

I am writing to express support for a vaccine requirement to enter public enclosed spaces. This is a public safety issue that has many things in common with smoking. Consider the arguments against a vaccine requirement through that lens:

1. The “doesn’t work” argument: Smoking bans haven’t stopped 400,000 smoking deaths every year. It’s time to admit smoking bans don’t work (nor vaccines) and allow unvaccinated people to walk around with a cigarette in public places.
2. The “personal choice” argument: Smoking is a personal choice. I should be able to exhale my smoke, or unvaccinated breath, wherever I please — that’s my right. Government shouldn’t be dictating this.
3. The “it will harm businesses” argument: You’re making businesses lose all of their smoking (unvaccinated) customers, and their smoking (unvaccinated) staff. You’re putting businesses in the position of having to police smoking (or vaccinations). This is unfair to businesses.
4. The “we can treat people who get sick” argument: Thanks to immunotherapy and targeted therapy drugs, hospitals are much better at treating lung cancer than they used to be. Same with therapeutics for Covid. (This argument requires ignoring actual death statistics for either affliction.)
5. The “divisive” argument: Most non-smokers are white with some college education (citation: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33433608/>). Pitting smokers against non-smokers is divisive and smacks of liberal elitism. Same with being so heavy-handed about vaccination.

In short, we’ve lived with (and benefited from) a smoking ban for a long time, we can live with (and benefit from) a vaccination requirement, counter-arguments notwithstanding.

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