mandatory vaccine?</p> <p>Many of my friends and family work in healthcare and I am very concerned about how this would violate their rights over their body and their health. This should be optional. I have never had the flu or a flu shot in my life. If my job required me to get a flu shot, I would leave my job. If an industry required such a thing, I would not participate in that line of work.</p> <p>Maybe you should make sure they get enough vitamin d. We all know that this is as effective if not more effective than a flu shot. Sunshine is free, but even the supplements are pretty cheap.</p>
51	ND	No, no vaccine should be required. The efficacy is negligible, and the effects can be devastating on one's health. I stopped getting sick when I stopped taking the vaccine.
52	ND	According to the vaccine inserts in several flu vaccines, they are not proven to work. Why should a healthcare worker be exposed to the additional toxins if there is no proof they work? This defies common sense and is the reason I choose not to have a flu vaccine. Let the healthcare worker decide if they would like to have the vaccine. Let them do the research, let them decide.
53	Student	As a former health care employee and nursing student, I have given much thought to mandated flu shots for health care employees. So much so that the thought of having forced vaccines for health care workers has me concerned that my job options after graduation will be limited if I refuse the flu

		<p>shot or any other vaccinations.</p> <p>I most emphatically disapprove of forced vaccines for anyone. If mandated flu shots get approved, my concern is that the health care industry which we already know will be in great need of nurses, CNA's etc, would loose very talented, caring people. I strongly urge you to leave the decision to get vaccinated up to the individual. Only they and their doctors can best take into consideration their individual health history, allergies, and even personal feelings on how ethical this is. If flu vaccines are mandated, my college tuition and ambition will have been a waste. My options for employment will be limited and the health care industry will loose a qualified nurse. I am sure that I am not the only one.</p>
54	MD	<p>The goal for Healthcare Organizations should be 100% vaccination with only exemptions for those with a well document allergy to the vaccine. To get to that % (and even to get to 90%) we need legislation that requires healthcare workers to either get vaccinated or wear a mask at all times, during influenza season. Most organizations are getting there rates into the 75% range. Moving that to 90% without it being mandatory will take large amounts of resources (and a lot of pizza parties) to achieve. These resources will be diverted from other Infection Prevention and Control activities, activities that are just as, if not more important. We already see results from organizations that have made vaccination or mask wearing mandatory – rates of vaccination in the high 90% range. For those of us with union workers the ability to mandate this is difficult. Specifically nursing unions are strongly opposed to mandating vaccination or mask wearing (hard for me to reconcile that stance and the statement that these unions make that they are all about Patient Safety). Without legislation to mandate vaccination or mask, we will either spend many more resources than we should on this or not get to 90%.</p>
55	MSN, RNC Educator- Hospital Epidemiology	<p>I would like give support of the requirement of influenza vaccination for healthcare workers. I am an employee at Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU) Medical Center (formerly known as the Medical College of Georgia Hospital and Clinics) in Augusta GA and this is our 2nd year requiring the influenza vaccination for employees of the medical center or those coming into the medical center for direct patient care(ie students and faculty). This policy originated in the Hospital Epidemiology Department(where I am employed) and came through as a recommendation from the Infections Committee, chaired by Peter Rissing, MD, Hospital Epidemiologist and ultimately made policy.</p> <p>Initially in 2010 there was some controversy about it being mandatory but employees were told that they did not have to receive the vaccination, however they could not work in our facility if they chose not to as it is our policy (unless it was for documented medical or religious reasons). We did not lose but maybe one or 2 employees because of this policy. Interestingly, this is the same philosophy used by The Walt Disney Corporation and taught in the Disney Institute which is made up of time-tested best practices, sound methodologies, and real life business lessons that have sustained the global success of Disney, to set for the requirements for employment and let each person decide for themselves if they wish to work in that environment or not.</p> <p>This year seemed to be even smoother in getting the entire healthcare worker population vaccinated. I am not sure of our exact immunization rate(this is overseen by Occupational Health) but I am sure it is close to 100%, and well above the Healthy People 2020 goal. I am sure Roxane Patterson Director of our Occupational Health at GHSU would be glad to share our rate with you if you'd like. (She can be reached at rpatterson@georgiahealth.edu) I strongly support this initiative nationwide and it is basic for patient safety.</p>
56	Employee Health/ Infection Prevention Coordinator	<p>Iowa has had success with a goal of 95% over a 5 year period. Most hospitals achieved over 90% and many at the 95% or greater. We have had only a couple lag behind in the 70+% range. The five steps look fine. Our numerator denominator was simple, number employees vaccinated over number of employees receiving a paycheck. My facility has not mandated either the vaccine or wearing of PPE but have said we may. We reached 94% in 2009-10, 93% 2010-11 we are on track for between 94-95% this season. We track through the end of March so I will need to continue to assess and offer new hires through that time period.</p> <p>Success has included increased educational efforts, one on one, strong support from Administration and Managers, taking the vaccine to the employee in their work area and during their varied shifts, small incentives-treat at time of immunization, drawing for \$10 gift cards, competition</p>

		among departments for sub or pizza party, stickers on ID badges so participating employees can be readily identified, offering FluMist and obtaining thimerosal free vaccine to include those with allergies.
57	Infection Prevention Officer	<p>In Cincinnati, in order to achieve >90%, the hospitals/health systems, in conjunction with the Greater Cincinnati Health Council, implemented mandatory flu vaccination, with the exception of medical or religious contra-indications. Those who chose not receive the flu immunization, were terminated. This is in effect for all of the hospitals/health systems in Cincinnati, Ohio. I believe that influenza vaccinations should be included as one of the already required set of vaccinations for healthcare workers, i.e. MMR, Chickenpox, DPT/TDaP. Herd immunity would be one of the best ways to limit community disease rates and reduce the risks to the patients we serve in all settings.</p> <p>Areas that might be helpful are defining the denominator for determining immunization rates (Clinical vs all employees), better defining religious exemptions (as medical exemptions are defined) and developing inactivated virus vaccinations that can be administered by other than needles and would reduce the risk of shedding live virus around immunocompromised patients.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment</p>
58	RN, Infection Preventionist-Clinics	I think the draft document is well done. Our organization went to mandatory vaccination this year. One area you did address was vaccine shortages but in relation to future vaccine development. I do believe a statement needs to be included regarding vaccination rates during periods of shortages. Would the rates decline? How would this affect the CMS penalties, etc? Thanks.
59	Associate Director Patient and Nursing Services	We are currently experiencing a very low employee vaccination rate this year. It seems that most employees are either convinced that they will get ill from the vaccine, or have never had a vaccine and have always been healthy so think they do not need it. I think to reach 90% we would need to do a combination of offering an incentive (a 4 hour time off award is given at some sites to employees who donate blood.) This might help boost vaccination rates. Making it mandatory that all employees either receive the vaccination or wear a nose and mouth covering mask for the duration of the flu season. These sound like drastic measures, but there is a lot of resistance currently to this vaccine. The only time we had a waiting line was the year that H1N1 was in the community. These are just some thoughts of mine.
60	Infection preventionist for the Office of Mental Health	<p>I am an infection preventionist for the Office of Mental Health in New York State.</p> <p>I run the employee vaccination program. I have specific policies, programs and campaigns to provide education and promote free influenza vaccination at our facility. However, the trend for staff influenza vaccination rates are stagnant and even seeing a decline this current year.</p> <p>In order to not just educate, but also to change mindset, there will be needed an additional coordinated effort by the employer and infection preventionists to reach the unvaccinated employees and affect change by 2020. My question is, will the draft consider and recognize the additional efforts that are needed to be put forth by the infection preventionist and employer to track and educate the unvaccinated staff? Will there be funding or recommendations regarding the additional efforts and manhours to assist private and state run facilities?</p>
61	FNPC, CIC	In order for Health Care Facilities to achieve 90% immunization we need the Federal government to make it mandatory for all HCW's to be immunized, unless medically contraindicated. We are getting strong union resistance at our level and need a mandate
62	ND	And just who identified vaccines as the greatest health measure? Certainly not the hundreds of thousands who have been seriously damaged, many

		<p>even killed. Take a look at the charts of disease incidence and you will see that all illnesses were in sharp decline prior to mass vaccination programs. This was due to improved sanitation and hygiene. For example, whatever happened to scarlet fever? There was never a vaccine for it.</p> <p>The 1950s mass vaccination of polio vaccine caused a spike in incidence. Further, it is now known that many current cancers contain Simian Virus 40 (SV40), the 40th monkey virus known to be in polio vaccine. There is growing alarm and recognition among some experts that polio vaccine causes cancer, not only in the directly vaccinated, but also in their offspring.</p> <p>If EPA's "acceptable" (not "safe") limit for the amount of "ingestion" of mercury was applied to the amount of mercury in the "injection" of one flu shot, the recipient would have to weigh 550 lbs. There is no standard for the insane practice of injecting mercury directly into the blood stream where it crosses the blood brain barrier. An infant would have to weigh 225 lbs. to meet the "ingestion" limit. Now even fetuses are being poisoned through flu vaccines given to their pregnant mothers.</p> <p>There are comments herein that continue to show blind belief in the myth of "herd immunity". Please think about this: If vaccines worked, why would my child have to be vaccinated to protect your vaccinated child? Stop believing corporate lies. Do your own research.</p>
63	RN	<p>I am a Registered Nurse working in public hospital neuro/surgical/medical ICU. I respectfully ask you to reconsider your recommendation that employers mandate flu vaccination as a condition of employment without exemption. I have read the minutes of several of your meetings and am aware of the issues discussed. Allow me to share the concerns that I have with you.</p> <p>1. Analysis of current scientific studies show inconsistent data and conflicting conclusions.</p> <p>In the draft recommendations that you are inviting comment on you stated on page five, "The Working Group's recommendations are built on the principle that influenza is a significant public health threat, that the influenza vaccine is safe and effective, and that vaccination is currently the most effective mechanism for preventing influenza infection." I agree that influenza is a significant threat. I take issue with the statement, however, that the vaccine is effective, this statement should absolutely be qualified with a addendum, "during years of good match between vaccine components and predominant circulating strains." We are all aware that when there is a very low or low match the vaccine is completely ineffective. According to the CDC this occurred during the flu seasons of 1992-1993, 1997-1998, 2003-2004, and 2007-2008 most recently.</p> <p>Also on page five, the following statement is found: "Determining the overall effects of vaccination of HCP on patient outcomes is methodologically challenging and the outcomes measured often vary between studies. Findings specific to the effectiveness of HCP influenza vaccination in protecting patients vary by setting, year, and population studied and may lead to differing interpretations of the available data. Collectively, the impact of HCP vaccination on patient morbidity and mortality in the acute and long-term care settings requires continued investigation. While the working group discussed several scientific studies that evaluated the impact of HCP influenza vaccination on reducing healthcare associated influenza infection among patients, evaluating the full merits of HCP vaccination was not included in the charge of the working group, and therefore is not directly addressed in this report." There is a recognition by this working group of conflicting interpretations of data. Why, then, would this committee propose that mandatory vaccination be urged? I believe that in an era of outcome based interventions we should wait until we have good scientific evidence that vaccination of HCP protects vulnerable patients before we take away individuals' rights to determine their own healthcare. Which brings me to my next point.</p> <p>2. Ethically, HCP's have an obligation to protect and defend those they care for, however, they do not give up their right of self-determination because of that obligation. In a free country we should educate HCP's about the risks and benefits of influenza vaccination, and allow the individual to choose his or her own healthcare. Each medication we deal with on a daily basis in my ICU has risks and benefits, side effects and positive effects.</p>

		<p>If a patient of mine refuses to take a medication, ethically I must respect that right to choose, even if that choice will cause a delay his healing, causing increased burden and cost to the healthcare system. It is the cost of freedom. You, by proposing mandatory vaccinations, take that freedom away from every healthcare worker. This is not the same situation we found ourselves in with smallpox or polio eradication campaigns when vaccinations were mandatory. This is an historically unreliable vaccine, as you stated on page five. To take away every individuals' right to choose what medication he or she will take is reprehensible. You are putting a heavy burden on the backbone of the healthcare system in the US: choose whether you will ignore your philosophical or religious views and keep your job, or exercise your freedom of choice and be unemployed. Even your committee, as small as it was, could not agree that this vaccine should be mandated. Seven of your twenty-four members disagreed with the recommendation for mandatory vaccines.</p> <p>3. Please consider the image that will be portrayed to the general public as HCP are forced to take the flu vaccine to keep their job. We are an educated bunch, and the public trusts us (read the surveys, it's true). And who does the public not trust? The big government folks, that's you (read the survey's, it's true). Once you force HCP to vaccinate, I believe the talk on a grass roots level will be such that the public will wonder why this vaccination had to be mandated. I feel this will decrease the strides made in vaccinating the general public. Trust in this safety and efficacy of this vaccine will be eroded.</p> <p>4. While I read the charter for the NVAC and realize two members of the NVAC should be from vaccine research companies, I would like to say that I believe having an employee of Novartis voting to make HCP flu vaccinations mandatory is a clear conflict of interest. His company stands to have a huge increase in revenue if this recommendation moves forward. I find this to be quite disturbing, ethically speaking. While Dr. Lewin has an impressive resume, his current position should exclude him from this working group.</p> <p>5. My last point is a question of liability. If a healthcare worker does not wish to be vaccinated against influenza, but does so as a term of their employment and suffers side effects, who will be liable for lost wages, medical care, etc.? I am aware of the small percentage of adverse reactions, but the fact remains that there are indeed adverse reactions. In the case of this being a "mandated" vaccine, who will absorb the costs of a medical issue arising from the vaccine? Will it be the HCP who, in reality, didn't give "consent" but only tolerated the vaccination, or the HCE? Also, recent studies may show that annual flu vaccination may be a risk factor for novel flu strains, such as was seen in 2009 with H1N1 ("Does Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Increase the Risk of Illness with the 2009 A/H1N1 Pandemic Virus?" by Viboud, Simonsen, 2010). Once again, who will liable if this is later proven to be true and you have mandated this vaccine?</p> <p>In conclusion, I would ask you to reconsider the position in Recommendation 4 that "HCE and facilities strongly consider an employer requirement for influenza vaccine." I believe that as better influenza vaccines are developed and statistics are more definitive, you will have an opportunity to have HCP's be vaccinated of their own free will.</p>
64	D.D.S.	<p>As a health practitioner, and a citizen of this nation, I abhor the idea for being forced into a process that I believe to be unnecessary medically and morally. I ask that the views of this department and the program be re-evaluated with respect to human and personal rights of all individual. Rights as you are aware, are derived from the idea of ownership, and our bodies are ours, this fact is irrefutable. Therefore no one is to be subjected to forced recommendations by others, or coercive tactics regarding health choices that is felt to be morally, personally, and religiously wrong. Please use your kind judgement in passing policies that affect the masses.</p>
65	ND	<p>I like the draft statement! My only question is that if we make influenza vaccinations mandatory and an employee has a serious complication, are hospital's held legally responsible? (What would be our legal responsibility?) Or does that depend on what each state mandates? Or OSHA?</p>

