

# Vaccine Refusal and its Legal and Ethical Consequences

M. Costello (Michael Costello)<sup>1</sup>, J. Drgova (Jaroslava Drgova)<sup>2</sup>, J. Bozik (Jozef Bozik)<sup>6</sup>, A. Murgova (Anna Murgova)<sup>2</sup>, A. Gallova (Andrea Gallova)<sup>2</sup>, N. Bujdova (Natasja Bujdova)<sup>2</sup>, P. Tomanek (Pavol Tomanek)<sup>2,3</sup>, M. Olah (Michal Olah)<sup>2,4,5</sup>, C. Muss (Claus Muss)<sup>2,3</sup>

Original Article

<sup>1</sup> Panuska College of Professional Studies University of Scranton, Scranton, PA, USA.

<sup>2</sup> St. Elizabeth University and F.P. Freybergh Institute (GAP), SEUC Vienna, AU.

<sup>3</sup> Dept. of Social Medicine School of Medicine, Comenius Univ. Bratislava. SK.

<sup>4</sup> I-GAP Vienna, branch Zurich Switzerland, CH.

<sup>5</sup> The PRIGO University, Havirov, CZ.

<sup>6</sup> St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work, Dr. P. Blaha Institute, Skalica, SK.

## E-mail address:

michael.costello@scranton.edu

## Reprint address:

Michael Costello  
University of Scranton School of Education  
USA

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## Abstract:

Vaccine refusal as a part of anti-vaccination campaign is of great concern. This note highlights the praxis of the EU/US governments to use legal and economic influence to stop the decrease of the percentage of vaccination coverage as a threat to the global health in development countries of EU/US.

## Introduction

Vaccination coverage presents since 2000 a surprising paradox - in developing (low economic insecure) countries the coverage is increasing also due to free support financed by the World Bank (WB) and the Global Fund (GF). However, in developed - high income countries the coverage with basic vaccines has been a decreasing trend due to irresponsible journalism and anti-science groups dominance in some media and social nets. Some large European cities report less than 85% coverage for basic vaccines (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, hemophilia B, hepatitis B, polio, pneumococcus) at birth, & in 1 and 8 - 12 years of life (vaccines against measles, rubella, mumps). This phenomenon cause - in the era open visa free policy of the EU to Ukraine and other non-Schengen states an unprecedented threat. (1-2)

## Action from EU/US

How EU Member States and US react.

At least three independent reactions are needed to stop this negative phenomenon:

- 1 Financial - Fines for basic vaccine refusal e.g. in Italy may reach 10,000 Euros, other member states expect penalties between 500 to 5,000 Euros.
- 2 Ban of access to school - Slovakia passed a bill proposal (2019) to not allow unvaccinated children into pre-school education. Some Scandinavian states do not allow those children to attend kindergarten and some US states (New York, California) exclude unvaccinated even from primary school. In 2015-2020 in communities of Pennsylvania (Amish, Mormons, Orthodox Jewish) quarantine measures were introduced.
- 3 Refusal of Entry and Asylum process. Turkey does not allow to enter TK for migrants without vaccine record and apply MMR and Polio - DTP directly on the border. UK denies asylum process for vaccine refusals.
- 4 Failure to break quarantine is subject to high penalties in Czech Republic, PR China during the COVID-19 epidemics in 2020.

## Conclusion

The vaccination coverage decreased from 2010-2020. Vaccine refusal as a part of an anti-vaccination campaign is of great concern. This

note highlights for EU/US governments use legal and economic influences to stop the decreasing percentage of vaccination coverage as a threat to global health.

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