

The nation's police officers have faced tough times in recent years. The increasing demands of the job and the increasing number of people accused of wrongdoing have caused a serious erosion of police authority. Police departments are understaffed, and their budgets have been strained to the breaking point. Many towns and cities have seen major decreases in police staffing and authority, while some have seen major increases.

It is not noticeably clear how many law enforcement unions throughout the nation are currently fighting back against mandatory vaccinations but several police unions in Seattle to Phoenix to Chicago to Baltimore are among the many that have refused to embrace mandatory vaccinations. There are over 18,500 law enforcement officers, many of which are unionized. Most of these police unions are opposed to vaccinations based on anecdotes or personal belief.

While many Americans employed as law enforcement aren't particularly thrilled at being forced to be immunized against deadly diseases, the furor from amongst their ranks is particularly vociferous. Others speaking on behalf of police officers have taken umbrage at the police unions and groups in local municipalities passing mandatory vaccination mandates for local police officers. There is an understandable sentiment among law enforcement officers that since they are working in a potentially dangerous profession and have a duty to be more defensive than proactive, they ought to be allowed by law, to resist a personal request to be vaccinated. That said, in jurisdictions where police officers have been mandated to administer routine vaccines, they have often had to resort to drastic measures in order to make sure that they do not get sued for refusing to immunize themselves.

A case that made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court sheds light on the dynamics governing law enforcement's ability to enforce immunization measures. In measles, rubella and rotavirus outbreaks, law enforcement officers have a duty to protect the public and impose reasonable safeguards in the face of an outbreak. But when it comes to non-infectious diseases, there is no such obligation whatsoever.

Police Chief Chuck Beck said that the decision to make the vaccination mandatory is part of a larger move to keep sick time down and prevent the spread of diseases. "In the end, we're going to have fewer sick people on the road," he told reporters. Those who are unvaccinated stand to benefit the most, he added. Although the decision has been blasted by many people as an invasion of privacy rights, police officials stand firm in their decision not to offer immunity from vaccination because of personal beliefs about the matter. Chief Beck noted that the decision was made as part of an ongoing effort to address health issues plaguing the community.

People are not likely to stop working just because they are required to get vaccinated. However, some cities are considering making it a requirement to work. According to the Associated Press, several cities in Florida have passed what is called a zero-tolerance policy, which requires teachers and students to have taken the required vaccine. Florida is not the only state considering such a measure: Last week, a bill was introduced in Congress that would require the federal government to develop a list of approved vaccines and measures that can be taken to protect the public against diseases.

Many police officers believe that the move by cities to implement a vaccination mandate is an attempt by local governments to control the workers and not stop the spread of Covid 19. Police officers in New York City and Los Angeles have reportedly been advised by their departments to become vaccinated to continue working. The American Lawyer's Guild has filed a lawsuit against two police departments in California, claiming that the cities are improperly requiring police officers to get vaccinated. The cities insist that the policies are necessary for safety and that they have followed procedures intended to ensure that police officers comply with the law. A court hearing is scheduled in Los Angeles to decide if the suit has grounds.

While Law Enforcement vaccine mandates are not unheard of, the Milwaukee Police Association pointed out that other law enforcement agencies across the country had implemented similar mandates before the recently passed LEPA. The American Association of Law Enforcement and the National Association of Police Organizations have also urged state and local law enforcement agencies to follow suit. The American Civil Rights Union, the ACLU, and the National Fraternity for Police Officers have also filed a lawsuit against the Department of Justice over the vaccine mandates

Police and fire unions have filed a lawsuit against the city of Boston in an effort to block a mandate that police officers be vaccinated against all deadly diseases. The suit claims the city is forcing law-abiding citizens to succumb to "the mass hysteria." Mayor Thomas said that the decision to make all police officers require a vaccine is meant to prevent epidemics. The lawsuit was filed by the police officers' union, the Boston Police Association, and the firefighters' union, the Firefighters Association.

This is now a very polarizing issue facing all of United States Law Enforcement. With many mandates, lawsuits, and counter lawsuits, it will not be resolved quickly.