66	ND	<p>I am writing to express my concern about Hospitals and Health Care Facilities mandating the flu vaccine for employees. To require health care workers to inject a vaccine annually as a condition of employment is wrong.</p> <p>According to the CDC, as of Feb. 25, 2011, there were over 8,200 adverse events reported to VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) following influenza vaccination in 2010-2011.</p> <p>There were 604 reports that were classified as "serious" health events and 28 reports of death.</p> <p>Please look at the report: http://vaers.hhs.gov/resources/SeasonalFluSummary_2011April05.pdf</p> <p>Adverse events following immunizations are a reality & an employee shouldn't have to choose between her job & her health!</p> <p>Before this aggressive policy is implemented, we need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct studies to investigate the role of host genetics in Adverse Events Following Immunizations (AEFI) • Improve scientific knowledge about why and among whom vaccine adverse reactions occur • Improve our understanding of immunology and genomics to better comprehend the immune response and biological mechanisms important for understanding the safety of vaccines <p>I strongly believe that both of my children were harmed by their mandated vaccines. My son has autism and my daughter has a seizure disorder. Medicine isn't ONE SIZE FITS ALL- even for vaccines.</p> <p>Before we force annual vaccination on health care workers for PATIENT SAFETY, we must consider PUBLIC SAFETY. We need screening tools to determine which genes are responsible for triggering an adverse reaction. At the very least, we need to continue to honor the health care workers' right to decline a medical intervention based on medical, religious or philosophical reasons. If you get the time, please watch the award winning documentary on vaccines before you debate this issue at: http://www.greatergoodmovie.org/</p>
67	RN	<p>I am writing regards the mandatory flu vaccines, and the discontinuation of the religious exemption.</p> <p>It is beyond the scope of any Board of Health or the National Vaccine Advisory Committee to define religion, or to prevent free exercise of one's religion. To do so, is to drift over toward a form of government that could be very dangerous for everyone.</p> <p>Secondly, the vaccine product is not entirely safe. I have included information in this letter about that, in case you are not aware already. The quality control is very uneven.</p> <p>Just in the past few months alone: Please note that batches of Gardasil Vaccine In New Zealand were contaminated with HPV. Also, live avian flu virus was placed in Baxter vaccine materials sent to 18 countries in fall of 2011. Also this fall, over 300,000 doses of flu vaccine have been recalled from thousands of surgeries and pharmacies across Europe due to making people ill. In Scotland, 2,500 vaccines have been recalled and Preflucel will not be issued until further notice. It was labelled as suitable for patients with allergies because it does not contain egg and is expected to provide up to 80 per cent protection against influenza. Some of Austria's schools suspend</p>

	<p>vaccinations: A few weeks after the UK withdrew 300,000 doses of Baxter's flu vaccine Preflucel and <i>German</i> authorities issued a recall in an alert over side-effects, Austria's private Catholic schools have suspended vaccinations. Remember this? In 2006 it was revealed that Bayer Corporation had discovered that a drug used by hemophiliacs was contaminated with the HIV virus.</p> <p>The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a warning over Preflucel, a popular influenza vaccine. Read more: http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2054160/300-000-doses-flu-vaccine-Preflucel-withdrawn-alert-effects.html#ixzz1jDQ8Te68</p> <p><i>Recall and Review of Gardasil Vaccine In New Zealand (some batches actually contain HPV DNA)</i> <i>Wednesday, 14 September 2011, 11:34 am</i> <i>Press Release: PSGR</i></p> <p><i>14 September 2011</i> <i>Recall and Review of Gardasil Vaccine</i> <i>The Ministry of Health must immediately recall and review the potentially life threatening Gardasil vaccine after 100% of 13 samples from several countries including New Zealand tested positive for HPV DNA and may remain in circulation.(1)</i> <i>The Merck Sharpe and Dohme (NZ) Herpes Virus vaccine Gardasil has been linked to many severe reactions.</i> <i>The FDA vaccine events reporting site (VEARS) has 12,424 reports of adverse events following Gardasil vaccination.</i> <i>Of these, 772 were reports of serious events (6.2% of the reports) and the remaining 11,652 (93.8%) were classified as non-serious. In New Zealand at least one death has been attributed to the vaccine.</i> <i>The discovery that some batches contain HPV DNA contradicts the Medsafe data sheets statement that the vaccine does not contain viral DNA: "virus-like particles are adsorbed onto an aluminium-containing adjuvant (amorphous aluminium hydroxyphosphate sulfate, or AAHS). Because the virus-like particles contain no viral DNA, they cannot infect cells or reproduce."</i> <i>Dr Sin Hang Lee, a pathologist at the Milford Hospital pathology laboratory well-known for using cutting-edge DNA sequencing for molecular diagnoses, has said that "once a segment of recombinant DNA is inserted into a human cell, the consequences are hard to predict. It may be in the cell temporarily or stay there forever, with or without causing a mutation. Now the host cell contains human DNA as well as genetically engineered viral DNA."</i></p> <p><i>Live Avian Flu Virus Placed in Baxter Vaccine Materials Sent to 18 Countries in Fall 2011</i> Toronto Sun reports :</p> <p>The company that released contaminated flu virus material from a plant in Austria confirmed Friday that the experimental product contained live H5N1 avian flu viruses. An official of the World Health Organization's European operation said they are closely monitoring the investigation into the events that took place at Baxter International's research facility in Orth-Donau, Austria. Baxter flu vaccines contaminated with H5N1 – otherwise known as the human form of avian flu, one of the most deadly biological weapons on earth with a 60% kill rate – were received by labs in the Czech Republic, Germany, and Slovenia. "At this juncture we are confident in saying that public health and occupational risk is minimal at present," medical officer Roberta Andraghetti said from Copenhagen, Denmark. "But what remains unanswered are the circumstances surrounding the incident in the Baxter facility in Orth-Donau." The contaminated product, a</p>
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	<p>mix of H3N2 seasonal flu viruses and unlabelled H5N1 viruses, was supplied to an Austrian research company. The Austrian firm, Avir Green Hills Biotechnology, then sent portions of it to sub-contractors in the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Germany.</p> <p>The contamination incident, which is being investigated by the four European countries, came to light when the subcontractor in the Czech Republic inoculated ferrets with the product and they died. Authorities in both Europe and the U.S. have openly detailed plans for martial law, quarantine and internment should a bird flu pandemic occur.</p> <p>In addition to quality control issues, the question of adverse effects is still a pretty big question!</p> <p>CFL Website Vaccination history and risk of non-hodgkin lymphoma: a population-based, case-control study Received: 29 May 2008 / Accepted: 27 October 2008 / Published online: 15 November 2008 Cancer Causes Control (2009) 20:517–523 DOI 10.1007/s10552-008-9259-x Abstract Objective As factors that alter the immune system have been implicated in non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) etiology, it is of interest to explore the association between vaccination and risk of NHL. Results of few epidemiologic studies conducted thus far are inconsistent, and only one has examined the association by histologic subtype.</p> <p>In Summary, we found that NHL risk is inversely associated with polio and smallpox vaccination and positively associated with influenza vaccination, and that these associations appear to differ by histologic subtype. Future studies should include specific analyses of the cellular and humoral immune responses generated by vaccination, as well as memory responses. Such information may provide a better understanding of the magnitude and types of immune responses generated against various antigens to (discover) the potential mechanisms of vaccination and lymphoma development and/or protection.</p> <p>83 Cases of Autism Associated with Childhood Vaccine Injury Compensated in <u>Federal Vaccine Court</u> <i>Government program has been quietly paying awards to vaccine-injured children with autism for two decades but continues to deny vaccine-autism link.</i> WASHINGTON, May 10, 2011 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — The following is being released by SafeMinds (www.SafeMinds.org): For over 20 years, the federal government has publicly denied a vaccine-autism link, while at the same time its Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) has been awarding damages for vaccine injury to children with brain damage, seizures and autism. A new investigation, based on verifiable government data, breaks ground in the controversial vaccine-autism debate. The investigation found that a substantial number of children compensated for vaccine injury also have autism and that such cases have existed since 1989, the year after the VICP was formed. SafeMinds' Executive Director, Lyn Redwood, RN, MSN comments, "This study dramatically shifts the debate on autism and vaccines. The question is no longer, <i>Can vaccines cause autism?</i> The answer is clear. Now, we have to ask, <i>How many cases of autism have vaccines caused and how do we prevent new injuries from occurring?</i>" The government has asserted that it "does not track" autism among the vaccine-injured. SafeMinds responds that not looking is the easiest way not to find something. SafeMinds is calling for immediate federal research into the mechanisms of injury in these children in an effort to protect other children from harm and Congressional action to reform the VICP. The peer-reviewed study looked at cases of vaccine injury that have been monetarily compensated by the federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. It was published today in the Pace Environmental Law Review. The study investigated approximately 1300 cases of childhood brain injury as a result of vaccines in which the Special Masters ruled for the plaintiffs, looking for references to autism, symptoms of autism or disorders commonly associated with autism. It reports that twenty-one cases actually stated "autism or autism-like symptoms" in the court records. The researchers then</p>
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		<p>identified and contacted 150 more compensated families to find out whether the children had autism. They were able to find an additional 62 cases (greater than 40% of their sample) for a total of 83 cases of autism. In 39 cases (47%) there was confirmation of autism beyond parental report.</p> <p>The federal government has called autism a "national health emergency," conservatively affecting 1 in 110 children and costing the country billions of dollars each year. If a portion of autism cases are vaccine-induced and there is evidence that officials have been "looking the other way," this cannot be tolerated. The VICP's recent attempt to dismiss the over 5000 cases in the Omnibus Autism Proceedings is suspect in light of these new findings based on its own records.</p> <p>There is more information on many of these issues but this is probably enough for one letter.</p>
68	RN	<p>I recently discovered that there is a Working Group assigned to facilitate a goal of a 90% flu vaccination rate among healthcare workers by making it mandatory. <i>As an RN of 29 years I am extremely concerned!</i> So far in the battle of research, there is not a convincing argument that flu vaccines are effective, let alone effective enough to want to violate individual citizen's rights by making mandatory requirements to take the vaccine, or lose employment and tenure. And in fact, some of the research has indicated to other countries a need to ban the flu vaccines. Why is there such a strong push to make it mandatory when even the CDC itself has published statements that the vaccines are not effective in the elderly?</p> <p>http://chemistry.about.com/cs/howthingswork/a/aa011604a.htm http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2010/04/27/flu-vaccine-not-effective-in-elderly/ http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=15536</p> <p>Then there's the list of toxic ingredients causing a wide range of mild to severe side effects and complications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous levels of mercury in the form of thimerosal, a deadly preservative that is 50 times more toxic than regular mercury • Ethylene glycol (antifreeze) • Formaldehyde – a known cancer-causing agent • Neomycin and streptomycin (antibiotics) • Aluminum -- a neurotoxin linked to Alzheimer's disease • Polysorbate 80 (Tween80™) – which can cause severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis • Phenol (carbolic acid) • Resin and gelatin - known to cause allergic reactions • Triton X100 (detergent) <p>Complications range from localized fever, convulsions, infertility, thrombocytopenia, Bell's Palsy, to Guillian-Barre, and narcolepsy for seasonal flu vaccines, H1N1, or swine flu.</p> <p>There is actually so much data and research out there disputing and proving the lack of efficacy in flu vaccines especially in light of the real risks involved, that it would be impossible to state it all here, and I don't know that you would believe it anyway.</p> <p>I am not willing to take the risk of getting any of these complications and I do not want myself or my family members being forced to receive vaccines that are not completely safe! It is a violation of our rights as American's to be forced to receive ANY vaccine.</p> <p>Is it impossible for those employed by government to understand why we shouldn't give away our rights to make healthcare decisions for ourselves? Coercion and manipulation for any outcome is wrong and actually evil. My intention is not to be offensive at all, but to impress you with the importance of not crossing a line that shouldn't be crossed. There are other solutions to the issues involved.</p>

69	D.C.	I strongly object to the move to force all healthcare workers to submit to the influenza inoculation, which has not been scientifically validated for safety or effectiveness. I am primarily concerned with toxic side effects and long term sequellae.
70	Employee Health Coordinator	It is the professional and ethical responsibility of HCP and the institutions within which they work to prevent the spread of infectious pathogens to their patients through evidence-based infection prevention practices, including influenza vaccination. Therefore, for the safety of both patients and HCP, all health care institutions should require annual influenza immunization as a condition of employment unless there are recognized medical contraindications to receiving the vaccine.
71	Infection Control Coordinator	<p>I don't know if this is the correct site for submitting comments on the proposed flu vaccination regulations but here goes....</p> <p>The recommendations do NOT go nearly far enough, they are "wishy washy, not taking a real stance" approach. The only way you're going to effectively get flu vaccination compliance levels where they should be is to just MANDATE it for all healthcare workers AND physicians who enter healthcare facilities of any kind.</p> <p>Plain, simple and to the point. It is well overdue for the CDC to require flu vaccinations and stop soft-pedaling the issue! And infection control practitioners from every healthcare venue (unless they don't have their priorities in order for protecting patients and employees) will applaud such action!</p>
72	ND	I am fundamentally opposed to anything that mandates anything over my medical choices. The government should not impose such laws and rules for the "greater good" each person has a constitutional right to make informed decisions regarding their own health.
73	ND	<p>Healthcare workers are also individual citizens who SHOULD be protected by the same US Constitution that many fought to protect. The flu vaccine has enough adverse reactions (with pharmaceutical companies totally exempt from responsibility for these adverse reactions) that they should be totally an "informed consent" situation for each individual. Who pays for the person disabled as a result of an adverse vaccine reaction?? How can you FORCE a healthcare worker (or anyone else) to take a vaccine with known serious adverse reactions?? This does not even begin to look like the country I grew up in and defended as we lose more and more basic personal freedoms. Choosing how to care for oneself does not belong to any government mandate; but to each individual.</p> <p>Since this again looks like a "quick, let's ram this through" bill--it should be extended to allow more people to comment on their impending loss of personal freedom.</p>
74	ND	<p>While I understand your interest in public health and welfare, I do not believe in mandatory influenza vaccination for any population.</p> <p>People should have a right to choose what enters their bodies. I do not support mandatory influenza vaccination for health care workers. This seems like a clear issue of personal freedom and while I respect the interest in the health of the general population, the invasion of personal liberty is much too high.</p>
75	ND	The Lancet's latest published study is showing that flu shots only spare 1.5 people out of 100 from contracting the flu. This surprising find was discovered by vaccine developers, not anti vaccine researchers. The flu vaccine is NOT effective and IS dangerous to people. Flu shots cause autoimmune problems, Alzheimers, and deaths, such as the 7 year old Vermont girl who died in December by becoming very ill and turning blue after a flu vaccine.

