Vaccine Mandate Responses

Keep in place

1. I feel that the vaccine mandate is reasonable. I would support keeping it, but don't feel super-passionate about that position.
2. I believe the mandate should remain in place.  My feeling is that we serve far too many vulnerable people in the community for whom vaccines won't help much, if at all, and we have an obligation to protect them.
3. Vaccines are keeping us safe - I approve of keeping them
4. I would say keep it in place.
5. I feel strongly that it should stay in place.   As an editorial in the Gazette just pointed out, while the emergency phase of the pandemic may be over, in no way is the disease gone.   Moreover, there is now less tracking or information not to mention the drop in preventative measures (masks, crowds etc).  I understand the desire to forget about it, think it is gone and learn to live with it.   That is just not reality and there is still so much unknown.  The island is subjected to a massive influx of people every season.  It is the primary function of town jobs to be in the public (critically important for PD, FD and EMS).  I think it is important that the board continues to protect the safety of town employees.  I appreciate that the decision may be difficult or controversial but I feel that taking a strong stand for the safety and well being of town employees is the right decision.  Err on the side of caution and revisit again in the future.
6. Hi Jen, Thank you for sending the email asking about the Town’s Vaccine Policy. I would like to state that I am opposed to lifting the Town’s current vaccine mandate policy for employees. I am immunocompromised and would not feel safe working here all day-every day among unvaccinated people.  I can check but I do not believe that my medical team would sanction my remaining here much longer either. I’m sure I’m not the only one in the building that is immunocompromised and I know that much of the general public that we serve (both young & old) are also immunocompromised as well.  To this day, a high percentage of the residents & visitors entering the building are continuing to wear masks. So for my own health & safety as well as the health & safety of my co-workers and all who come to visit or do business here, I think we need to set a higher Standard of Care and provide them healthiest environment possible by leaving the vaccine mandate in place. I know that the current Covid 19 variants active on the Island appear to be very mild compared to earlier strains- but the fact of the matter is that Covid 19 hasn’t gone away. Everyone is hoping for a great summer of health and prosperity so to cut this policy at very start of the Summer Season just when the real summer crowds are about to descend seems   a bit premature and ill-advised to me especially if your hoping to insure the most successful outcome.  Until such time as there is hard scientific evidence stating that the pandemic is over then I’d prefer to err on the side of caution. I know that my thoughts expressed here probably won’t be very popular with many of my coworkers and I am not unsympathetic to their opposing views but the fact is that stopping the policy now is akin to quitting when the finish line is in sight.  Waiting just a while longer could make all the difference in this situation.  I would like to request that this note be read aloud & entered into the minutes at the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen so they are part of the meeting record.  Mary Jane Nevin

Remove the Mandate

1. Time to end it.
2. Strongly recommend but not mandate.
3. At this point, I have no opinion. To each his/her own I guess.
4. Whatever the majority of town voters want to do, if that's what's necessary to rescind the vaccine mandate. Personally, I have no issues rescinding the vaccine mandate.
5. I say end it!
6. With vaccines no longer free, I think requiring them would be unfair.
7. I think it should still be ‘strongly encouraged’ for the sake of the public and co-workers, but I really don’t see how we can justify it anymore, with all emergency designations having been dropped.  And, with all the difficulty we are having getting applicants, it is not helping us.
8. I think it should be a strong recommendation. But not mandated anymore since COVID is considered “over” in the eyes of the government.  Also not sure what the fallout will be with the people that had to leave because they refused the shot. Maybe something to also be considered? I don’t know the legalities of that one.
9. I think the mandate should be rescinded.
10. We (department) feel it is no longer necessary to continue the covid vaccine mandate..