



Radio Karantin

Hronika istorije u nastajanju

Mandatory vaccination – less bad solution



Podcast released: October 6, 2021

We are starting the third season of the Radio Quarantine podcast with the topic of mandatory vaccination. We are talking to professors Dorit Rice in California and Peter Newman in Toronto.

Rice believes that mandatory vaccination is the least bad solution, while Newman estimates that equal distribution of the vaccine is still the most important issue.

Promotion, education and availability rather than compulsory vaccination

Peter Newman, Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto, says that mandating vaccination risks that an effective and routine public health intervention will escalate into conflict. He says that due to the politicization of the vaccine, that has already happened to some extent in the United States.



Piter Njuman

"In a scenario that immediately requires vaccines, I think you risk losing a large percentage of unvaccinated people, not all of whom are persistent anti-vaccines, some simply have not yet had access to the vaccine. Some of them come from a marginalized population. In North America, it would be Black or Indigenous communities, who are not necessarily infected with conspiracy theories, but have a legitimate distrust of government and public health because of things that have happened to them in the past. So, if you immediately impose mandatory vaccination, you will lose maybe another 20% of the population. All you need to do is promote, educate and respect people. You need to have communicators that the community trusts. They don't have to be from the field of public health, maybe it's a priest in the church. It has to be done in a targeted, very smart way and you respect people when you talk to them.

Vaccines have been available for ten months, at least in the developed world. Newman believes that, although the request for mandatory vaccination of civil servants in the United States is already being implemented, the chance that mandatory vaccination will be adopted at the federal level is small.

"Civil servants have to be vaccinated, otherwise they have to be tested routinely, quite often. Some large companies also ask employees to get vaccinated if they want to return to work. These are quite strong measures, but they are still not a general mandate imposed by the state, which would further polarize people. More than 600 colleges and universities across the United States are introducing mandatory vaccination for students. Thus, mandatory vaccinations are beginning to be introduced in the United States. It's just that the federal government likes to say that it depends on each state. "Unfortunately, some of those states are now suffocated by Covid because of the ridiculous political attitudes of their governors who tried to convince us that it is illegal to impose even wearing a mask," Newman believes.

In addition to the United States and all of Europe, Western and Eastern, as well as some authoritarian countries such as Russia 's and China are reluctant to introduce compulsory vaccination. Newman says that it is possible that part of the answer, when it comes to Russia and China, lies in the distrust of their citizens towards the correctness of the vaccine.

"People say - if your vaccine is so good, why do you have to make me get it?! As if something might be wrong with it if you impose it on me. In somewhat more democratic countries, there is a rule that if you press too hard, you get a reaction too quickly. I will use the example of the HPV vaccine. There is a percentage of people who develop cancer over time due to the human papilloma virus and it is a cancer that can actually be prevented with a vaccine - at least some types of cancer. However, pharmaceutical companies have tried to promote their product and it is too intrusive in my opinion and the opinion of other people. And then some of the public and the media overlooked the fact that the vaccine is a really good product and people started using pointless arguments to reject it. COVID is obviously much more politicized. So, we have examples of other vaccines whose introduction has not been done carefully. The science of drug development and clinical trials of vaccines is a very important science. I would add another thing to that - social scientists should be more involved and help even before the introduction of a new drug. Because they are experts who deal with human psychology and the way people make decisions, and they are often not necessarily medical experts. These are experts who also want only the best for people", believes Newman.

Newman emphasizes the importance of education and promotion when it comes to vaccination . Newman, a native American who works in Toronto, says that the situation in the United States is very bad in that sense, and that it is somewhat better in Canada.

"Honestly, from my perspective, unfortunately, the messages of the American CDC (Center for Disease Control) were not the best because they are still subject to some rules introduced under Trump when they were suppressed. They fired some people who were telling the truth. So when you seriously politicize an organization that is supposed to manage evidence in science, it creates a problem that can't be reversed in a day or two. Canada may be a little better, but I think there is a challenge to the human tendency to see things in black and white. And there is a widespread misunderstanding and use of wrong words. No one has ever said that a vaccine against Covid is 100% effective. But people see - aha, this one was vaccinated twice, so he still got Covid, so there is something wrong with this vaccine. So, what Covid vaccines do is similar to other vaccines - you are protected from more serious illnesses, going to the hospital or intensive care and dying. But you can still develop symptoms. In Canada, my colleagues tell me, 98% of those hospitalized with Covid are unvaccinated. I don't want to blame the general public, but there are some holes in the vaccination messages. I think it was necessary to bring in a little more honesty at the beginning and say that the vaccine is not perfect, that it is not a magical solution. However, if you do not want to get sick and die, and you do not want your parents or grandparents to get sick and die, get them a vaccine. If vaccinated, you can live with the symptoms," says Newman.

The action against Covid is both an ethical issue and a human rights issue , Newman believes.

"From my perspective, the main angle of human rights is that only one or two percent of people in low-income countries have access to the vaccine. It is both an ethical issue and a human rights issue. "That is the main ethical issue for me - vaccination nationalism and inequality in the distribution of vaccines," he said.

Newman is above all pragmatic when talking about whether we and how the vaccine will soon get out of pandemic crisis .

"Vaccination is not just a solution, but a combination of vaccination together with other public health measures such as appropriate protection with masks indoors, even in schools, and physical distancing. But as long as we have serious inequalities in the distribution of the vaccine, we cannot keep a pandemic under control in Europe or the United States if it gets out of control in South Africa or Southeast Asia, right? It's a virus. So, for me, the main challenge is to ensure access to vaccines in these poorer countries as well, and that is a serious ethical issue, but also a way to keep this disease under control," Newman said.

Gosti : [Dorit Rajs](#)
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Terms : [Mandatory vaccination](#) [virus](#) [Pandemic](#) [Delta variant](#) [covid-19](#)



Podcast Radio Karantin

Obavezna vakcinacija - neizbežna mera ili dodatna municija za antivaksere