		<p>Flu vaccines don't work and should NEVER be mandated. I know there are vast amounts of money spent promoting vaccines, but the public is catching on to this scandal. We the people have lived the devastating effects, we have seen what has transpired with all these lies about flu vaccines. Vitamin D is 8 times more effective than the flu vaccine in preventing the flu. There are many other ways to keep your immune system healthy so that you won't get the flu, or if you do, it will be milder and you will recover quickly.</p> <p>Canadian researchers discovered that the majority of those who contracted swine flu during the 2009 season, had been those who had previously received flu shots. If this isn't telling I don't know what is. Please be an example and DO NOT mandate flu vaccines.</p>
76	HCP (not specified)	<p>I currently work for a healthcare organization, but not with direct patient care. Our organization has recently mandated that any employees with direct patient contact must be vaccinated against the flu or choose to wear a mask during the duration of the flu season during their shift. If they choose neither, then they face mandatory leave w/o pay or choosing to quit their job.</p> <p>For the government to step in and make this mandatory for healthcare workers to get this vaccine would be against our rights as healthy human beings to let our immunity do it's job as nature intended it too. I am outraged that the government would put people at risk and bring down their immunities by doing this, let alone our constitutional rights are going down the tubes! We all know that the live viruses that are in these vaccines are not even the ones that threaten us anyway and that our bodies are being pumped up with other foreign things that do our bodies much more harm than good.</p> <p>This just seems to be another measure for the government to control population once again. If I am ever faced with such a decision and it was mandated for my job or if it ever is...than it is time for me to find another job. Hopefully this committee will rethink this ridiculous mandate that needs be put in the hands of each individual person to decide and get the word out that the best way to prevent the spread of illness, including the flu, is good, old fashioned hand washing, good hygiene, and keeping yourself healthy with diet and exercise!</p> <p>I am ANTI-FLU VACCINE and plan on spreading the word within my community and on social sites.</p>
77	HCP (not specified)	<p>I have worked in hospitals for many years, I have not had the flu, have not received the flu vaccine. Most of the people I've cared for got the flu from their homes, schools, neighborhoods, stores; they got the flu with or without the vaccine, before they got to the hospital. These people did not receive the flu from hospital employees. We have been around people with the flu and did not get it, using standard procedures, hand washing, isolating infectious patients. Mandatory healthcare vaccinations will not be for the benefit of people in the hospital, patients or employees. The "benefit" will be to another source, such as producers of the vaccine, distributors, or government sources. This is the perspective of most of my fellow workers, whether they have been vaccinated for the flu or not.</p>
78	ND	<p>I am very much against mandating that anyone get the flu or any other kind of vaccine. My father was paralyzed by his last of many flu vaccines, and my mother has had Alzheimer's since 1998 from the accumulated aluminum in her brain from the yearly flu vaccines she and my father got at the mall from around 1980 on. There is twenty times as much Alzheimer's in the U.S. now than there was in 1980, and I believe it is because of this vaccine.</p> <p>My daughter got the hep-B vaccine at birth and reacted with four days and nights of inconsolable screaming, vaccine-induced encephalitis, and was later diagnosed with autism. I reacted to a tetanus booster with paralysis of both arms for two days, brachioplexal neuropathy, and later developed M.S., which did not exist before the smallpox vaccine began two hundred years ago. Vaccines cause encephalitis (autism, ADHD, seizure disorders) or</p>

		<p>autoimmune disease (asthma, allergies, bowel disease, diabetes), because they provoke the immune system into producing greater or longer-lasting inflammation than it was supposed to.</p> <p>In some nursing homes, the day the residents are given the flu vaccine is known as "culling day," because so many recipients die within days of getting it. Lisa Marks Smith wrote in Vaccine Epidemic about her being paralyzed for four years by a routine flu vaccine. A little girl in Vermont got in on December 2, 2010, got a high fever the next day, and died on December 6. She would still be a happy, healthy first-grader if she hadn't gotten the flu vaccine.</p> <p>I got the flu last March, with high fever and chills, headache, muscle aches, but I had to drive ninety miles to Vandalia to go to the funeral of an old friend. I took Sambucol, oscillococcinum, homeopathic bryonia, and Umcka. I overdid it because I was so panicked about being unable to go to Mahlon's funeral. And I was actually surprised when I took my temperature again at four in the morning and the fever was gone! There are a lot of naturopathic and homeopathic treatments to treat flu when it occurs. You should absolutely NOT mandate that any workers have to take this dangerous, unnecessary, and often ineffective vaccine.</p>
79	HCP (not specified)	<p>My FREEDOM OF CHOICE is being extremely violated by this mandate! I use alternative, more healthy, natural methods of healthcare and resent this proposal. There are too many contradictions regarding the safety of immunizations and I cannot imagine forcing people to unwillingly violate their body with this. I work in the healthcare profession and am VERY aware of physician's beliefs that they know what is best for individuals healthcare. In some instances, I agree with their training and knowledge, however, when it is not comfortable for me to accept their medication(s) I have the right to refuse.</p> <p>Ten years ago my daughter had severe pain in her jaw due to a car accident. Her dr. prescribed minimal monthly pain pills. Over a period of 10 years her dr. prescribed a total of 400 pain pills per month! (I have proof of her dosages). My daughter admitted herself at the beginning of year 2012, into a hospital to detox off the pills. She no longer needed them for pain; she needed them for her addiction! She spent 7 days in excruciating pain and agony. After going home, she experienced 7 more days of withdrawal symptoms from the pills they gave her in the hospital to help with the detox process! Three weeks later, she is STILL trying to recover from all of this! Where are the physician(s) when it gets to this point? They turn the table around and accuse the patient of being a horrible narcotic addicted person and the dr. takes NO RESPONSIBILITY for their actions in "playing" with this patient during the last 10 years! Working in a health facility, I see many narcotic, addicted patients and my heart goes out to them dearly because it was not their fault they are in this position and physician(s) turn their heads to them. It is a horror to watch!!!!</p> <p>DO NOT take my FREEDOM OF CHOICE away from me. I cannot imagine who you think you people are to advocate such a preposterous proposal of mandating Flu Vaccinations! I have NEVER taken a flu shot and have NEVER experienced the flu. I have seen people take the shot and later experienced the flu. HOW, exactly, do you justify this?</p> <p>Physicians are only human; not God Almighty, who knows what is BEST for people (although, tell some physicians this and they will disagree they are not God Almighty). I work with them daily!</p>
80	ND	<p>I am writing you to strongly oppose mandatory vaccination for health workers and any other segment of the population for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I believe that every human being should have the CHOICE to make decisions regarding their health and what goes into their bodies. - the medical community is divided as to the efficacy, safety and necessity of Influenza vaccinations, with prominent scientists and medical doctors on both sides of the divide.

		<p>- there is growing scientific evidence that vaccines are only marginally effective, that they are not safe and can actually cause irreparable and serious harm including death. There is also an increased risk of actually spreading the flu in vaccinated people as many of them succumb to it as a result of the vaccination, and if not, they are walking carriers of the viruses.</p> <p>-there is also the question about the necessity of mass vaccination to prevent disease. Evidence suggests that vaccination is an unreliable means of preventing disease. The CDC for example has reported a measles outbreak in a documented 100% vaccinated population (MMWR 33 (24), 6/22/84.)</p> <p>- there are documented long term adverse effects of vaccines, including chronic immunological and neurological disorders. Vaccine ingredients include known toxicants and carcinogens and studies have found correlations between vaccinations and subsequent serious conditions.</p> <p>However one feels about the vaccination issue, there is one thing certain: there are many questions about the safety, efficacy and necessity of Influenza vaccination left unanswered and many that point to a potential for serious consequences. In these circumstances it is imperative that the population have a say in their own health and have the right to choose to be vaccinated or not.</p>
81	RN	I am registered nurse of 36 years and am imploring you to NOT force a medical treatment such as a flu vaccine on all health care providers. There is NO proven effectiveness for this and it should be an individual choice to receive any medical treatment!
82	ND	<p>I'm writing to state that how a person chooses to take care of one's health is a personal choice -- as is the type of profession one chooses. I am against mandatory vaccines in any profession. It violates personal freedom. (Personal responsibility is a different topic.)</p> <p>I also would question whether there are conflict-of-interest factors involved with some people who are supporting and perhaps pushing for mandatory vaccines.</p> <p>Please extend the time-frame to allow for receiving comments in reference to this important topic till the end of the month.</p>
83	ND	<p>I am requesting that vaccines NOT BE required for healthcare workers.</p> <p>This is an intrusion into personal freedom, is contrary to some religious beliefs, vaccines are not risk free and pose there own health risks. Sometimes the "cure" is worse than the disease.</p> <p>It concerns me greatly that those who represent the industry which stands to financially gain by this additional requirement are part of this decision making process by our government. This is not an arms length process but appears to be self serving.</p> <p>The health care workers of our country have not asked for this new regulation ti protect themselves, it is instead being proposed by bureaucracy and those who financially benefit from this intrusion upon individual freedom of choice.</p> <p>There is no public discussion about this. What is the proven need for this imposition upon personal liberty?</p> <p>Please DO NOT DO THIS. More regulations do not make people healthy</p>
84	Diplomate, Acupuncture	I oppose imposition of an employer requirement for influenza immunization

	and Chinese Herbology, NCCAOM	
85	ND	<p>Where does the socialism stop? No shot, no employment. You've got to be kidding me! Individuals making these decisions with direct connections to the pharmaceutical company supplying the vaccine. You've got to be kidding me! Where's the union representation? Step up to the plate Borwegen. Or are you on the take? If I'm a patient in a hospital make sure my HCP has enough "backbone", education, knowledge, wisdom, self reliance, and self motivation to decide for his/her self what goes into their body and MINE!</p> <p>I am a farmer and grow only <u>natural</u> crops, chickens and cows. Unlike organic farmers, I use NO chemicals at all. My choice/freedom. What will I do when the government, be it federal, state or local, tells me I have to plant using only GMO seed because the major seed producers want to corner the market. That will be an ugly day. In short, Monsanto like the NVAC wants to control the world with all their policies. Entire villages and peoples have suffered from corporate greed and corporate forced changes in regards to farming. Their policies cost many deaths from starvation as a result of crop losses associated with greed. Don't make these same kinds of mistakes with HCP's. These folks are smart enough to determine their own healthcare and should never be FORCED to take an injection, <u>especially</u> one with such a questionable track record. Good chance a decision in favor of this policy will result in the loss of a lot of highly qualified folks who'll not succumb to this backdoor(HCPivs) bullying! What a waste of quality caretakers that will be ----- maybe you'll make up another subcommittee to the subcommittee to deal with that! 2020 here we come!</p>
86	ND	<p>Flu shots should not be mandatory. A very high proportion of people who get the flu shot still get the flu. There is no independent evidence that getting the flu shot prevents anyone from getting the flu. Research on flu shots are paid for by the pharmaceutical companies who make the flu shots and so are not objective. These companies reap incredible profits which influences their research results, if any valid research is actually done. The fact that these companies have also demanded and gotten exemptions from the government so they are not liable for any injury and deaths caused by taking the flu shots should immediately raise red flags against their safety. The fact that these exemptions from liability are in place is evidence that both the drug companies and the government believe that these shots are not benign and do not promote immune health. The fact that the previous 'pandemic' flu scares have been bogus and merely filled the coffers of the drug companies also argues against making any flu shot mandatory. People need to be able to make their own health care choices, not be dictated to when there is no valid public health benefit.</p>
87	ND	<p>I have never written to someone in Public Health before, but as a deadline is fast approaching for comments on mandated flu shots for health care workers, I felt I needed to provide you with my opinion on this important issue, or be content with the results of my inaction.</p> <p>Please know that I am against the idea of government mandated medicine for doctors, nurses, and all others who work in health care, as well as for the population at large. I believe it is the God given and Constitutionally protected right of all people to determine what medical risks they are personally willing to take. Mandated flu shots give workers no choice to say no to a product that carries the risk of harm or death to the individual. Flu shots are associated with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, and they are most certainly not free from risk of harm. There are cases of individuals on blood thinners who have spikes in their INRs for several days after a flu shot, and it has been associated with death in some of those individuals in peer reviewed literature. Please reference: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19336651</p> <p>Some health care workers are allergic to certain components of vaccines, including flu shots. They should be exempt from playing Russian Roulette on an annual basis, no less, with the flu shot as a condition of employment. There should be no penalty to anyone for exercising the right to say no to any medical procedure in the United States of America.</p>

		<p>To mandate a medical product (flu shot, or otherwise) takes certain inalienable rights away from an individual, and this is worsened due to the fact that vaccination manufacturers bear no risk of liability for creating a defective, or harmful product. If the injury from a vaccine appears on a table of injuries, then the person can sue the government for damages in a court without proper judge, without a jury of their peers, and without any proper rules of discovery, only if they are allowed to do so by the head of Health and Human Services. Thus, to mandate use of a product for which there is no liability to the manufacturer is unconscionable, in my opinion.</p> <p>Compounding this issue is the fact that the efficacy of the seasonal flu shot in a nursing home setting is questionable according to The Cochrane Collaboration, a respected, independent entity. Please see: http://www.cochranejournalclub.com/vaccines-for-preventing-influenza-clinical/pdf/CD001269_abstract.pdf</p> <p>Additionally, multiple epidemiological studies done in Canada involving millions of people during the Swine Flu Pandemic of 2009-2010 revealed that in many different locations in Canada, those who took a seasonal flu shot not containing H1N1 antigen were over twice as likely to succumb to Swine Flu. Canadian health officials changed their health policy (i.e. they stopped giving seasonal flu shots to their people during the pandemic) based upon these replicated studies. We did not follow suit in the US, for reasons unknown to me. Please reference: http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000258</p> <p>I hope you take away from this email, my sincere concern about the proposal that all doctors, and other health care workers be told they must accept the risk of harming themselves for the sake of others, or lose their employment. A doctor must provide a standard of care to a patient for the medical condition they have, but that should not be equated with assuming the personal risk of harm to him/herself for a conjectural, hypothetical, and unproven protective benefit to a patient. These standards are in no way equal. Any patient can easily contract influenza from a visiting relative who coughs upon them, or from any door handle they touch, either at the medical facility, or upon their release. Germs are everywhere, and there is nothing that can stop them from being in the air and on every single surface we touch. Germs are always many steps ahead of our immunologists as they are constantly mutating. Mandating flu shots, especially in a year with mismatched vaccine strains, will do nothing to stop influenza germs or influenza-like germs from circulating, and it might actually serve to increase the incidence of influenza in those who are vaccinated. Hand washing should be mandatory, but not annual flu shots.</p> <p>Please reject the pharmaceutical industry driven push to mandate annual flu vaccines for doctors and health care workers. I thank you for your time and attention to this extremely important matter, and I wish you the best.</p>
88	AP,DOM,Dipl.A c.	<p>Please include my voice and opinion that all medical treatment is a personal choice and freedom. These two concepts are intrinsic components to America and democracy.</p> <p>Forcing flu vaccinations on anyone violates some of the basic freedoms that are a foundation in this great country.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and attention.</p>
89	Licensed acupuncturist	<p>I was just informed today about the fact that healthcare workers may be required (i.e. forced) to get flu vaccines. This is wholly un-American and also unnecessary. I am a healthcare worker in the alternative medicine field. Specifically, I am a licensed acupuncturist in New York State. I have been in practice for 10 years. I provide a valuable service to patients. I also provide something very dear to most Americans which is freedom to choose an alternative. Although I am very committed to my profession, I would have to consider making a career if the powers that be in my state were to force</p>

		<p>me to have a vaccine against my will.</p> <p>Natural medicine is widely used, not only for healing but also for prevention of disease. It is my right as an American to select natural methods.</p> <p>Having a regulation to require vaccination of healthcare workers, is the first step down a slippery slope to forcing other groups to be vaccinated. Let's not embark on this dangerous path just to satisfy the powerful pharmaceutical companies.</p>
90	ND	I appreciate what you are trying to do but really, my health is my responsibility not the governments. Please let us be responsible citizens Thank you
91	Nurse	<p>I have been a nurse for almost 50 years and have seen many changes in the way health care is conducted in our country. The vaccine mandates recently presented are, to me, criminal. To have the vaccines available to those who wish to receive them is a great service – BUT TO FORCE THE VACCINES ON INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF PROBLEMS AFTER RECEIVING THE VACCINES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A PERSONAL ASSAULT.</p> <p>I have received the flu vaccine once, years ago as a nursing student. I became so ill that I missed 3 weeks of class/work. I was told at the time that I “must have a sensitivity” to the vaccine and I should not receive it again. I have not. And I have had the flu maybe once in 45 years.</p> <p>I take care to keep my immune system strong and use homeopathic remedies during the flu season. I have yet to find any true evidence that a non-vaccinated employee is more likely to spread the virus than one who has received the vaccine. The CDC has made statements to that effect; and the Joint Commission has referred to the CDC statements – but I have not been able to find any studies to verify these claims.</p> <p>There is evidence that there is a danger of increases miscarriages following the flu vaccine; there is evidence that seniors who receive the flu vaccine for consecutive years have a much higher incidence of early onset Alzheimers. Why then would these vaccines be forced on people as a requirement for their employment? They should have to choose between compromising their health or losing their home?</p> <p>Basically, what these mandates are telling me, is that after almost 50 years of working as a nurse, I will be forced to leave my profession because I choose not to risk a similar reaction as I had in the past. I was only 18 or 19 years old the first time; what might I expect as a reaction to me at age 65? And who would pay the consequences of my falling ill – not the hospitals or the pharmaceutical companies. They have conveniently made themselves immune to legal claims.</p> <p>I would love to know what the real reason is behind this mandate. Could it be the fact that the pharmaceutical companies have lost some high priced patents this year?</p> <p>Think twice before opening the gates of employers/government forcing such mandates as a requirement of being able to support yourself. This sounds more like communism or North Korea than the United States!</p>
92	ND	<p>I work in the health care industry and have only recently become aware of this movement of employers to mandate an injection as part of a condition of employment. This policy has been recently adopted at the local hospital in the city where I live; I have joined a small but growing group fighting this power grab by the hospital. The flu vaccine is clearly just the beginning of a very slippery slope – already expanding; expanded to more businesses, expanded to include additional vaccinations, and perhaps may be expanded to include other types of health care treatments. A requirement by an employer regarding dress code, conduct on the job, or other inconsequential issues of this nature are understandable given their benign nature, but an injection into one's body?!</p>

