

Could The Covid-19 Vaccine Be Required For All Students?

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The requirement of a vaccine for education sounds like a simple concept, but currently, it is far more complicated than ever before. During the pandemic, the vaccine to solve this crisis has been heavily politicized. Both sides weigh their opinions on the matter but it all comes down to one question; Could the Covid-19 vaccine be required for all students?

The action of vaccinating students before going to school is not new, in fact, all students are currently required to receive 17 vaccines from the time of birth to the age of 18, according to the Ohio Department of Health. So why is this vaccine any different? Many believe that this vaccine was made too quickly and claim that they would feel more comfortable getting the vaccine if it were FDA approved. On August 23rd, 2021; the Pfizer vaccine was fully approved by the FDA, meaning that schools could require students to be fully vaccinated to attend. There have not been any K-12 schools in the country to mandate the vaccine yet, but universities have stepped up to the vaccination plate. Many colleges and universities in Ohio have begun requiring vaccinations to attend; including popular choices such as Miami University, University of Cincinnati, Xavier, Mount Saint Joseph, and Kent State. When questioned about how the vaccine requirements taking place in universities compared to K-12 schools, EducationWeek

claimed; "...experts say it is unlikely states will issue similar requirements for K-12 students anytime soon". Some find this unreasonable while others find it to be a relief. Ourworldindata.org reveals that about 48.7% of Ohioans are fully vaccinated with 52.8% of the population having received only one dose. With the new requirements in place, it could be assumed that the number of doses given will surely rise. Although universities and colleges have it figured out, what about K-12 schools? Many K-12 schools are planning to "wait and see" due to the tense opinions surrounding the vaccine. Currently, only children ages 12 and up can receive the vaccine, so the requirement of elementary school students to have the vaccine is currently out of the picture. These younger schools can require other protective measures such as masks and social distancing, but the shot is a vision from the future for these kids. Throughout our county, schools such as Elder, Delshire, and Mount Notre Dame have mandated masks to hopefully stop the increased spread of Covid-19. Parents on both sides of the argument are fighting about whether or not their child should have to wear a mask but overall it all boils down to the school and the safety procedures that they feel are necessary.

The topic of the Covid-19 vaccine is one with intense emotions and strong opinions. The requirement of this vaccine in schools sounds ridiculous, but students have been vaccinated for a while. Children receive Polio vaccines, and now the rate of Polio cases has dropped to an extremely low level. Receiving a vaccine in order to be around others and learn in a controlled environment is not a new concept, but it is a concept that will never be the same.

Sources:

WTOL11 “Heading back to campus? Here’s Covid-19 vaccination requirements for Ohio colleges and universities”

Hopkinsmedicine.org “Full FDA Approval of Covid-19 Vaccine: What You Should Know”

Ohio Department of Health “Immunization”

Cdc.gov “Guidance for Covid-19 prevention in K-12 schools.”

Edweek.org “Can schools require students to get the covid-19 vaccine?”