



Vaccination and Health: Weighing the Risks

Unlike prescription drugs administered to the sick, vaccines are pharmaceutical products primarily administered to healthy people. Like prescription drugs, vaccines carry two risks: first, vaccines may cause serious reactions, injuries or death from complications; and second, vaccines may fail to prevent infection and transmission of infection. NVIC supports your human right to exercise freedom of thought, conscience and religious belief when making a vaccine decision for yourself or minor child.

5 Vaccine Myths

Vaccine Myth 1: Most medical doctors say that vaccines do not cause injury or death, so it must be true. FACT – Inflammation of the brain, permanent brain damage and death have always been among the most serious complications of vaccination. Like all pharmaceutical products, vaccines carry a risk of harm or failure that can be greater for some people.

Vaccine Myth 2: People who question vaccine safety are ignorant and do not understand the science. FACT – Just the opposite is true. Studies reveal that mothers and fathers with college or post-graduate degrees more frequently question vaccine safety and effectiveness. There are fewer than 40 published studies evaluating the safety of the federally recommended vaccine schedule for children under age six.

Vaccine Myth 3: People who do not vaccinate are selfish and don't care about the public health. FACT – While we are all born equal with equal rights under the law, we are not born all the same. We each have different genes, biological susceptibilities and environmental influences that affect our individual responses to diseases and vaccines. When vaccine risks turn out to be 100 percent, some people susceptible to vaccine harm stop vaccinating so they will not become permanently disabled and a burden on society.

Vaccine Myth 4: Science trumps religious beliefs so religious exemptions to vaccination should be eliminated. FACT – Science is not infallible and doctors cannot predict who will suffer harm from vaccination. It is a violation of human rights for government officials to require you to be a member of an organized religion or state sanctioned church in order to exercise freedom of conscience and religion. It is a violation of your civil rights if you or your minor child are denied access to an education, medical care, employment or are otherwise discriminated against or sanctioned based on your vaccination status.



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Vaccine Myth 5: It is ethical for government to sacrifice the few for the many. FACT – Based on hedonism and a mathematical equation, this philosophy is called utilitarianism. It was discredited as a pseudo-ethic in 1947, when the ethical principle of informed consent to medical risk taking was defined as a human right and globally recognized as central to the ethical practice of medicine. Public health laws using the utilitarian rationale to force vaccination are unethical because they violate freedom of conscience and the informed consent principle.

No Liability? No Vaccine Exemptions? No Vaccine Mandates.

In 1986, Congress acknowledged vaccines can injure and kill and passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, which partially shielded drug companies from vaccine injury lawsuits. Since then, more than \$3.5 billion in federal vaccine injury compensation has been awarded to children and adults harmed by government mandated vaccines.

In 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that government licensed and recommended vaccines are ‘unavoidably unsafe’ and effectively banned all vaccine injury lawsuits. Seat belt manufacturers have product liability, but vaccine manufacturers do not, and neither do doctors, employers, and government officials punishing Americans opposing forced use of liability-free vaccines that carry a risk of injury, death and failure.

Since the Supreme Court shielded the pharmaceutical industry from liability for vaccine harm, lobbyists for drug companies, medical trade associations and public health officials have lobbied state legislatures to remove vaccine exemptions from state vaccine laws. NVIC opposes mandatory vaccination laws without flexible medical, religious and conscience exemptions that protect the human right to exercise freedom of conscience, religion and informed consent to medical risk taking.

Learn more at **NVIC.org**

Become a vaccine choice advocate in your state. Use the free NVIC Advocacy Portal at **NVICAdvocacy.org** to defend your human and civil rights.

*References for this information can be accessed
at <http://tinyurl.com/nvicvaccinemyths>*