		<p>I feel that the central issue here is of individual freedom. The uncertainty, or risk, of freedom is that your neighbor may choose something that you yourself are opposed to; though centralized control may have its appeal while you are one of those in control, it won't be long before someone else's will, will target one of your belief systems. A handful should not decide for the masses, what is injected into one's own body. I hope that you will side with all of us who may soon be forced to choose between our jobs and a sincerely held belief about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, and against the powers that be which are attempting to seize far more control than they have any business claiming.</p> <p>Please support a citizens right to choose what gets injected into one's own body! Please stand with those of us who are fighting this on the front lines!</p>
93	ND	<p>No one should be forced to have any medical procedures. Especially when not tested, proven safe or proven effective. There needs to be some deep investigation into the reality of effectiveness and safety of vaccines. Ultimately ALL people should have the choice. This is a slippery slope. If HC workers need this vaccine for employment, when will they be mandated to have more? What about health care workers who don't work in hospitals: naturopaths, chiropractors, massage therapists, acupuncturists, psychologists, etc. These kind of mandates can lead to legislation that requires vaccines in order to get licensed as a health care worker. AGAIN, some serious investigation is needed. People need to be able to make an INFORMED decision on this and have the choice whether or not to vaccinate themselves or their children.</p>
94	RN	<p>I am very dismayed at the push to require flu vaccines for Health Care Workers, or anyone. I am an RN and have not had the flu for 40 years.....without the flu shot. I take care of myself via more natural means and remain very healthy. Why on earth would I consent to being injected with materials I don't need? Please refrain from continuing with this travesty. If it turns into law, I will quit nursing.</p>
95	ND	<p>I am strongly opposed to requiring health care workers to receive vaccination, whether as a condition of employment or otherwise. Health care workers, as well as others, have the constitutional right to choose what happens to their body. It is NOT the right of any agency, governmental or otherwise, to impose a potentially life threatening or illness potentiating anything without their express permission, without fear of loss of employment if they fail not exercise that choice.</p> <p>The citizens of the United States were promised freedom of choice upon the founding of this great country. Mandatory vaccinations under any guise, constitutes a loss of our freedom.</p>
96	RN, BSN	<p>As a nurse in a major university hospital, I expose myself to deadly viruses, bacteria and disease on a daily basis. It is a risk I am aware of and willing to take in order to provide care to the patients who need my help. While I can use protective measures to avoid contracting most of these, there is never a 100% guaranteed safety measure available to protect me from these diseases. It is a risk I am willing to take and I fully consent to. I have the right to work somewhere else if I feel the risk is too great. The federal government does not have the power to protect me from 100% of these risks. It also does not have the authority to mandate I work at that hospital. It is a choice I exercise because of the rights provided to me in the constitution. In turn, because the government does not offer 100% protection to me against any possible side effect from the flu vaccine, it should not have the authority to mandate I take this risk which violates my personal rights of liberty and freedom set in the constitution.</p> <p>Healthcare workers now strive to follow EBP, (evidence based practice)...science is not exact or perfect, but we strive to use science and not myth or personal belief to guide our patient care. Stop using scare tactics and sob stories of patient's who die of the flu as evidence to support the push for vaccine mandates - this is no different than the 'internet conspiracy theorists' who post stories of people who die or suffer brain damage from vaccines.</p> <p>Promoting poor methodology and corrupt biased science paid for by corporate giants like the pharmaceutical companies is as dangerous as using personal bias and belief in patient care. The CDC and FDA have been caught over and over again promoting bad science in order to promote profits of pharmaceutical companies over patient health. Mandating the flu vaccine would be one more example of this corrupt behavior continuing.</p>

		<p>If I have to bear the risk of working with sick patients, I should also have the right to refuse mandated vaccines which also carry a risk of harm. Healthcare workers have rights just like patients and they are equal. Don't take away my rights in order to 'protect' patient rights or you'll force many good workers out of patient care all together which also would be harmful to patients.</p> <p>I work hard at staying healthy by eating right, exercising and avoiding toxins so I can be in my best physical health. This allows me to perform all the tasks needed to care for patients on a daily basis, which requires physical strength and stamina. Don't force me to inject toxins into my body which can interfere with my beautiful functioning immune system and could alter my status of good health.</p> <p>Why don't you put more time and effort into promoting hand washing, healthy eating and exercise so the whole country would benefit? Stop working for the pharmaceutical industry and start focusing on promoting and improving patient care in this country.</p>
97	CRNA, L.Ac.	<p><i>Recommendation 4: For those HCE and facilities that have implemented Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 above and cannot achieve and maintain the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90% influenza vaccination coverage of HCP in an efficient and timely manner, the HCPIVS recommends that HCE and facilities strongly consider an employer requirement for influenza immunization. HCPIVS also recommends that the ASH assure that this recommendation is implemented in HHS facilities and services (including the Public Health Service, HHS staff and Federally Qualified Health Centers) and urge all other HCE and facilities to do the same.</i></p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this major initiative for public health.</p> <p>This proposal needs a great deal more study by all stake-holders, including the general public as well as health care providers.</p> <p>I recommend indefinite tabling of the mandatory requirement in favor of continuing to offer the vaccine to any and all who want it for low or no cost. Handwashing and PPE including masks go far in preventing airborne and droplet spread infections. In fact, masks worn in crowded public places might be an economical and very effective move. Far more research is indicated for less-invasive approaches to preventing communicable diseases.</p>
98	Professor Emeritus, San Jose State University	<p>After reading and hearing about the dangerous side-effects of the flu and other vaccines, I am urging that strong measures be taken to abolish the practice of any compulsory requirements for anyone to take them. Thank you.</p>
99	Clinical Dietitian	<p>Please consider my comments in your decision making affecting healthcare workers.</p> <p>The community hospital I work at as a clinical dietitian in southwest florida was pushing hard for Influenza vaccinations last year (not mandatory at that point). There was a \$150 reward for having had the vaccine related to an employee health program, so I decided to get it. Soon after, I became very ill; feverish, chills, muscle aches, my physician told me at that time that I may have had an allergic reaction. This year, I discovered it was the same exact vaccine so one might understand my confusion regarding the fact I have already received this vaccine and had a bad experience. I don't want to get it again. Unfortunately, this year it is mandatory.</p> <p>At first, there were clear-cut guidelines on when to wear the surgical mask; specifically in patient-care areas; 6 feet away from patients. Since this initial statement; there is not a policy but a general warning that the mask must be worn at ALL times while at work (this excludes physicians!!). I find that any logic behind this is eroded when we I find myself wearing the mask at administrative meetings, the hospital gift shop, stairwells, corridors</p>

		<p>and bathrooms. I find it actually preposterous and actually demeaning that a fine medical institution is mandating such a illogical and frankly evidenced-baseless "policy".</p> <p>Since the mandate, I have researched the CDC website and I have done a Pub-Med search regarding this vaccine. I discovered that the risk of influenza is not that tremendous; for instance Clostridium difficile has rose in the rankings of associated deaths for individuals greater than 65 years of age. I am confused also that this vaccine is one that "wears off" after one season. I am also in amazement that this vaccine is mandated when Guillain Barre and now narcolepsy has been a documented risk associated with Influenza Vaccine. Clearly, a one time exposure to the mercury in the vaccines may not be significant but a lifetime of yearly vaccines may be a precedent. Hopefully you will agree that there are risks; calculated and un-calculated associated with mandatory vaccinations and from what I can tell, the benefits may not be tremendous. - The most relevant Cochrane review (long term facilities not acute care) states that there is a high risk of bias in the studies and that vaccinating healthcare workers who look after the elderly in long-term care facilities did not show any effect on the specific outcomes of interest, namely laboratory-proven influenza, pneumonia or deaths from pneumonia.</p> <p>I would like to continue to practice in the acute care setting. I am a skilled clinician in the nutrition support field and believe I help contribute to improved outcomes for our patients. As it stands, I don't believe I can cope with the policy for non-vaccinated employees. I hope you will reconsider these mandates and devise a better, less risky and possibly more effective protection program possibly including nasal swabs, taking temperatures and of course hand-washing along with the surgical masks in the appropriate setting. I do believe that our facilities have the knowledge and infrastructure to carry this out.</p>
100	Doctorate, PT Health Promotion	<p>I have been a healthcare worker for 20 years and have never received the flu shot nor had the flu to my knowledge. This year the hospital system I work for in Colorado mandated flu shots except for medical or religious exemption, even for volunteers, students, and contractors. Many of my colleagues got the shot against their will as they did not fit either of these exemptions nor were they people at a high risk for getting flu. The flu shot does not prevent getting the flu or every strain of flu, and many people that get the shot get mild flu symptoms after the injection. One employee at our facility got injected into the shoulder joint by accident instead of the arm and now has chronic shoulder pain. I can understand this requirement for those healthcare workers in the inpatient hospital environment where there are a lot of sick people in close proximity, but not for the outpatient environment.</p> <p>The majority of patients coming into our outpatient clinic are sick, not the healthcare providers. I questioned our employee health department as to why patients that come in the clinic arent required to have a flu shot or wear a mask since they are in just as close proximity to patients in the waiting room as providers would be treating them. Those that decline the flu shot are mandated to wear a mask with patient care which is fine with me. I was told that those providers that teach exercise classes we offer to the general public do not have to wear masks. Very inconsistent!</p> <p>We should have a choice in what goes into our body. I received all the childhood and booster vaccines which have been proven to prevent those illnesses. Flu shots have not been proven to prevent flu, yet, at least.</p>
101	MS, RN, L.Ac.	<p>It is unconstitutional to force anyone, especially Health Care Workers to be vaccinated by threatening their jobs with non-compliance. This is America I thought, the land of the free, home of the brave, a place of liberty, where higher education is being sought.</p> <p>Educating yourself does include knowing your responsibilities of staying healthy, keeping your immune system optimal, and not infecting anyone, especially your patients by working when your not well. That is our responsibility, if you trust us with taking care of you or your family members when your not well, sick, or injured, shouldn't you trust us to take care of ourselves and not spread disease and illness to you and your families.</p> <p>Vaccines, although they should and are offered by our employment institutions, for those individuals who choose, (choose being the key word), by no means should vaccines be mandatory for any individual. Never should healthcare workers feel their license, and livelihood threatened by opting out.</p> <p>Think, when psych patients refuse medications they are mandated by the courts to be medicated forcibly if necessary. Why does the government think of us in the same manner? Is that how you think regarding us? So why cry of a healthcare worker shortage, as it shows there is no respect for</p>

		healthcare as profession.
102	ND	I would like to formally state my disapproval of a mandatory flu vaccine for health care workers. This is just another way for pharmaceutical companies to make a profit for a near useless vaccine. It is not necessary to subject healthcare workers to this additional mandatory regulation. It should remain up to the individual person as to whether or not they desire to take this vaccine. I vehemently oppose this attack on my personal freedom.
103		Please do not allow vaccines to become mandatory for health care providers or for anyone. Freedom in the realm of health and health care is important. Reactions to flu shots can be dangerous as you know and flu shots are often ineffective. A strain of flu of a different kind from the specific shot can still occur. There are still class action suits pending from flu shots administered in the sixties for those who were harmed or crippled by reactions to flu shots. The only guaranteed winners are the pharmaceutical companies. Please protect the health and health freedom of Americans by stopping the move to make flu "immunizations" mandatory for health care workers or for anyone.
104	ND	I oppose the imposition of requiring any healthcare workers to be vaccinated with any flu vaccine . Whatever happened to the swine flu epidemic we all were supposed to experience. A colleague of my got Gillian Barre syndrome from the swine flu vaccine and still suffers residual effects to this day. When has America become the land of forced medical procedures? We should have freedom of choice when it comes to any medical procedure.What ever happened to the concept of INFORMED CONSENT?
105	HCP (not specified)	I am a health care worker. I feel that " <i>mandatory</i> " vaccination that can cause me to loose my job is an assault on my personal freedoms. I live in the greatest country on earth because of the civil liberties that the American Constitution defends. My request to you is that you use your powers and position to enforce our constitutional rights when many of those rights are being eroded. Please stand for the right to life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and say no to mandatory vaccination in the work place.
106	ND	i am against mandatory vaccinations plese dont poison our people
107	ND	I'm sure you're getting plenty of information about why vaccines are dangerous and risky, so I will not include information about that. I simply want to include myself as a voice against any legislation that would require vaccines for any reason. Please allow human beings to maintain their freedom of choice.
108	ND	I would like to have the option to determine if I want to take a vaccine. Please do not force me to have vaccines given to me.
109		The bottom line here is freedom to choose. No one should be forced to inject something into his/her body regardless if it is good or bad, but if you take the time to research the subject of vaccine safety, you will find many highly educated groups and individuals on both sides of this issue. Please vote for the freedom many die for. This is opening a very dangerous can of worms. Thank you.
110	ND	Please do what is right in allowing us to exercise freedom of choice in our health care. Research demonstates that flu shots are more often than not ineffective and pose serious health risks. Americans and health care workers should have the right to make these choices for themselves and not be forced into them or lose their job. Does this sound American to you?? Just take a look at the ingredients in vaccines, they are toxic, cancer causing and cause serious neuorological damage and actually destroy our natural immunity. If they worked people wouldn't have to keep getting them year after year. My children both had the worst flu ever the year they received a flu vaccine, in which my son had extreame complications. It just doensn't

