

Where Do You Stand on Vaccines?

Answer the following questions, choosing the best response on a scale of 1 to 7.

Question 1: How do you balance the overall risks and benefits of vaccinations that most infants and children receive in Canada?

Risks far outweigh benefits Risks and benefits are equally balanced Benefits far outweigh risks
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Question 2: How do you feel about this statement: As long as a disease is rare where I live, my family and I should avoid getting vaccinated because of the risk of adverse reactions.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

Question 3: How do you feel about this statement: Even though there's some risk of adverse reactions to vaccines, my family and I should be vaccinated, because if we aren't, we put the health of others at risk.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

Question 4: Different provinces have somewhat different requirements regarding vaccinations and have possible religious or philosophical exemptions. How do you feel about schools requiring vaccines?

Strongly opposed 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly in favor

Question 5: Parents should have sole decision-making power about whether or not to immunize their children, with no external regulations or requirements.

Strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Strongly agree

PBS VACCINE WARS

Discussion Questions

1. Through a published schedule and set of guidelines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and public health officials recommend that every child receive certain vaccinations by age 6. What are the benefits of this recommendation to public health officials, to the community and to other children?

2. Some parents and health care professionals question the CDC's recommendations and decide not to vaccinate their children, while others, like Jennifer Margulis, choose to vaccinate their children along an alternative schedule. How might her decision affect both her own children and others?

3. In what ways is vaccination different from other types of personal health decisions? Who should be involved in deciding whether children receive a specific vaccine?

4. Should the government have the right to compel vaccination? Should parents have the right to refuse it?