

Compulsory Immunization
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The measles outbreak in the United States, so closely associated with opposition to immunization within the haredi (right-wing Orthodox) community (<https://www.haaretz.com/.../premium-anti-vaxxers-anti-semiti...>), raises the question: is there a legitimate Jewish religious – i.e., halakhic – objection to the immunization of children? The answer, in a word, is “no,” a position shared by the major denominational groupings:

Orthodox - <https://rabbis.org/rca-ou-statement-regarding-vaccinations/>

Conservative - https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/.../prouser_immunization.p...

Reform - <https://www.ccarnet.org/ccar-responsa/rr21-no-5759-10/>

The question is, quite simply, a matter of *r'fu'ah* (healing), an example of the mitzvah of *pikuah nefesh*, the saving of human life. On this, there's no room for *mahloket* (disagreement). The clear and unambiguous message of our community - the whole community - should be that the anti-vaxxers are wrong; they cannot claim Jewish religious endorsement for their dangerous behavior.