		<p>seem to me that vaccines are the answer there are much safer and proven ways to boost immunity than vaccines. Consider the rights of those who choose not to be fooled by the drug industry and government officials that have a financial interest in vaccines. It's not right!! Please stand up for our freedom!</p>
111	ND	<p>This is regards to "The Adult Immunization Working Group (AIWG) of the National Vaccine Advisory Committee established the Health Care Personnel Influenza Vaccination Subgroup in November 2010. Their charge is to develop recommendations on strategies to achieve the Healthy People 2020 annual goal of 90% influenza vaccine coverage for health care personnel."</p> <p>I think it is a bad decision. It is only for Big Pharma to gain money. Unnecessary vaccinations is also dangerous. It undermines the vaccinations when they are needed which creates stronger and mutated strains of sickness and diseases. Vaccinations have been shown to potentially kill people, cripple people, negatively affect people for the rest of their lives and have bad or dangerous adverse side-effects.</p> <p>There has been countless information and situations regarding how unreliable and dangerous these vaccinations are. Sometimes vaccinations are helpful and important, I would not want to completely discredit medical knowledge and understanding. The reality though is that there is a biased, greedy and even sinister approach being taken to force everyone on the planet to take vaccinations that are harmful to them.</p> <p>I do not care about those biased, greedy and sinister agendas. I care about people who shouldn't lose their jobs when they have a right to refuse a vaccination. I care about children dying and adults dying or the elderly dying due to these useless vaccinations. In some countries people die from illnesses such as flu. But in reality most countries are developed enough that most people are not.</p> <p>The problems with these superbugs are not the regular people or population. These superbugs can be linked to filthy and disgusting slaughter houses for meat production. These slaughter houses give animals unnecessary anti-biotics that make these sicknesses stronger and more resistant to the anti-biotics. The problem is in the filth in these slaughter houses, the lack of proper ethics or cleanliness and the mis-management which causes these diseases to be created, mutate and flourish.</p> <p>Most people I know or meet who get flu-vaccines end up getting very very sick from the vaccines and a different strain that season. Nobody can predict which flu strain will emerge each year. There is always more than one. Forcing unnecessary immunizations is unacceptable.</p> <p>These vaccines have been proven time and time again to actually kill people, cripple them and many people have bad reactions to these flu vaccines. This is unacceptable. It is not sound science or ethical and moral practice. It is evil sorcery that has lobbying behind it to push it forward anyways.</p> <p>People should never lose their jobs over refusing to take unnecessary vaccinations that might harm or kill them and more than likely have adverse side-effects.</p> <p>People, children, the elderly, animals, and everything else etc should not be dying due to vaccinations that are unnecessary, dangerous and that have side-effects that could be life-altering.</p> <p>Please change this problem. Do not force anyone to take vaccinations. People should take vaccinations or medicine when they need it. Not when it's unnecessary. Unnecessary vaccinations or medicine actually weaken immune systems and medical intervention.</p>
112	Nutritional consultant	<p>I just received an email from Michael Gaeta about a possible requirement for a flu vaccine. I am a nutritional consultant with holistic approach and am very against this. I just want my voice to be heard. I appreciate your efforts. Thank you.</p>

113	HCP (not specified)	<p>I will keep this brief as I know you have a very busy life.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned that "mandatory vaccinations" in the workplace, schools, hospitals, and any other institution is even being discussed. There is so much controversial opinion regarding vaccinations by many very highly educated individuals and institutions that that alone would make a decision mandating vaccines in the workplace or almost anywhere wrong. All you have to do is a little research. The bottom line is our FREEDOM. Our countrymen fought for these rights we have today and I am old enough to have watched groups, politicians, individuals try to take these freedoms away. There are people on these advisory committees working for pharmaceutical firms; a blatant conflict of interest.</p> <p>I personally will not adhere to mandatory vaccines and I work in a top 100 hospital. I fought the mandatory policy this year and won, and I will campaign and fight for freedom to choose for all individuals.</p>
114	RN, BSN	<p>I am contacting you in regards to my opposition to flu vaccine mandates for health care workers. As a Registered Nurse, I am opposed to forced vaccinations and view it as a violation of my religious rights. I believe that my God created me with a properly designed immune system, and injecting these substances into my body violates my beliefs. I should have to choose between a job or being injected with a vaccine.</p> <p>Recent studies have shown that the flu vaccine is not very effective. Please read this recent study published in the Lancet - http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099%2811%2970295-X/abstract</p> <p>However, common sense practices such as hand washing and use of personal protective equipment will continue to be essential in reducing the risk of infection. I have personally witnessed poor infection control practices from fellow nurses, such as coming to work with illness, and poor hand washing techniques.</p> <p>The United States of America claims to be the land of the free, and yet, when it comes to personal health care decisions, they feel they can over ride a person's right to choose to make their own health care choices. Not to mention, I have no right to sue for vaccine damage should I become injured by a vaccine, forced upon me, as a condition of employment.</p> <p>Mandating a pharmaceutical product that is protected from direct liability in court is unjust. Vaccines, like drugs, have adverse reactions. I watched my sister in law suffer with acute rheumatoid arthritis, which started the day after her flu shot. Once a marathon runner, she has been unable to do much in the way of exercising, due to the pain. As a home health nurse, I have cared for children who were permanently damaged by the Dtap and Prevnar vaccines, causing them to require lifelong complete care. Two of these children have since died.</p> <p>I am hopeful that this committee will have the decency to allow health care workers to make their own choices when it comes to being injected with a vaccine.</p>
115	Ph.D. A former HHS employee, who has suffered severe vaccine-related injury and observed horrific effects	<p>All independent reliable research shows that flu vaccines do not protect from flu, but they kill and injure people. Flu is just a minor nuisance comparing to flu vaccines-induced injuries and deaths. VAERS data prove that this is the case. By forcing vaccines on the health care personnel, the US government will behave like Nazi regime, which murdered people in concentrations camps with "medicines".</p> <p>Why the HHS wants to destroy health and life of Americans with toxic flu vaccines? Nobody in healthy mind would subject to this vaccine terror. In the US alone hundreds thousands of people have been killed by vaccines in the past 20 years. Why do you want to kill more? And who gives you the right to do it? What you are proposing is a totalitarian medical terrorism.</p>

	of toxic vaccinations in others	I hope you abandon this totally insane idea. Sorry for the string words, but the situation requires them now.
116	ND	<p>This is an outrage and a very disturbing and dangerous line that should not be crossed.</p> <p>People should have a choice as to something that affects their own bodies and not be railroaded into doing it not to lose their jobs.</p> <p>Shame on you.</p>
117	ND	I strongly believe that mandatory vaccination is unfair and unconstitutional. I would like it known that I respectfully DO NOT support mandatory vaccinations of any kind for anyone in the USA.
118	ND	I'm am writing in support of voluntary vaccinations. At no time should anyone be required to be vaccinated. The decision to be vaccinated is between a person and their health care provider. Anything else is "Big Brother" politics and we choose not to live in North Korea or other repressive regimes. The law has no information on an individual's immune system, tolerance for vaccinations, or general health that can tolerate an immunization. Only the person and their health care provider can make that decision. I am not against vaccination, only the forcible requirement that all persons be vaccinated. Do NOT seek to pass legislation to require vaccinations. It goes against everything our country was founded upon.
119	ND	I would like to register my opposition to mandatory vaccines for health care workers. I consider vaccines to be dangerous and choose to promote my health and build immunity in other ways. I would retire from nursing if this law were put into effect.
120	CRNA, MSN	<p>My employer mandated the influenza vaccine this year with only a medical exemption. I refused. I obtained legal representation and obtained a religious exemption. I was told to wear a mask and have refused, saying this is discriminatory treatment based on my religious beliefs. My hospital has backed down. T</p> <p>The circulating strains of influenza in my area have not been well matched to the 3 in the vaccine this year and thus just about everyone (except me) that I work with has had a febrile respiratory illness this season. It is common practice for these ill coworkers to show up to work while sick, use poor cough etiquette, and cough right over patients without a mask on.</p> <p>I am very concerned about patient safety and will never endanger my patients in this way. What I see, is the vaccine creates a false sense of security that patients are protected if everyone gets the shot. It has not been the most important measure to prevent respiratory febrile illnesses in my hospital this year.</p> <p>I will continue to refuse the influenza vaccine and will make sure that my religious rights under the 1st Amendment and Title 7 are protected. I reserve the right to contact the EEOC and/or bring a lawsuit against any employer that discriminates against my religious beliefs. I have both the financial means and the desire that it takes to undergo the hardship involved with losing my job over this issue.</p> <p>Thank you for reviewing my comment and would be glad to work with your subgroup to protect patients.</p>
121	HCP – Patient Kitchen	My name is Michael Kauffman. I am employed by the University of Missouri - Columbia and work in the patient kitchen at the hospital there. Our hospital implemented a policy this past year requiring every employee to receive a flu vaccine. I applied for a religious exemption and, due to some

		<p>confusion on the part of the administration, was at first denied, then approved for my exemption.</p> <p>I am terrified of the prospect of a federal law requiring all health care workers (HCW) to receive the vaccine. As previously mentioned, this vaccine violates my religious beliefs. I would like to believe that our government cares enough about our religious beliefs to respect them.</p> <p>Admittedly, I am not a doctor. But I know the science behind the vaccine is sketchy at best. It is designed to combat last years virus. But it is common knowledge the virus mutates each year. So the vaccine is not designed to combat the strain of influenza we are experiencing in the current year. Also, little is known about the long-term effects of receiving this vaccine each year. Is there any risk of adverse side effects after receiving the vaccine for 50 years? Is it possible that any of these effects can be passed to children from mothers who have received the vaccine for many years? I know the influenza virus is deadly. However, I fear the flu vaccine far more than I do the virus itself.</p> <p>On a philosophical level, the idea that the Federal Government can force its citizens to receive vaccine is abhorrent to a free Republic. What would the founders have thought of such a law?</p> <p>I hope these concerns will be shared with whomever it may concern. Feel free to contact me for any questions or clarification.</p>
122	ND	<p>I think it is wrong to make ANYONE take a vaccination! I have never been sicker than when I had a flu shot one year and have never had another one. I haven't had the flu either. The year I got the flu shot and the flu I went back to the Dr. office and she said it was only good for the viruses they thought would be out that year and I must have got a different one. BS! That shot made my immune system weaker to the point I caught something. I haven't been sick since, and haven't had any of those stupid shots either!</p>
123	Surgical technician	<p>Thank you so much for your examination of this issue. As a surgical tech that works with cataract surgeons, I am asked to receive more and more vaccines. I have for years struggled with this issue, having felt pressured to compromise my faith and religious beliefs regarding mandated vaccination. I have long held explicit and detailed religious objections to the practice of forced vaccination, but sharing those personal religious beliefs has been difficult for fear of being ostracized among my peers.</p> <p>5 years ago I determined I could no longer compromise my faith and began to submit yearly religious declinations. This past June 2011, I was pressured by a manager to receive Pertussis vaccination, or risk losing my job. I again compromised as I had done in the past and felt an overwhelming sense of failure for not being true to the convictions of my faith.</p> <p>This time however (though I am NOT allergic to eggs), in addition to a plagued conscience, I experienced an allergic reaction. My entire body, even face and throat went numb, and it became difficult to breath, sending me to an urgent care. For 2 months I experienced random weakness, causing me to drop things and sometimes stumble. The Urgent Care doctor who saw me that day advised me to refrain from any further vaccination for a minimum of 3 years. I asked about reporting my reaction through VAERS, but he said doing so would not achieve anything. Needless to say as a religious person this caused me to ask a lot of questions of myself and my failure to heed my conscience's direction, but thankfully, I have recovered. It was a horrible experience, but I took some comfort in thinking that perhaps a documented reaction, together with my past religious exemption letters, would cause my future yearly flu-shot declinations to be taken more serious. This was not the case.</p> <p>Though my allergic reaction occurred less than 5 hours from receiving a vaccine, I was told recently by SSM Hospital <u>office personnel</u> who process exepmtions, that the entire event was a coincidence and if I do not receive a Flu Shot will be unable to work.</p>

		<p>I will not compromise my beliefs again, and am currently working waiting for the shoe to drop.</p> <p><u>PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!!!</u></p> <p>If there is <u>anything</u> you can do to help healthcare workers who are being forced to choose between their faith and their jobs over something mandated flu shots, please help us.</p> <p>This kind of vaccination isn't disease eradication. If my religious rights are to be sacrificed, let it not be for a somewhat effective vaccine that according to CDC's reports leaves 40% exposed against the strains it was designed to protect against. And for those of us now at demonstrated risk of having a reaction please give us some cover by expanding medical exemption rights.</p>
124	RN	<p>I am a Registered Nurse who was mandated to receive an influenza vaccination. At my place of work, only physicians were able to opt out of the mandate. I believe that health care workers should be allowed a choice with regard to what medical treatments they are to receive, as this too was a medical treatment that required informed consent. They should be allowed to use their own judgement with regard to vaccinations. If patients are allowed a choice of whether they choose to be vaccinated, so should their health-care workers who are providing care for them.</p>
125	Nurse	<p>I am a nurse who has received only one flu shot in my whole life. I will never get another one. I will quit my job before being forced to put something into my body that I do not want. What has happened to this country when government agencies can dictate what we should put into our bodies? As I told my superior, I am the one who will have to deal with long or short-term side effects, not my employer, not the government. I choose not to get the vaccine.</p>
126	MD, MPH Infectious Diseases Clinic Employee Health Services Infection Control	<p>I work at Harborview Medical Center, a ~400 bed urban, county hospital in Seattle where I in charge of the employee influenza vaccination program. Several years ago our immunization uptake was similar to many other facilities, though improving yearly. For the 2010-2011 season, we mandated participation in a program, with compliance recognized as vaccination, online training + declination, or medical clearance. With this process we reached ~84% immunized.</p> <p>For the 2011-2012 season we implemented a revised process with compliance as vaccination, online training + IN-PERSON COUNSELING, or medical clearance that WAS DOCUMENTED AND SIGNED by a provider or by EHS staff. We developed scripts for each interaction to standardize the processes. With this program, the number of declinations dropped by ~50% and we were able to vaccinate nearly 93% of HCP. I am satisfied with the process and my employees are satisfied as well. In addition, we were able to collect information on why people declined vaccination. We hope to be able to publish these details soon.</p>
127	RN	<p>I cannot imagine anything more un-American than forcing a medical procedure with known risks, with NO liability by anyone in the chain of command (government that mandates, pharmaceutical company that made it, doctor that ordered it, nurse that gave it) to pay for the disability or death of those victims who had no right to refuse it. Also, there is a near conspiracy of sorts to call any sickness, disease, adverse reaction, disability or death that occurs after vaccination anything except a vaccine reaction. It is unbelievable! So of course it's easy to think vaccines are great and cause nothing but a bit of soreness or slight fever when every other reaction that happens is always "just a coincidence".</p> <p>We have informed consent to give people the potential risks and benefits of EVERY procedure with the person having the final choice as to whether</p>

		<p>or not they will submit. That means we have a right to say NO.</p> <p>Flu shots are not making people healthy. You cannot inject noxious, toxic and biological elements into someone and pretend to improve their health.</p> <p>I have read and watched the controversy over vaccines for many years. I actually rejected the vaccination "dogma" 32 years ago after my daughter became very ill over the course of several rounds of vaccinations. So, long before the "Wakefield" controversy (which is being debunked as we speak – the controversy, not his study) I had enough sense to put two and two together. My study during that time into what creates health led me to study the Bible for any concept that would support vaccination. I found none. I actually found the opposite. So although I understand people's distaste of injecting a chemical cocktail into their body, and support their right to refuse just based on that concept, that is not my reason to abstain.</p> <p>I would never take a job that required me to be vaccinated. I would quit a job that told me I had to be vaccinated. I would refuse vaccination during a "legitimate epidemic" (which we have not had in the last several decades despite mass hysteria in the media) because I would rather actively support and defend my God given immune system than poison it while my body was trying to fight off disease. There is not a disease on earth for which I would submit to a vaccination, as I don't believe injecting sickness ever creates better health. We were created by God, designed for health and should be cooperating with the healing power in our bodies, not blocking it at every turn.</p> <p>The parts of medicine I support are; critical care, trauma medicine, repair of birth defects, stabilization of fast moving illness, and the like. The parts of medicine that encompass chronic illness, autoimmune disease, lifestyle "diseases", etc., often do more harm than good by trying to "drug" people into better health. Each generation is getting chronically sicker, sooner, than the previous generation. Exposure to environmental and pharmaceutical toxins while consuming nutritionally inferior foods and engaging in increasingly harmful or reckless behavior cannot be fixed with <i>more drugs</i>.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. I hope you come to the proper decision NOT to mandate vaccination shots for health care practitioners, or anyone else for that matter. By the way, just out of curiosity, why are doctors always exempt from this rule of "mandatory" vaccination when no one else is?</p> <p>Educate the public with your theories and offer it to people. If they accept your premise they can choose to submit.</p>
128	ND	<p>Freedom—we have always had the freedom to choose what we allow to be injected into our bodies. Taking this freedom away from the American people, (and the educated people) is a truly unjust action. There are alternative measures that can be taken to allow this freedom to continue to exist. In order to make this mandatory vaccine policy a true law, it would require that every single person in the United States would need to be vaccinated. The thought of that would make one wonder if the United States of America is truly a free country and no different than any other country. Our rights ARE our right !!</p>
129	DAC, MS, CDN Licensed Acupuncturist (CO, NY) Doctor of Acupuncture	<p>I am writing to express strong and clear opposition to the proposed changes to vaccine policy. I and many other healthcare workers favor and demand freedom of choice in all personal and family healthcare decisions, including the very important decision whether or not to receive any vaccination. Please consider the following facts:</p> <p>Top 20 Reasons to</p> <p>1. The flu shot doesn't work. Flu vaccines are among the least effective drugs produced. The recent Lancet article demonstrating 59% effectiveness</p>

