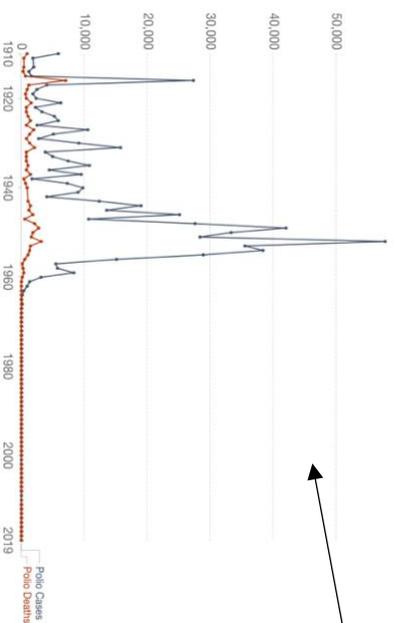


Should vaccinations become mandatory?

Vaccines involve the injection of a dead or inactive pathogen that contains the antigen for a specific disease in order to aid the immune system to develop immunity from harmful infection. Hence, because of this, vaccines play a vital role in reducing and even eliminating the spread of some disease, subsequently saving lives



[Graph emphasising the effectiveness of the polio vaccine]

Thereby, the notion of compulsory vaccination seems like a no-brainer. However, making such a requirement would breach many ethical guidelines, for example it would directly inflict on a person's informed consent. Which could in turn cause debate over a person's individuality and thus their human rights.

Many argue that vaccination has an impact on surgery, whilst this initially does sound probable it isn't necessarily true and unavoidable. Surgery temporarily would weaken the immune system and leave the person prone to infection. However, rest assured vaccination is not a contraindication to surgery and surgery is not a contraindication of vaccination. Studies of antibody response to pneumococcal vaccination following splenectomy show a healthy response even when the vaccination is given immediately after surgery. Although, occasionally there have been vaccination failures in children when the vaccine was administered. These findings were found on such a small group that it wasn't reasonable for a relationship to be established between the two. However, where possible, it's rational to separate the dates of vaccination and surgery by approximately a week so that symptoms such as fever may be correctly deemed as a consequence to either the vaccination or the operation: If the surgery is urgent it will go ahead as planned irrespective of the vaccination date.



I believe the pros of saving millions of lives against harmful disease outweighs the ethical factors surrounding it being a requirement.