Prepare a speech opposing the topic, “Vaccination should be compulsory.” Record it in a video.

The speech is good for 2-3 minutes.

With how grave the COVID-19 pandemic is, one would think making vaccination against it is the best course of action. Considering how lockdown can be mandated on the whole country in the name of protecting the public health, it seems to be inconsistent to reject mandatory vaccination. To be maximally effective in reducing the risk of catching and spreading the disease, particularly in protecting the most vulnerable in the population, it is understood that vaccination would need to achieve herd immunity. However, making vaccination compulsory is not the only way to obtain high vaccination rates.

Mandatory vaccination does not automatically increase vaccine uptake. An EU-funded project on epidemics and pandemics, which took place several years before COVID-19, found [no evidence](https://www.asset-scienceinsociety.eu/reports/page1.html) to support this notion. Looking at Baltic and Scandinavian countries, the project’s [report](http://www.asset-scienceinsociety.eu/reports/page1.html) noted that countries “where a vaccination is mandatory do not usually reach better coverage than a neighbor or similar countries where there is no legal obligation”. Moreover, as mandates represent a policy option that interferes with individual liberty and autonomy, they should be considered only if they would increase the prevention of significant risks of morbidity and mortality and/or promote significant and unequivocal public health benefits. There are a lot of things to be considered before making vaccination against covid mandatory. For example, data should be available that demonstrate the vaccine being mandated has been found to be safe in the populations for whom the vaccine is to be made mandatory. With regards to the Philippine government’s behavior on transparency, this alone could not be satisfied. Another example is that, in order for a mandate to be considered, the supply of the authorized vaccine should be sufficient and reliable, with reasonable, free access for those for whom it is to be made mandatory. The Philippines, as a third-world country that has a current admin where their incompetences are blatantly seen during the uprise of the pandemic, I doubt that we could have enough vaccine supply to vaccinate all Filipinos for free. By then, before we could satisfy all these conditions time is already wasted. We should turn our focus more on achievable plans to contain the virus. After all in times like this, time is the most valuable.

Similar to other public health policies, decisions about mandatory vaccination should be supported by the best available evidence and should be made by legitimate public health authorities in a manner that is transparent, fair, nondiscriminatory, and involves the input of affected parties.