	(RI) Licensed Dietician- Nutritionist (NY)	<p>was the highest efficacy rate ever shown. It also meant that 100 people would have to be vaccinated to prevent 1-2 cases of the flu. On January 15, 2004, the <i>New York Times</i> reported that CDC revealed that the flu vaccine had "no or low effectiveness" against influenza or influenza-like illness. Depending on how the data were analyzed, the vaccine protected from zero percent to 14 percent of study participants. Remember that placebos are effective 30-40% of the time. The CDC data were gathered from Colorado.</p> <p>2. There are considerable scientific concerns about the quality of (flu) vaccine research. The highly respected Cochrane Collaboration notes that there are "growing doubts about the validity of the scientific evidence underpinning policy recommendations. Evidence is of poor quality, and studies with conclusions in favor of vaccines are of significantly lower methodological quality."</p> <p>3. The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons also opposes this misguided rule proposal, stating that "there is surprisingly little evidence supporting the efficacy of influenza vaccine, and evidence of safety is also limited."</p> <p>4. This rule is in direct opposition to state law in 19 states and decades of legal precedent, which intelligently allows for conscientious or philosophical exemption to vaccines.</p> <p>5. Flu shots are not safe. Adverse reactions sometimes occur, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (ironically) the flu, - Guillan-Barre Syndrome (autoimmune neuropathy). "Both acute and severe cases of GBS following influenza vaccination were statistically elevated [mean 432% increase], as published in "Influenza Vaccination and Guillian-Barre Syndrome" <i>Clinical Immunology</i>, 107 (2003), 116-121, - Alzheimer's disease. Hugh Funderburg, MD, PhD, of the world's leading immunogeneticists, stated that if an individual has five consecutive flu shots his/her chance of developing Alzheimer's disease is 10 times greater than if they had one, two or no shots. Dr Funderburg, when asked why, replied that it was due to the cumulative buildup of mercury and aluminum from the influenza vaccine. <p>6. Nearly all flu shots contain mercury, perhaps the most toxic element on the planet, which was removed from baby vaccines due to safety concerns. Paradoxically, the flu shot is recommended for infants starting at 6 months.</p> <p>7. Like all vaccines, flu shots may contain undesirable and potentially harmful ingredients, including aluminum, formaldehyde, white sugar, sorbitol, soy protein, yeast, etc. Quality control is spotty/inconsistent.</p> <p>8. Since this rule change is wrong and violates state law in 19 states, there will certainly be a legal challenge to it in the courts. New York nurses successfully brought legal action to prevent mandatory vaccination with the equally ineffective and toxic swine flu vaccine.</p> <p>9. The flu shot does not save lives. Lone Simonsen, PhD, of George Washington University states that claims of a 50% or greater reduction in all-cause mortality have emerged from cohort studies fraught with selection bias. The evidence is too weak to show any mortality benefit in older adults, who account for 90% of influenza deaths each year. The real effect with flu shots for those 65 and older during December through March could not have been any greater than 5% to 10%. <i>Lancet Infectious Diseases</i> October 2007; 7: 658-66. Reported in MedPage Today, 25 September 2007</p> <p>10. The flu shot does not help children, either. A study of 260,000 children aged between 23 months and 6 years discovered that the flu vaccine is no more effective than a placebo. <i>Source: Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews</i></p> <p>11. (Flu) vaccines are not based in sound scientific research. Flu shots (and vaccines in general), are the only class of drugs that can be approved</p>
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	<p>without proving effectiveness better than a placebo, in randomized, placebo-controlled trials. On 25 September 2007, <i>MedPage Today</i> reported that these "cherished" vaccination policies may need to be revisited, commented Tom Jefferson, MD, and Carlo Di Pietrantonio, PhD, both of the Cochrane Vaccines Field in Alessandria, Italy. "We must never again allow layers of poor research to mask substantial uncertainty about the effects of a public-health intervention and present a falsely optimistic view of policy," they wrote, <i>calling for placebo-controlled trials</i> (emphasis added).</p> <p>12. Half of all physicians and other healthcare workers reject the flu shot, for sound reasons. I will not receive this useless and toxic drug.</p> <p>13. The flu is not dangerous, and is rarely fatal. According to a CDC 2003 report, annual flu deaths are only 257, not the wildly exaggerated 3,000 to 49,000. Please see attached for details on page 31. Pneumonia deaths were 61,777 (also see attached).</p> <p>14. As to the claimed 200,000 hospitalizations, these are almost certainly non-lab-confirmed cases, as with the swine flu fiasco. If you have data to suggest otherwise, I would appreciate it.</p> <p>15. The claim that up to 20% of unvaccinated individuals develop influenza each year has a corollary, which is that perhaps 80% of flu cases are in flu-vaccinated people. This is consistent with outbreaks of vaccinated diseases, in which most of those affected have up-to-date vaccination to that pathogen. A recent example was this past summer in Montana, where the state vaccine nurse confirmed that all 22 of the documented pertussis cases were fully-vaccinated people.</p> <p>16. There is a claim that "a large proportion of unvaccinated health care workers could contract influenza and in so doing increase the risk of giving the virus to susceptible patients. Increased vaccination coverage among health care workers has been shown to be associated with fewer reported outbreaks of laboratory-confirmed influenza." This is a risk-benefit question. What is the reduced absolute risk, and is it worth the considerable risk of the vaccine adverse reactions, which ironically include "flu-like illness".</p> <p>17. There is a claim that "In order to prevent health care workers from spreading this potentially fatal disease to vulnerable patients, and decrease deaths due to influenza." "Rarely" would be a much more honest adverb than "potentially," since there are so few flu-caused deaths.</p> <p>18. The proposed flu vaccine rule measures vaccination rate, not the much more meaningful influenza incidence stats. Vaccination does NOT mean protection, as Colorado-based CDC data has shown (see above). Vaccination does not equal protection, if one is willing to look at facts, not assumptions. There are NO credible, randomized, controlled studies demonstrating (flu) vaccine efficacy. Vaccines are based on assumptions, not good science.</p> <p>19. Many health professionals, including myself, have seen these standard, tired arguments supporting this proposal many times before. They have not become stronger or more convincing, yet they are the baseless basis for so much public policy.</p> <p>20. It is unconscionable that one of the five NVAC members is an employee of a vaccine manufacturer. It invalidates any actions taken by NVAC as poisoned by conflicts of interest. We would be interested to see what other members of the NVAC, Liason reps or ex-officio members have financial ties to the drug industry. Based on times of past policy-creation, it is almost inevitable. Time and again financial (Big Pharma) interests drive policy instead of science, and this HCW flu shot fiasco is no exception.</p> <p>Bottom line, this proposed rule change is completely wrong and should immediately be rejected.</p> <p>In summary, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not based in good science - It may harm the people it is supposed to benefit - It violates state law in 19 states that allow for philosophical vaccine exemption - It will almost certainly be challenged in the courts - It only benefits drug companies, not patients or clinicians
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		Thank you for your time and consideration.
130	ND	<p>Thank you for considering public opinion on the Draft Recommendations of the Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccination Subgroup for Consideration by the National Vaccine Advisory Committee on Achieving the Healthy People 2020 Annual Coverage Goals for Influenza Vaccination in Healthcare Personnel. Page 5 of your document states, "Determining the overall effects of vaccination of HCP (Healthcare personnel) on patient outcomes is methodologically challenging and **the outcomes measured often vary between studies.** Findings specific to the effectiveness of HCP influenza vaccination in protecting patients vary by setting, year, and population studied and may lead to differing interpretations of the available data. *****Collectively, the impact of HCP vaccination on patient morbidity and mortality in the acute and long-term care settings requires continued investigation. *****</p> <p>Based on the information provided in your report and the fact that seven of your subcommittee members do not agree with mandatory flu shots, I strongly urge you to let healthcare professionals make their own choices about the flu vaccine until conclusive evidence is obtained.</p>
131	ND	The mandatory vaccination of all health care workers is the worst invasion of personal liberty and intellectual freedom yet proposed. Do NOT force this useless, offensive law.
132	RN	<p>Please share my comments with all appropriate parties or "stakeholders" who are making decisions over my body.</p> <p>I have been a Registered Nurse since 1971. I am in impeccable condition, live a very clean and disciplined life, and I take no medication. I am 61 years old. I take great offense to the suggestion of mandatory vaccinations for health care workers regarding influenza or any other vaccination I deem unfit for my body. The data collected, regarding transmission of the influenza virus from staff to patient simply does not exist. There IS no data to support this. Not only does this suggestion of a law penalize health care workers, it will never be inclusive of all personnel who trespass the medical institution's doors. Doctors who have consulting privileges, visitors, family members, none of these people will be held to the same accountability, nor should they.</p> <p>The last time I checked, I lived in the United States of America. The land of choice, including the choice to make health care decisions for my own body. I will never turn over that decision making to the government.</p> <p>One more thing. I would like to have an explanation as to how the attached EEOC document will be reconciled with this new proposal. Pay particular attention to item #13.</p>
133	Respiratory Therapist	<p>I have been recently aware of a policy that is in the process of being put together for an enforcement of all Health Care Workers to receive the flu vaccination. First of all I am very glad to have this opportunity to be able to express my freedom of concern on this matter at stake. I would like to thank those who have allowed for us, people of U.S. health care work force, to be able to share our concerns on this matter! I do feel this matter has not been publically advertised appropriately to the public. I would believe the responses could/ would be much greater than whatever the final responses of this end up being. This would be deceitful to those who did not know and had not a chance to share their comments that I am able to take part in. I am blessed to be able to share my freedom of opinion in this letter. If it wasn't for some wonderful resources that have contacted me, not by means of the public media, but by way of friends in the system, I wouldn't be able to express my concerns.</p> <p>I enjoy my freedom here in the United States of America! I enjoy how I have been raised for my entire life and pray that it continues for all of us Americans. The freedom here in the U.S. is something that many others in other nations don't have. We are blessed to have our rights as U.S. citizens. I feel these rights and our freedom are slowly being taken away from us. Especially, when there is a call to make it mandatory for everyone in the health care workforce to receive a flu vaccination. I have my concerns with this because it directly takes away my freedom of choice! I don't</p>

		<p>understand how you can make it mandatory for someone to inject them with anything (matter being the flu vaccination)! Especially if they don't have a choice! This is their body, and not the government's body! How is this right? I would feel this being deceitful and unconstitutional to us health care workers. This would be violating us on <u>many</u> different levels of rights.</p> <p>As they have stated their main charge, "to develop recommendations on strategies to achieve the Healthy People 2020 annual goal of 90%." What? I feel this is very misleading advertisement to me. It sounds as if you would be in a <u>study</u> (!)! But wait, you wouldn't have a choice to be a part of this, you would be forced! How does that sound right? It doesn't sound constitutionally right to me. I don't know about many others but I will say this for myself, "I don't approve to be a part of or be a statistic of this goal." Basically, <u>I don't approve</u> of this enforced recommendation of Healthy People 2020! The bottom line, as a U.S. citizen I value my rights as an American and would like to have the same freedom of my rights to choose <u>my medical health choices</u> as a health care worker!</p>
134	HCP (not specified)	<p>I am very concerned about the impending proposals and rulings concerning mandatory annual influenza vaccines.</p> <p>I am an extremely healthy and health conscious person, working in a hospital who has chosen not to be vaccinated for influenza. There are multiple reasons for this decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I believe that subjecting oneself to yearly doses of artificial flu strains may cause the immune system to develop a resistance to the need to develop antibodies to flu-like viruses. In the future, when some new, highly virulent strain develops naturally, which it will, the body will not be able to fend for itself. The long term effect of annual flu shots is unknown. 2) The current vaccine addresses only 3 strains of influenza. This season's strain may not even be the one covered by the vaccine. It will not be known until later in the flu season if "they" guessed correctly whether the one or two strains circulating are the ones they designed the vaccine to cover. 3) I do not believe the vaccine is completely safe. There are both known and unknown adverse side effects to the vaccine itself and there are health risks associated with manufacturing, storing and administering the vaccine. The fact that there are organizations set up to collect data on adverse effects and to compensate people who develop serious complications attests to these claims. 4) I do not believe it is in my best interest to subject myself to risks to my health from flu vaccines when they may not even protect against the flu strain that will be circulating. <p>An influenza vaccination is an invasive medical procedure that is NOT without risks and requires INFORMED CONSENT. Mandatory influenza vaccines are to me, an aberration of civil rights and complete disregard of one's personal health choices.</p> <p>The fact that there has been virtually no public exposure and or discussion regarding these proposed mandates seems underhanded and almost secretive. People, Especially health care workers deserve to know what is transpiring. What is currently taking place is truly unconscionable.</p> <p>I also question the rationality and sensibility of coercing people who have not been vaccinated to wear masks. According to a CDC article (Guidelines & Recommendations-Interim Guidance for the Use of Masks to Control Influenza Transmission): "No studies have definitively shown that mask use by either infectious patients or health-care personnel prevents influenza transmission". The mandate to wear a mask appears to be a means to</p>

		<p>intimidate people to be vaccinated, simply punitive. If I were presenting with signs or symptoms of illness, I would stay home or be more than willing to wear a mask as a precautionary measure, which has historically been the procedure. It seems backwards, disciplinary and harassing to coerce healthy people to wear a mask.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
135	RN	<p>Who do you PEOPLE think you are deciding for me if I need the Flu vaccine. I am a United States Citizen and this Country has a Constitution. Where is your Not So Right MIND, Do YOU PEOPLE THINK YOU HAVE THIS RIGHT to make this Mandatory!!!!!! Just a little money making scheme with the Pharmacy Company. Go to HELL. I am an RN in California and Do Not Get The Flu Vaccine!!!!</p> <p>Who gave you such Control that you NOW are the Socialist USA that you can decide for me and my Choices!!! I guess I will start to look for a New Profession before I am forced by the likes of YOU!!!!!!</p>
136	ND	<p>I write this letter with great concern regarding my rights and my freedom of choice. I recently heard about the possibility of this freedom taken away from health workers/citizens when it comes to deciding whether or not they will be injecting a virus into their bodies. More specifically, the untested, unproven flu shot. I would like to know how there is even a possibility of mandating something like this, when there is no good science to back it up. What is this decision based on? If it was based on a good reason to do this, based on a valid, proven scientific reason, they I would understand the need to require the flu shot. Since much of the US population now is aware that this shot is not effective, and many have chosen not to inject these viruses in them, I would expect something different from our government. I am sure the government is now also aware of the science disproving the flu vaccine, and its a complete mystery to me as to why it would require it, other than possible interests.</p> <p>I kindly ask that you please at least review all the related scientific studies about this toxic vaccine, and then make a decision. This may effect the lives of thousands of people.</p> <p>I thank you for your time in reading my letter, exploring this idea further and addressing my concern.</p>
137	ND	<p>It is very hard for me to understand why organization think they have to "mandate" my actions on any thing. As an adult with a mind and access to books and the internet and communication with other adults with the capabilities and concern to make decisions in our best interest, I have the personal freedom and right and responsibility to be free from the interference of vested interests at the expense of my health.</p> <p>January 16, 2012</p> <p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I respectfully ask you to reconsider your recommendation that employers mandate flu vaccination as a condition of employment without exemption. Allow me to share the concerns that I have with you.</p> <p>1. Analysis of current scientific studies show inconsistent data and conflicting conclusions.</p> <p>In the draft recommendations that you are inviting comment on you stated on page five, "The Working Group's recommendations are built on the</p>

