

PROMPT PRACTICE

Mandatory Vaccinations

Vaccines are an effective tool to protect people against infections that can be harmful and deadly. They are necessary to protect the health and well-being of US citizens. Some individuals believe that mandating vaccines takes away an individual's liberty and autonomy. Mandatory vaccination policies may restrict a person's ability to work or attend school. Mandatory vaccination is designed to develop herd immunity and to protect vulnerable populations. When mandatory vaccinations are enacted, reasonable effort should be made to ensure that all perspectives are considered. In 1978, the Center for Disease Control set a goal to eliminate measles from the US. Although this goal was not met 100%, measles was declared eliminated from the US in 2000. This means that the disease was not present for more than twenty years. Recently, more than 400 people in Texas have been diagnosed with measles, and one child has died. More than 50 cases have been diagnosed in New Mexico. Measles continue to spread through Oklahoma and Kansas. There are cases in other states as well. A 2015 study determined that before the measles vaccine was widely available, measles might have been responsible for up to half of all infectious diseases in children. To what extent should vaccinations be required for school children, and what measures should be taken for those who are not vaccinated?

Read and carefully consider the following perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about the question above.

Perspective 1	Perspective 2	Perspective 3
Vaccinations should be mandatory. All school children should be required to produce proof of vaccination before enrolling in public school.	Vaccinations should not be mandatory but recommended. School children who opt not to be vaccinated should be segregated from children who have been vaccinated to ensure that should they become ill, they will not spread a disease to children who have been vaccinated.	No vaccinations should be mandatory. If children are strong enough to survive measles and/or other communicable diseases, then that just makes the population stronger.

Essay Task

Write a unified, coherent essay about whether vaccines should be mandatory in the US. In your essay, be sure to:

- Carefully state your own perspective on the issue and analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perspective.
- Develop and support your ideas with reasoning and examples.
- Organize your ideas clearly and logically.
- Communicate your ideas effectively in standard written English.

Your essay perspective may be in full agreement with any of those given, in partial agreement, or completely different.