### **Should Covid-19 Vaccination Be Required for Students to Attend Public Schools?**

Student's Name or Students' Names

Department Affiliation, University Affiliation

Course Number: Course Name

Instructor's Name

Assignment Due Date

#### Should Covid-19 Vaccination Be Required for Students to Attend Public Schools?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19) is one of the primary healthcare problems that has affected school-going children in recent years (Fegert et al., 2020). Its impact continues to be felt across the world, with policymakers, students, parents, and educators hoping for a return of normalcy in the education sector. It is estimated that approximately 262,000,000 people suffer from Covid-19. In addition, the number of deaths associated with Covid-19 continues to rise, and currently, new Covid-19 variants such as Amicron continue to affect people's lives.

Pharmaceutical companies have also been diligent in making many covid-19 vaccines available to the public. As the education sector tries to recover from the disruptions caused by the pandemic, it is important to tame the possibility of more covid-19 deaths and transmission being reported among the students attending public schools. This can easily be realized by requiring every student attending public school to get covid-19 vaccination.

Protecting self and other students is a major reason public school students should get vaccinated against covid-19 (CDC, 2021). With millions of students attending public schools, the level of interactions with the community is high. They interact with fellow students, parents, teachers, and the community as a whole. This chain of interaction can lead to more infections if one is not vaccinated. CDC (2021) suggests that once students get vaccinated, a defense is built against covid-19, which goes a long way in protecting other students. Besides, Covid-19 is highly infectious, and students are encouraged to mask up and maintain social distance. In this regard, public schools should make it mandatory for all students to be vaccinated as a prerequisite to attending public schools.

Vaccinating students attending public schools against covid-19 has the economic benefit of saving on costs. According to Rodrigues and Plotkin (2020), vaccination is a cost-effective and beneficial intervention against a pandemic like covid-19 compared to other public health

interventions. Once a covid-19 case is reported in a school, the chances of affecting other students, teachers, parents, and friends are very high. Because of the multiplier effect, more infections arise, leading to increased morbidity and mortality. Besides, high numbers of hospitalizations get reported, leading to increased healthcare costs that would have otherwise been prevented through vaccination. With early vaccination, costs associated with covid-19 tests, treatments, and procedures can be diverted to other activities that spur economic growth.

Vaccination against covid-19 also allows students in public schools to continue with their social and extracurricular activities. After covid-19 struck the world, a lot of educational activities such as sporting, academic congresses, and exchange programs were stopped as a means to curb the spread of the virus (Sahu, 2020). In the United States, covid-19 restrictions, which included the closure of schools, cancellation of sporting activities, and closure of parks, denied most children the opportunity to achieve recommended levels of physical activity (Dunton et al., 2020). There was even more fear of contracting the Delta variant, which is believed to spread faster than all other covid-19 variants and is associated with more infections. Today, with proof of vaccination, students attending public schools can engage in large public events such as conferences, games, and concerts.

In conclusion, covid-19 vaccination should be a mandatory requirement for students to attend public schools. This is one of the most effective ways for students to protect themselves and others against covid-19. Students in public schools are more likely to contract the virus and may quickly spread it to their friends, parents, and family members. The costs associated with the pandemic are high and may require hospitalizations that may strain most families. Therefore, it is crucial for students attending public schools to get vaccinated. Vaccination is one of the surest ways to protect against the spread of covid-19.

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