	<p>principle that influenza is a significant public health threat, that the influenza vaccine is safe and effective, and that vaccination is currently the most effective mechanism for preventing influenza infection.” I agree that influenza is a significant threat. I take issue with the statement, however, that the vaccine is effective, this statement should absolutely be qualified with a addendum, “during years of good match between vaccine components and predominant circulating strains.” We are all aware that when there is a very low or low match the vaccine is completely ineffective. According to the CDC this occurred during the flu seasons of 1992-1993, 1997-1998, 2003-2004, and 2007-2008 most recently.</p> <p>Also on page five, the following statement is found:</p> <p>“Determining the overall effects of vaccination of HCP on patient outcomes is methodologically challenging and the outcomes measured often vary between studies. Findings specific to the effectiveness of HCP influenza vaccination in protecting patients vary by setting, year, and population studied and may lead to differing interpretations of the available data. Collectively, the impact of HCP vaccination on patient morbidity and mortality in the acute and long-term care settings requires continued investigation. While the working group discussed several scientific studies that evaluated the impact of HCP influenza vaccination on reducing healthcare associated influenza infection among patients, evaluating the full merits of HCP vaccination was not included in the charge of the working group, and therefore is not directly addressed in this report.”</p> <p>There is a recognition by this working group of conflicting interpretations of data. Why, then, would this committee propose that mandatory vaccination be urged? I believe that in an era of outcome based interventions we should wait until we have good scientific evidence that vaccination of HCP protects vulnerable patients before we take away individuals’ rights to determine their own healthcare. Which brings me to my next point.</p> <p>2. Ethically, HCP’s have an obligation to protect and defend those they care for, however, they do not give up their right of self-determination because of that obligation. In a free country we should educate HCP’s about the risks and benefits of influenza vaccination, and allow the individual to choose his or her own healthcare. Each medication we deal with on a daily basis in my practice has risks and benefits, side effects and positive effects. If a patient of mine refuses to take a medication, ethically I must respect that right to choose, even if that choice will cause a delay his healing, causing increased burden and cost to the healthcare system. It is the cost of freedom. You, by proposing mandatory vaccinations, take that freedom away from every healthcare worker. This is not the same situation we found ourselves in with smallpox or polio eradication campaigns when vaccinations were mandatory. This is an historically unreliable vaccine, as you stated on page five. To take away every individuals’ right to choose what medication he or she will take is reprehensible. You are putting a heavy burden on the backbone of the healthcare system in the US: choose whether you will ignore your philosophical or religious views and keep your job, or exercise your freedom of choice and be unemployed. Even your committee, as small as it was, could not agree that this vaccine should be mandated. Seven of your twenty-four members disagreed with the recommendation for mandatory vaccines.</p> <p>3. Please consider the image that will be portrayed to the general public as HCP are forced to take the flu vaccine to keep their job. We are an educated bunch, and the public trusts us (read the surveys, it’s true). And who does the public not trust? The big government folks, that’s you (read the survey’s, it’s true). Once you force HCP to vaccinate, I believe the talk on a grass roots level will be such that the public will wonder why this vaccination had to be mandated. I feel this will decrease the strides made in vaccinating the general public. Trust in this safety and efficacy of this vaccine will be eroded.</p> <p>4. While I read the charter for the NVAC and realize two members of the NVAC should be from vaccine research companies, I would like to say that I believe having an employee of Novartis voting to make HCP flu vaccinations mandatory is a clear conflict of interest. His company stands to have a huge increase in revenue if this recommendation moves forward. I find this to be quite disturbing, ethically speaking. While Dr. Lewin has an impressive resume, his current position should exclude him from this working group.</p>
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138	Chair Professional Program in Nursing	As chair of nursing program at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, I commend the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, NVAC Adult Immunization Working Group, Health Care Personnel Influenza Vaccination Subgroup, on the draft Recommendations on Strategies to Achieve the Healthy People 2020 Annual Goal of 90% Influenza Vaccine Coverage for Health Care Personnel. This report pushes us forward.
139	HCP- Internal Medicine	<p>Hi, My name is Heather and I am a healthcare worker. I was forced to get the flu vaccine against my religious beliefs! I filled out the exemption like requested and submitted religious and medical information pertaining to my beliefs and I was denied twice! I was told my religious beliefs are not “sincere”. This is absolutely insane for my EMPLOYER to claim that my beliefs are not sincere. They are discriminating me against my religious creed! Seriously ask yourself, do you believe in god and what he teaches? If you said yes, how would you feel if someone said you’re lying and you’re not sincere? How are you supposed to prove to them that you are sincere? That’s how I feel!!!! I am so sick to my stomach that my employer gets to judge me and decide how sincere my beliefs are! This is morally and legally wrong! Employers should not have the right to determine how sincere your beliefs are or even MANDATE VACCINES for that matter! Beliefs are beliefs. Employers do NOT have the right to scrutinize employees on their beliefs. If an employee has religious beliefs, an employer has the right to accommodate your beliefs! PLEASE DO NOT MAKE THIS MANDATORY!!</p> <p>Second, I was also discriminated against my Pregnancy rights! I am pregnant and did NOT want the flu vaccine because of my religious beliefs but also because there are no studies done on pregnant women and it states on the insert that it’s uncertain as to whether it causes harm to the fetus! I had problems getting pregnant and when I finally did I was FORCED to get the vaccine! I am not YOUR test subject and should not be forced to be!! How would you feel if you were having problems getting pregnant and didn’t want to do anything unnatural to make sure your pregnancy is viable and was forced to get the flu vaccine with poisons in it against your beliefs? Honestly put yourself in my shoes or anyone else’s for that matter!</p> <p>Also, the flu vaccine has been proven to cause health problems and also cancer. The flu vaccine being given yearly will only make our health WORSE. It lowers our immune systems! The best way to prevent the flu is to eat right, not be lazy and get some exercise and WASH our hands! It’s that simple! Just because some people CHOOSE not to take care of themselves doesn’t mean the rest should have to destroy their healthy immune systems! We need to educate the public on how being healthy is the best way to fight off diseases! But then again, where would the money and power in that be right?? You have Clement Lewin on the board and he works for a drug company! Of course he’s going to lie to everyone and say “how good the flu vaccine is” so that drug companies can make more money! This is giving him power and control! Is money and power really more important than the public health? I know you “think” you’re helping the public’s health but really you are making it worse. Educate yourself more on the flu vaccine and about avoiding the flu naturally!! People just need to learn to take care of themselves the correct way and not rely on drugs or vaccines! That’s not how we were raised! God gave us an immune system for a reason!</p> <p>The flu vaccine is only 50% effective. AND it’s going on a guess each year as to whether you have it correct. We shouldn’t be putting these poisons in our bodies for guesses! I’d rather take care of myself and fight it the correct way! Most of the people that die from the flu have other underlying causes that attributed to their death. Just because a couple people that don’t get vaccinated doesn’t mean they are the ones that’s going to get sick.</p>

		<p>You can still get sick with the flu vaccine! So it's pretty much pointless to get the vaccine! Don't you wonder why other countries like Canada banned vaccines?! Because they do more harm than good!! RESEARCH IT PLEASE!!!!</p> <p>Seriously, there have been people that lost their jobs over this. I almost did but can't afford to NOT have a job and there is nothing out there for jobs with the way the economy is and I also will now have a family to provide for! So people are being forced to get this or they lose their jobs! This is so wrong on so many levels! BE HUMANE!!!!!! Seriously! Employers should not force their employees to get vaccinated or they are fired! They should be able to CHOOSE (which is Americas theme right?? FREEDOM OF CHOICE?!?!), not be forced. Those who choose not to get it should be able to wear a mask or something other than being fired!! Losing a job over not getting a vaccine is ridiculous!</p> <p>PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE stop this mandatory flu policy! We didn't give anyone consent to make our health decisions for us! We have freedom rights and being able to choose our own health is OUR choice not anyone else's nor should it be their business!!!</p>
140	RN	<p>More info on the <u>ineffectiveness</u> of the flu vaccine.</p> <p>Thanks for your time,</p> <p>Web address: http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/05/090519172045.htm [Print this page]</p> <p>Children Who Get Flu Vaccine Have Three Times Risk Of Hospitalization For Flu, Study Suggests</p> <p>ScienceDaily (May 19, 2009) — The inactivated flu vaccine does not appear to be effective in preventing influenza-related hospitalizations in children, especially the ones with asthma. In fact, children who get the flu vaccine are more at risk for hospitalization than their peers who do not get the vaccine, according to new research that will be presented on May 19, at the 105th International Conference of the American Thoracic Society in San Diego.</p> <p>Flu vaccine (trivalent inactivated flu vaccine—TIV) has unknown effects on asthmatics.</p> <p>"The concerns that vaccination maybe associated with asthma exacerbations have been disproved with multiple studies in the past, but the vaccine's effectiveness has not been well-established," said Avni Joshi, M.D., of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. "This study was aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of the TIV in children overall, as well as the children with asthma, to prevent influenza-related hospitalization."</p> <p>The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend annual influenza vaccination for all children aged six months to 18 years. The National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (3rd revision) also recommends annual flu vaccination of asthmatic children older than six months.</p> <p>In order to determine whether the vaccine was effective in reducing the number of hospitalizations that all children, and especially the ones with asthma, faced over eight consecutive flu seasons, the researchers conducted a cohort study of 263 children who were evaluated at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota from six months to 18 years of age, each of whom had had laboratory-confirmed influenza between 1996 to 2006. The investigators determined who had and had not received the flu vaccine, their asthma status and who did and did not require hospitalization. Records were reviewed for each subject with influenza-related illness for flu vaccination preceding the illness and hospitalization during that illness. They found that children who had received the flu vaccine had three times the risk of hospitalization, as compared to children who had not received the vaccine. In asthmatic children, there was a significantly higher risk of hospitalization in subjects who received the TIV, as compared to those who did not ($p=0.006$). But no other measured factors—such as insurance plans or severity of asthma—appeared to affect risk of hospitalization.</p> <p>"While these findings do raise questions about the efficacy of the vaccine, they do not in fact implicate it as a cause of hospitalizations," said Dr. Joshi. "More studies are needed to assess not only the immunogenicity, but also the efficacy of different influenza vaccines in asthmatic subjects."</p> <p><i>Recommend this story on Facebook, Twitter,</i></p>
141	ND	<p>There is little evidence to support the efficacy of vaccines, especially the flu vaccine. All of the studies I have seen to support it are epidemiological. These just happen to be the studies of choice to manipulate the outcome. A recent JAMA study showed the incidence of clinical influenza in the</p>

		vaccinated group was 2%, but in the un-vaccinated group it was only 3% (JAMA 1994;272:1661–5). This means that out of 100 people, one person was attributed with avoiding the flu because of the vaccine. The Bottom line is control. Does the Government or private corporation have the right to make your health care decisions for you. Communist China, yes, constitutional U.S.A., No.
142	ND	<p>Comments on mandatory flu shots for HCWs? That was a paper I wrote for my freshman nursing class, Intro to Nursing and Mental Health. Its attached. By the way, I did get an A!</p> <p>Mandatory vaccination of influenza for health care workers (HCWs) is a hot topic in today's health care environment. Many health care facilities are considering mandating the vaccine for employees or may have already. Does an ethical dilemma ensue if a staff member refuses? What is more important, the staff member's rights or patient safety? Can we decide in favor for one over the other? Is the flu vaccine really that effective that mandating the shot is necessary to save lives?</p> <p>In 1809 small pox was the public health issue that led to the first immunization law enacted in Massachusetts. By the 1900's the states were given the rights to pass and enforce immunization laws, followed later by compulsory immunization to attend public school. State laws vary, but most have at least one or more vaccine exceptions for issues of religion, medical history, or conscience. (Morris, MSA RN, 2010)</p> <p>Why do so many HCWs – especially nurses – refuse to get flu shots? The reasons vary from fear of becoming ill, avoidance of ingredients in the shots such as thimerosal & formaldehyde, reliance on naturopathic practices, or simply the right to make choices when it comes to vaccines. ("Why don't nurses," 2010)</p> <p>In 2011, the Joint Commission, (the accrediting body that sets standards for health care facilities), has proposed a recommended goal of 90% influenza vaccination of health care workers by 2020; as stated in the U.S. Health and Human Services Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections. ("Jt. comm. proposes," 2011) They do not require mandatory programs, but suggest that hospitals develop plans that prevent potential legal issues while increasing rates of flu vaccination. Currently compliance is at over 60% of employees in hospitals and below 50% in long term care facilities ("Jt. comm. proposes," 2011)</p> <p>In 2011 The Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC) ("APIC: "ethical" duty," 2011) recommended that mandatory influenza vaccines should be a condition of employment in any healthcare facility. The author of APIC's position paper, Linda Greene, RN,MPS, CIC, goes on to say that mandatory policies do not cause the facilities to lose staff, in fact, "... they have lost very few of their employees. They may lose two or three nurses and they have 7000 employees. Its' a minute number of people." ("APIC: "ethical" duty," 2011)</p> <p>However, The Association of Occupational Health Professionals in Healthcare (AOHP) is against the above position of the APIC and suggests the only mandate is in the offering of the vaccine. AOHP "respects the individual right to make an informed decision regarding declination of the influenza vaccine." ("APIC: "ethical" duty," 2011)However, they do support strong emphasis on efforts to immunize employees.</p> <p>In 2009 the Occupational Safety & Health Administration stated that their policy is that mandated flu shots are acceptable as long as "They don't retaliate against employees who have a reasonable belief that they would have a serious medical reaction to the vaccine." That employee should be protected under "Section 11(c) of the Occupational Safety & Health Act of 1970, pertaining to whistle blower rights." ("APIC: "ethical" duty," 2011)</p> <p>But do mandatory programs really work? Melanie Swift, MD, Medical Director of the Vanderbilt Occupational Health Clinic at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN doesn't think so. She states, "Employer-mandated vaccinations are fraught with logical, ethical, and administrative pitfalls and constitute a false sense of security even though they may create the impression of strong action." She also expressed concern that funds spent on promoting the vaccination program to employees who might otherwise refuse a flu shot "...should not drain resources from other important programs to protect the health of workers." ("Pressure builds for," 2011)</p> <p>Two other methods used by some facilities to try to entice workers to get a flu shot are declination forms and cold hard cash. When facilities require employees who refuse a flu shot to sign a form in order to decline, 40 hospitals in Wisconsin reached a vaccination rate of 80% or more. ("More HCWs stepping," 2011). A hospital in South Carolina will pay employees \$20 to get the flu vaccine. ("Money talks: HCWs," 2008) This has also raised their compliance rate to 80%, with Mondays being the most popular day for vaccine requests (when employees are often low on cash!)</p> <p>Evidence that flu vaccination of employees reduces mortality rates of patients/residents is not strongly proven. A 2009 study found that an increased</p>

