

## SUPPLEMENT 1

### ‘How public health professionals view mandatory vaccination in Italy – A cross-sectional survey’

#### SECTION I – SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

##### 1.1 Gender:

- Male
- Female

##### 1.2 Birth year: \_\_\_\_\_

##### 1.3 In which Province do you conduct your professional activity? \_\_\_\_\_

##### 1.4 What is the highest educational degree obtained?

- Triennial degree
- I level Master's
- Master's degree
- II level Master's
- Medical specialty/ PhD

##### 1.5 Area of degree:

- Medicine, specify medical specialty if achieved \_\_\_\_\_
- Health professions, specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Biology
- Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

##### 1.6 What sector do you work in?

- Public hospital
- Private hospital
- Prevention department
- District
- Other territorial structure
- Accademy
- National Government (e.g., Ministry of Health)
- Local Government (e.g., Regional Agency)
- Technical/Research agency (e.g., Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Agenas)
- Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

##### 1.7 Years of professional experience in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine: \_\_\_\_\_

##### 1.8 Do you have children aged 0-16?

- Yes
- No

#### SECTION II – POLITICAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM ORIENTATION

##### 2.1 How would you define your political stance?

Right  
Center-right  
Center  
Center-left  
Left  
Populist movements  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_  
Do not want to answer

**2.2 How would you rate the quality of the Italian National Health System?**

Poor  
Inadequate  
Adequate  
Good  
Excellent

**SECTION III – PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH VACCINATIONS**

**3.1 Are you vaccinated or immunized against the following infectious diseases, as recommended for healthcare professionals by the National Vaccine Prevention Plan 2017-2019?**

---

	Yes	No	Do not remember
--	-----	----	-----------------

---

**Hepatitis B**

**Influenza (year 2018-19)**

**Measles**

**Mumps**

**Rubella**

**Varicella**

**Pertussis**

---

**3.2 How would you rate your knowledge about vaccinations?**

Poor  
Inadequate  
Adequate  
Good  
Excellent

**3.3 Does your professional activity deal with vaccinations?**

Yes  
No

**3.3.a If yes, does it deal particularly with:**

Delivery of vaccines

Organization of vaccination services  
Research  
Education  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

**3.4 Years of professional experience in the field of vaccinations** \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION IV – ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS ON MANDATORY VACCINATION

##### ATTITUDES

**4.1 In general, are you in favor of mandatory vaccination?**

Yes  
No  
I do not know

**4.1.a If yes, why?**

It protects the health of individuals and population  
It is a good strategy for achieving the European goals for immunization and control of vaccine-preventable diseases  
It is a good strategy for overcoming vaccine hesitancy  
It ensures equity (equal distribution of risks and benefits in the population)  
Others, specify \_\_\_\_\_

**4.1.b If no, why?**

It is a coercive measure that harms people's freedom and rights  
It is a simplistic solution that does not take into account the complexity of the problem  
It strengthens anti-vaccine movements  
It is a paternalistic approach that disempowers people about their health  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

**4.2 Are you in favour of the 2017 Italian mandatory vaccination law?**

Yes  
No  
I do not know

**4.3 Do you think that the 2017 mandatory vaccination law should be repealed?**

Yes, immediately  
Yes, gradually  
No  
I do not know

**4.4 Are you in favour of the legislative proposal for a “flexible” mandatory vaccination sponsored by the recent populist government, where vaccinations are made mandatory only when the rate of vaccination coverage falls markedly?**

Yes

No  
I do not know

#### 4.4 a If yes, why?

It represents the right balance between the protection of personal freedom and the protection of public health  
It limits the number of mandatory vaccines to those that are strictly necessary  
It is a good strategy for improving relationships with anti-vaccine movements  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4.4 b If No, why?

Vaccinations are preventive measures that would lose effectiveness if used as reactive measures  
It would be very difficult to ensure adherence to mandatory vaccination in emergency situations  
There is still no information system capable of guaranteeing accurate monitoring of vaccination coverage in all Italian Regions (regional and national vaccination registries)  
At present, application of the "flexible" option would still be necessary, so it is worth keeping the current obligation in place  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4.5 Would you make MMR vaccination mandatory in categories other than the 0-16 age group, in order to achieve the goal of eliminating endemic measles and rubella?

Yes  
No  
I do not know

#### 4.5 a If yes, for which of the following categories (multiple answers allowed)?

Healthcare professionals  
School staff  
Military personnel  
Public administration  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

#### OPINIONS

#### 4.6 How would you rate the importance of the following mandatory vaccinations?

	Not important	Weakly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
<b>Poliomyelitis</b>					
<b>Diphtheria</b>					
<b>Anti-tetanus</b>					
<b>Pertussis</b>					
<b>Hepatitis B</b>					
<b><i>Haemophilus influenzae b</i></b>					
<b>Measles</b>					
<b>Rubella</b>					
<b>Mumps</b>					
<b>Varicella</b>					

**4.7 What are the best strategies for ensuring optimal vaccination coverage in Italy (multiple answers allowed)?**

Mandatory vaccination  
Promotion and information campaigns for the general population  
Information and education campaign for healthcare workers  
Organizational interventions aimed at strengthening vaccination services  
Implementation of the national vaccination registry  
Financial incentives for parents  
Financial incentives for healthcare professionals  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

**4.8 How hard is it to implement alternative strategies to mandatory vaccination in Italy?**

Extremely  
Very  
Moderately  
Slightly  
Not at all

**4.9 How hard is it to ensure vaccination coverage in the absence of mandatory vaccination in Italy?**

Extremely  
Very  
Moderately  
Slightly  
Not at all

**4.10 What is the main barrier to the implementation of alternative strategies to mandatory vaccination in Italy?**

Lack of resources  
Organizational issues  
Lack of political will  
Uncertain  
Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION V – PERCEPTION OF THE IMPACT OF MANDATORY VACCINATION**

**5.1 How far do you agree with the following statements**

**EPIDEMIOLOGICAL IMPACT**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
<b>5.1a</b> Mandatory vaccination increases vaccination coverage for VPD					
<b>5.1b</b> Mandatory vaccination reduces VPD morbidity					

**SOCIAL IMPACT**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
<b>5.1c</b> Mandatory vaccination increases citizens' confidence in vaccines					
<b>5.1d</b> Mandatory vaccination encourages hesitant parents to vaccinate their children					
<b>5.1e</b> Mandatory vaccination strengthens anti-vaccine movements					
<b>5.1f</b> Mandatory vaccination damages relations between the State, health institutions and citizens					
<b>5.1g</b> Mandatory vaccination represents a failure of the Italian public health system					
<b>5.1h</b> Mandatory vaccination repeal would create confusion among citizens					

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
<b>5.1i</b> Mandatory vaccination has significantly increased the costs of vaccination services					
<b>5.1l</b> Overall, mandatory vaccination will result in cost savings for the National Health Service					

#### IMPACT ON VACCINATION SERVICES

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
<b>5.1m</b> The organizational effort for mandatory vaccination is unsustainable for vaccination services					
<b>5.1n</b> Mandatory vaccination has resulted in an excessive workload for vaccination service staff					
<b>5.1o</b> Mandatory vaccination has caused inconvenience to vaccination service users					
<b>5.1p</b> Mandatory vaccination was sustained by an increase in resources devoted to vaccination services					
<b>5.1q</b> Mandatory vaccination has diverted resources away from other vaccination-related activities					

VPD, vaccine-preventable diseases