In December of 2019, the COVID-19 took the world by storm. 650,000 people have been killed in the U.S. alone, with many more deathly sick in hospitals or isolation. Nearly a year later, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first COVID vaccine which was given emergency use authorization (EUA) for individuals over 17. President Biden announced on September 9, 2020, that all federal workers were mandated to receive the vaccine, along with Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) new vaccine or weekly negative test requirement for all workplaces with more than 100 employees. Although many do not see the success of the COVID vaccine, a federal vaccine mandate is the best way to increase vaccination and decrease the spread of COVID-19 because the vaccine has proven that it will add benefits for Americans and boost immunizations.

The first reason that a federal mandate is the best way to increase vaccinations and decrease the spread of COVID is that it will add benefits for the American public. One of the most popular reasons to get the vaccine is because of employers mandating the vaccination to work (Source B). The mandate mentioned earlier by President Biden could affect 100 million Americans with all federal workers and large businesses having to be vaccinated (Source B). Further proving my argument, Source A found, if these workers do not get the vaccine “...[their] social lives and work lives will be affected...”. By mandating the vaccination of COVID-19, more Americans will be able to keep their jobs without any risk of losing them. This also shows how a federal vaccination mandate could help our economy. By the government mandating vaccinations, more people will be able to keep their jobs and continue to work, therefore boosting the economy. Another major benefit of a federal mandate of vaccination is for leisurely activities. While the government has already mandated masks to be worn on all planes, trains, and airports, many places are still requiring vaccinations to travel. Places, such as New York and San
Harper Francisco, have implemented a “no vaccine, no service” rule in businesses, restaurants, bars, gyms, and other leisure locations to keep their cities safe (Source D). During the heat of the pandemic, places like restaurants and gyms were major hazards because of fear of getting COVID. Now that more people have the vaccine, these leisurely activities are becoming safer and could be even securer if everyone was vaccinated.

Another reason that a nationwide mandate is the best way to increase vaccinations and reduce the spread of COVID is that it will decrease the number of hospitalizations and boost immunity. As Source D found, the vaccination decreases the transmission of COVID and makes the odds of being hospitalized very unlikely. 99% of the COVID-related deaths in the United States have happened to those who are not vaccinated (Source D). By these facts, it is clear that the vaccination may not totally prevent a person from getting COVID-19, but it will certainly decrease the likelihood of being hospitalized. These facts also show how vaccinations will help decrease the transmission of COVID, thus decreasing the spread of the disease. In a study done by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), it was found that many people remained unvaccinated even after they had had COVID because they relied on their natural immunity, or antibodies (Source A). While shortly after being relieved of the virus, this study by the CDC shows that natural immunity does not allow exemption forever. However, vaccines provide a much more long-term solution to the spread of COVID and decrease the likelihood of being affected twice.

In conclusion, the optimal way to increase vaccination and decrease the spread of COVID-19 is through a federal vaccine mandate because it has proven that it will add benefits for Americans, and boost immunizations. I believe that this solution is most optimal because of the great benefits it would give to the American public as a whole.