	<p>rate of vaccination of HCWs from 32% - 70% did not produce a significant difference in mortality. ("Mandatory flu shots;," 2011)</p> <p>Many studies also fail to address other interventions such as hand-washing, mask use, quarantine and visitor restriction. A recent German study found that the greatest risk to HCW's in getting the flu was not working in an acute care facility, it was having children in the home! ("Mandatory flu shots;," 2011)</p> <p>A recent article highlighted the thoughts of Dr. Tom Jefferson, an epidemiologist, who reviewed medical studies related to the flu vaccine. In it he states, "... our reviews include a number of studies funded by industry. An early systematic review of all influenza vaccine studies published between 1948 and 2007 found that industry-funded studies were published in more prestigious journals and were cited more than other studies but their methodological quality and size were the same as the other studies. Studies funded from public sources were significantly less likely to report conclusions favorable to the vaccines. In conclusion we have no reliable evidence on the effects of influenza vaccines on the elderly and health care workers who work with the elderly. What we do have evidence of is widespread manipulation of conclusions and spurious notoriety of the studies." (Dearing, 2010)</p> <p>In addition, Dr. Jefferson and his colleagues reviewed several other studies that focused on the health care workers that work with the elderly and concluded that: "... there is no evidence that vaccinating HCWs prevents influenza in elderly residents in LTCFs. High quality RCTs are required to avoid risks of bias in methodology and conduct, and to test these interventions in combination." (Dearing, 2010)</p> <p>Is the flu really that dangerous that so much pressure is put on health care workers to be vaccinated whether they want to receive the shot or not? According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 36,000 Americans, mainly high risk patients, die from the flu. ("Flu facts," 2010) However it is not known how many of those deaths were actually caused by bacterial or viral infections that closely resemble influenza. That type of data is not available.</p> <p>There are also risks to receiving the shot, within 12 hours recipients can have pain, fever, fatigue, headaches, and painful joints. These symptoms can last up to several days. One of the most serious reactions to an influenza vaccine has been Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), an immune mediated nerve disorder characterized by muscle weakness, unsteady gait, numbness, tingling, and pain. Five percent of cases of GBS end in death. Regardless, recovery can take months and still result in permanent disability.</p> <p>There is also newer information linking influenza vaccine with increased risk of Alzheimer's disease, due to the presence of mercury in the vaccine. (Mercola, DR, 2011) In a paper published in collaboration with researchers at University of Calgary, Dr. Boyd Haley, Professor and Chair of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Kentucky stated that "seven of the characteristic markers that we look for to distinguish Alzheimer's disease can be produced in normal brain tissues, or cultures of neurons, by the addition of extremely low levels of mercury." (Mercola, DR, 2011)</p> <p>*****</p> <p><i>While the issue of mandatory influenza vaccination affects all health care workers, the remainder of the paper will focus on the issue as it relates to nurse only.</i></p> <p>Is requiring mandatory flu shots for nurses ethical? First and foremost, what is the definition of ethics? Ethics are rules or values that tell us what is right and what is wrong. Ideally, ethics should protect the rights of the people. There can be specific set of ethics for health care and its workers, such as nurses.</p> <p>There are several ethical principles that nurses must follow. The first is autonomy, which is defined as "the right of people to act for themselves and make personal choices, including refusal of treatment." (Morrison-Valfre, 2009) Informed consent is an important part of this principle, meaning that a nurse should be sure his/her patient has all the information they need to make decisions about their healthcare. And nurses need to be able to support their patient, should they still choose to refuse care. Beneficence means "to actively do good." (Morrison-Valfre, 2009) Nurses need to promote their client's health and provide actions/interventions that are the most therapeutic, even if a procedure causes pain. Ideally, a painful procedure would only be given to a patient if it will yield benefit to them.</p> <p>Nurses are governed by their own code of ethics, such as those developed by the International Council of Nurses (Morrison-Valfre, 2009) and it's important that nurses practice with ethical principles in mind along with their own scope of practice as determined by the state in which they hold their license. The International Council of Nurses Codes of Ethics for nurses contains two statements that one might use to support the idea of mandatory flu vaccination. The first is "The nurse shares with society the responsibility for initiating and supporting actions to meet health and social</p>
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	<p><i>needs of the public, in particular those of vulnerable populations.”</i> The other statement is <i>“The nurse maintains a standard of personal health such as the ability to provide care is not compromised.”</i> (Morrison-Valfre, 2009)</p> <p>So then what is more important – the rights of the nurse or of the patient? Can we ethically determine that one takes precedence over the other? It is the nurse’s responsibility to follow precautions that keep their patients safe. These include actions such as hand hygiene, cleaning/sanitizing equipment, disposing of medical waste properly, and following proper procedures for medication administration, etc. If the nurse is truly responsible and cares about their patient’s health then should they receive a flu shot even if they prefer not to? What if the nurse refuses the vaccine, but is careful to protect his/her patient with hand hygiene, wearing a mask if coughing, or stays home when ill? In another instance a nurse could receive her flu shot as mandated, but fail to follow other precautions that leave her patient vulnerable to disease and infection. Simply mandating flu shots does not fully protect patients and may give a facility a false sense of security.</p> <p>When approaching the idea of a mandated flu shot, the nurse in effect also becomes the patient. So now it is the nurse who is on the receiving end of the ethical principle of autonomy. What about his/her rights to refuse a treatment, even after informed consent? Nurses encourage their patients to “participate in informed decision making” (Morrison-Valfre, 2009) these same rights must be extended to nurses should they make the choice not to receive the influenza vaccine.</p> <p>Rather than continue to harass or punish employees who refuse a flu shot, it would be beneficial to these facilities to extend effort and funds towards protection of their patients through ongoing education of staff. This should include proper hand washing techniques, universal precautions, sanitizing of surfaces and equipment, and basic etiquette when coughing and sneezing. Visitors should be limited during flu season. Supervisors should be on the lookout for any staff member that appears ill and send them home immediately. In addition a policy should be in place that allows employees to stay home when ill without fear of retribution. Adequate sick time must be provided so that employees do not come to work ill for fear of financial loss.</p> <p>The flu vaccine only protects against one or two specific strains of the flu each year. There is no guarantee of <i>not</i> coming down with flu just because the shot was received. We have already reviewed information that shows that the vaccine is not as effective in prevention of illness as the pharmaceutical companies would have us believe. However, numerous other infections run rampant each year such as the stomach virus, strep throat infections, bronchitis, and sinus, ear and respiratory infections. Any of these are highly contagious and require employees to be out of work for several days. While the flu shot would not protect HCW’s against the fore mentioned illnesses, measures described above such as proper hand washing and sanitation of surfaces can.</p> <p>Based on the information presented, it appears to be an ethical violation to impose mandated influenza vaccination on nurses in their workplace. While health care facilities should continue to offer the vaccine, encourage compliance and promote it among staff, employees who refuse should not be punished or terminated. Nurses who refuse a flu shot because they feel that the risks outweigh the benefits should have their decision respected. If a facility claims that patient safety is the reason for mandating flu shots, then technically flu shots should be required of all visitors. (It would actually make more sense to require visitors to have had their shot, since HCW’s hopefully would be more vigilant about taking precautions to reduce the spread of infection.)</p> <p>While one could argue that the following ethical statement supports mandatory flu vaccine <i>“The nurse shares with society the responsibility for initiating and supporting actions to meet health and social needs of the public, in particular those of vulnerable populations.”</i> The other statement <i>“The nurse maintains a standard of personal health such as the ability to provide care is not compromised”</i> can be supported not by mandated vaccines, but by simply staying home when ill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morrison-Valfre, M. (2009). <i>Foundations of mental health care</i>. (4 ed., Vol. 1, pp. 19-28). 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143	ND	<p>pregnants women are in much more danger if they take vaccine than if they leave their bodies alone. this invasion is a conflict of interest for the people who make money off vaccination. the entire body approving this crap is peopel WHO MAKE MONEY FROM VACCINATING. THEY HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN VACCINATING EVERYBODY BECAUSE THEY MAKE MONEY. IT IS THEIR BREAD AND BUTTER TO MAKE MONEY FROM. THEY ARE DECIDEDLY IN CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH THIS PUSH FOR DRUGS EMANATING FROM TNHIS BODY.</p> <p>THERE IS ALSO HYSTERIA IN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY TO FORCE THIS INVASION OF PEOPLE'S BODY. GOVT WANTS TO RUN OUR LIVES, SO NOTHIGN IS SACRED, NOT EVEN OUR BODIES ANYMORE. THE NURREMBERG TRIALS SAID THAT THE DOCTORS WHO FORCED INVASION OF PEOPLE'S BODIES WERE HYSTERICAL AND HAD CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS .THAT IS WHAT IS GOING ON HERE. THIS IS LIKE THE NAZI DOCTORS, YOU ARE DOING A GIGANTIC EXPERIMENT ON THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THE RISE OF AUTISM COINCIDES PEECTLY WITH THIS PUSH TO DRUG UP EVERYBODY IN AMERICA.</p> <p>I DO NOT BELIEVE THE STATITSTICS YOU TRY TO ATTRIBUTE TO FLU. I THINK THAT PNEUMONIA IS NOT FLU AND YOU TRY TO MAKE HUGE STATISTICS TO BOLSTER A WEAK CASE TO VACCINATE. THE STATS YOU PRESENT I SAY ARE FAKE. COMPLETELY FAKE. I DO NOT BELIEVE THEM FOR ONE MINUTES. WE GET LIED BY THE US GOVT ALL OF THE TIME. THIS IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE.</p> <p>THE MONEY AND GREED FROM ALL THIS VACCINATING ALL COMES INTO YOU GUYS BANK ACCOUNTS. IT MAKES YOU RICH. LOOK AT THE MONEY THE FLU MFRS MAKE.</p> <p>THERE IS HUGE MONEY AND GREED IN THIS MOVE TO VACCINATE PEOPLE AGAINST THEIR WILL. THE PEOPLE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS AT ALL. YOU CAN SEE THAT. IF THEY SUPPORTED IT, THERE WOULD BE 100% VACINATION ALREADY. YOU ARE TRYIGN TO FORCE PEOPLE WHO DONT BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU DO. AND BELIEVE YOU ARE ALL FAKERS AND GREED MONGERS.</p> <p>I ALSO SEE HYSTERIA IN THE MEDICAL FIELD. THERE WAS HYSTERIA WHEN THE H1N1 FLU CAUSED AMERICAN TAXPAYERS TO LOSE BILLIONS IN FLU VACCINE THAT NOBODY WANTED AND THAT THIS SAME GROUP OF MONEYMAKERS IN THE HEALTHFIEL DPUSHED. THIS IS ABOUT MONEY. YOU EVEN SOAKED THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS WITH FAKE H1N1.</p> <p>VACCINE INJECTIONS ARE IN FACT HURTING AND KILLING SOME PEOPLE. SOME PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER BE TAKING THEM. THEIR SYSTEMS IWLL NOT</p>

		<p>SUPPORT IT FACTUALLY. I OPPOSE YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS 1-5. I ASK FOR INCLUSION OF THIS RECOMMENDATION? OPEN UP TO THE PUBLIC EACH SEQUENCE OF THE VACCINE PRODUCTION: WHO IS MAKING IT. WHERE ARE THEY MAKING IT. WHAT STEPS ARE TAKEN AT EACH STEP OF THE PROCESS FROM HEN TO EGG TO LAB, ETC.</p> <p>WHERE ARE THE PRODUCTION SITES FOR ALLEGEDLY "BIOSECURE" FARMS WITH "BIOSECURE" EGGS. YOU KEEP ALL OF THAT SECRET AND SNEAKY. HOWEVER, WE KNOW WE JUST HAD A MILLION EGGS RECALLED IN AMERICA FOR SALMONELLA. THEY COULD BE USED IN VACCINE PRODUCTION, COULDN'T THEY? THE DRUG PUSHERS AT THIS AGENCY ARE TRYING TO DRUG UP AMERICA. IT IS WRONG TO INVASIVELY DO THIS. MY COMMENTS ARE FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD</p> <p>JEAN PUBLIC</p>
144	HCP (not specified)	<p>I am a health care worker who was required to get the H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccines in December of 2009. The day I received them I began having severe symptoms of Neuralgic Amyotrophy (NA) which was diagnosed after two weeks of severe pain and seeing two primary care MDs and a chiropractor who didn't know what it was.</p> <p>I strongly recommend using strong incentives, promotions and education, but not mandatory policies, to encourage high vaccination rates. I still have the effects of this serious injury. In addition, The VCIP, the Countermeasures Program and Worker's Comp processes have proved to be disappointing in their response, and very burdensome to one who has had to spend one's own time finding and using appropriate treatment and recovery programs to heal from my injury, while continuing to work to keep my job suffering from serious effects.</p> <p>Just this month another worker at the hospital where I am employed described a very similar reaction as mine from his flu shot in Dec 2011. He is just "going along" with his pain and may not be getting the full treatment that could benefit him because these are little known reactions. I have shared technical information with him to take to his MDs. That's at least two serious reactions in three years in a population of 1000 or so workers. These are serious side effects that I believe are under-diagnosed, under-reported and under-treated.</p> <p>I recommend extensive surveillance of all health workers to find the true cost in terms of mild to severe reactions, lost days of work and other costs to them and our society from mass vaccination. Also, the CDC's own guidelines to prevent infection within hospitals are not used fully to prevent spread of flu. It appears to health care institutions to be easier to require vaccination than to implement known effective surveillance systems and other less invasive methods to prevent or control the spread of infection. These methods would also lead to a more knowledgeable and vigilant workforce.</p> <p>My father died of polio in 1950 and we were all glad to get vaccinated against polio. The flu is another matter, however. Very little is known about how each individual's immune system will respond to a flu vaccine, and whether it will be effective. The lesson I learned from this relative to mass immunization is "one size does not fit all." Clinical trials to test vaccines only include samples in the low thousands. (e.g. see: http://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/UCM182242.pdf) "Rare but not uncommon" reactions such as NA might be easily missed with such small samples.</p> <p>I applaud the CDC and public health entities in the US in their efforts to prepare our country for quick and effective response to public health emergencies. However, I believe that all voluntary and promotional efforts be applied, while continuing further research, before mandatory policies are recommended or set in law or regulation.</p>
145	Licensed Acupuncturist	<p>No. Please do NOT make mandated flu shots a necessary step towards employment. I personally tried a flu shot once when I was in a graduate acting program in Florida. It was highly recommended to me by my professors and colleagues. However, shortly after getting the free flu shot, I became more ill and sick for the next few days. Instead of helping me against the flu, it CAUSED a flu response! The next few months were miserable. Since then I have vowed never to take any flu shots because they just do not work for me.</p>

		<p>I have since transitioned towards using Traditional Chinese Medicine. It has proven to me to have far better results without nearly half the negative side effects I experienced after receiving that flu shot. I have since become a fully licensed Acupuncturist in the state of California. My own personal health has much improved. On the rare occasions I do get sick, I rely on acupuncture and herbal medicine to get me better within hours if not a few days without any reoccurrences.</p> <p>While vaccinations may prove useful for some patients, it is not useful for all. Forcing mandatory flu shots as a step towards employment would deny other health care workers who have a strong health constitution from helping patients. It would also be UNCONSTITUTIONAL as it forces unnecessary procedures on otherwise healthy individuals. We should and MUST have a choice to make these decisions for ourselves.</p>
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