

**Stop the flu
it starts with you!**



PROS AND CONS OF MANDATORY INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Considering mandatory influenza immunization for health care workers (HCW)? Here are some common arguments for and against this controversial issue.

Pros (+)

Increased rate of HCW immunization

Decreased HCW absenteeism, presenteeism (decreased productivity due to reporting to work when sick), and costs

Reduced risk of influenza spread from HCW to patients, coworkers, and family members

Meets HCW ethical obligations based on the duty to act in the best interests of patients and the duty to do no harm to patients

Cons (-)

Imposes on rights of HCW

Loss of HCW personal choice

Increased institutional liability for vaccine side effects

Perception of coercion, alienation, and possible loss of HCW

False sense of security about risk for transmission of virus from HCW to patients, other HCWs, and family members

REFERENCES

1. Anikeeva O, Braunack-Mayer A, Rogers W. Requiring influenza vaccination for health care workers. *Am J Public Health.* 2009; 99:24-9
2. Steckel CM. Mandatory influenza immunization for health care workers—an ethical discussion. *AAOHN J.* 2007; 55:34-9.



Developed by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
More information is available at www.YouCanStopTheFlu.com