# Student reasoning behind vaccination behavior

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### **Research question:** How does a lesson on the influenza vaccine influence the rationale students use to make decisions about vaccinations?



Vaccination Behavior Opinions on vaccinations

Codebook		Wanting to prevent yourself from getting the flu
	Personal Protection	Alternative ideas of personal protection from getting the flu, like eating healthy
		Herd immunity- containing the spread of the virus by relying on high proportions of people immune to the virus due to vaccination
	Protection of others	Preventing spreading the flu to others
	Convenience	Vaccine is either not accessible, affordable, or individual does not find the benefit of getting the vaccine with the hinder of acquiring it
	Personal Experience	Experiences of oneself, peers, or family. Often discusses getting having a reaction to the shot.



- Less people were coded in personal experience and vaccination behavior in the post survey.

- More people were coded in convience and protection of others in the post survey

\* Indicates p < .05significant change between pre and post lesson results using **McNemar's test** 



## Theme Distribution

#### Interpretations

**Personal experience-**The decrease in the responses coded under personal experience may be a result of teaching physiological reactions to the vaccine.

**Protection of others-**The increase in responses including rationale about protecting others may be a result of the lesson on herd immunity.



### Conclusions

1) Teaching students about the biology of how vaccines work may increase vaccination rates.

2) Students can be taught to adopt reasoning based on how their behavior affects others people rather than relying on their past habits or experiences.

3) Some students may change their reasoning to adopt another non-scientific rationale if their original rationale was rejected in the lesson.



People who coded as vaccination behavior and personal experience in the pre-survey were coded in all five of the codes in the post.

People who coded as protection of others in the post survey were coded in all five codes in the pre.

Many people who switched their rationale to convience were coded as personal experience or vaccination behavior in the pre-lesson survey

#### **Future Work**

1) Does teaching students about non-science based experiences change their opinions on receiving vaccinations more or less than teaching students science-based rationale?

2) Are the students who adopt new non-scientific reasoning when their rationale is disproven embody this behavior when making decisions about other socioscientific issues?

#### Acknowledgments

A special thank you to Kylee Casner and Melissa Anthony for working alongside me this summer and Dr. Kimberly Booth for her mentorship. Additionally, I want to thank John Butcher and Jennifer Momson for sharing their expertise and being amazing resources for my development

Research supported in part by NSF DUE#1560142 (This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF.)