

1. Federal law requires that vaccine information statements (VIS) are distributed to the parent or person qualified under state law to consent to the vaccination of a minor. Should adolescent minors be allowed to consent to vaccines if their parent or guardian objects? Please explain your rationale.

When looking at whether adolescents should be allowed to give informed consent to vaccines can go both ways when looking at it. In some cases, I can argue that they can, and cases where they can't. Depending on what state you currently reside in, adolescents can make informed consent on certain vaccinations without their parent or legal guardians' approval. When looking at when an adolescent can make informed consent you have to see the child's maturity level. As mentioned by Olick et al. (2022) providers should and can determine that many adolescents possess the maturity and capacity to give informed consent to vaccinations. Also, both the healthcare providers and adolescents need clear legal guidance for authorizing consent. Which in some states this is known as the mature minor doctrine. Another reason is adolescents should have the right to make their own health decisions. Some reasons against it can include some adolescents are not mature enough to make their own medical decisions, which they need their parents or legal guardians to make that decision for them, another issue is influencing, adolescents are around friends all the time which can lead to pressuring them into doing or getting things that might not be beneficial to them as an individual as they do not know what underlying issue they may have.

2. At what age should this right be granted if minors are approved to consent to vaccination? Please explain your rationale

When looking at a certain age group I would say you should be at least 14 to 15 years old to make decisions regarding your health. As stated by Mihaly et al. (2022) mentions that researchers who have used a well-established tool that assess adult competence, have estimated that individuals reach an intellectual competence to consent autonomously at the age of 12. Personally, I think 12 years old is still young, and you technically are not a teenager until you are 13, so once you are about 14 to 15 years old, you have more of an understanding of how things work and have a better capability to make better judgement calls.

3. What are the responsibilities, if any, of individuals who delay or reject vaccines for highly contagious diseases?

If your child is not vaccinated and is sick, it is important you let the doctor know that they are not vaccinated, so they can take the proper precautions for ensuring the disease does not spread. If you know you are not vaccinated and are sick, it is important you take the proper precautions such as wearing a mask when you are out in public, staying home from school or work until you feel better, and as stated above letting your physician know you are not vaccinated. Your provider might educate you on the importance of vaccines, but at the end of the day it is your choice to whether get vaccinated.