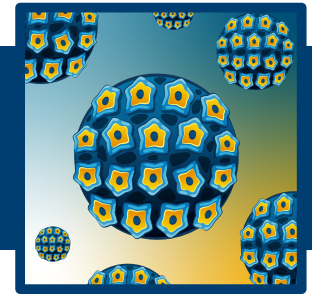


# Medical Researcher's Perspective

## UNIT: GOING VIRAL!

### LESSON 3: YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

#### Activity 3A: Time for T!



TEXAS BIOMEDICAL  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
HEALTH STARTS WITH SCIENCE

### Medical Researcher

Conducts epidemiological research on disease outbreaks in schools. Data shows vaccines reduce transmission. The Medical Researcher supports vaccines but questions blanket mandates.

#### Brief Perspectives:

- › Mandates can damage public trust and increase vaccine hesitancy.
- › Vaccination is essential for controlling outbreaks.

The Medical Researcher reviewed 38 studies about vaccines found no evidence of incentives backfiring—most showed positive effects on uptake. Below are summaries of 3 articles that informed the Medical Researcher's perspective:



**Article 1:** Head and neck cancers of the oropharyngeal subsite can be driven by the human papillomavirus (HPV). In countries such as the United States, the incidence of HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer has exceeded that of HPV-associated cervical cancer. HPV vaccination is currently the main preventative approach for HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer. Globally, both the epidemiology of HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer and HPV vaccine policy vary. This paper aims to describe regional variations in HPV-associated oropharyngeal cancer, variations in gender-neutral vaccine policy, and future areas of policy-relevant research.

**Article 2:** Coercive mandates risk undermining trust and calls for strategies that engage patients in ethical deliberation, combining clinical ethics and public-health perspectives to foster informed decision-making. However, the same review emphasizes the importance of public deliberation and relational autonomy, where parents and citizens engage in discussion about vaccination policy, rather than being subjected to top-down mandates.

**Article 3:** Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and influenza-associated hospitalization. Findings in this report show that vaccination with the 2024–2025 influenza vaccine reduced the likelihood of medically attended influenza and support CDC's recommendation that all persons aged  $\geq 6$  months be vaccinated against influenza (1). These findings also support the strong protective effect influenza vaccination has against influenza-associated hospitalization, demonstrating the importance of vaccination to reduce more severe influenza-associated complications. Eligible persons aged  $\geq 6$  months who have not received the 2024–2025 influenza vaccine should get vaccinated as long as influenza viruses circulate locally.

#### MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL

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