**Handout: Key Considerations for Analyzing Public Health Interventions**[[1]](#footnote-1)

The table below lists four key considerations to use when analyzing coercive public health interventions that involve restrictions to liberty.

Feel free to use this table to guide your thinking as you fill out the exercise worksheet.

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| **Consideration** | **Guiding Question** | **Test** |
| Effectiveness | Will the policy intervention be effective? | If intervention is not expected to be effective, it should not be pursued |
| Proportionality | Is the intervention’s cost to liberty proportional to the public health gain? | If an intervention’s cost to liberty is excessive relative to the public health gain, then the intervention should not be pursued. |
| Necessity | Is the coercive intervention necessary to achieve the desired public health gain? | If the public health gain can be achieved through an alternative, less coercive intervention, that less coercive intervention should be pursued. |
| Least Infringement | Are there ways to limit the cost to liberty? | If it is possible to modify the intervention in order to limit the cost to liberty, those modifications should be pursued. |

1. Adapted from Childress, J., R. Faden, R. Gaare, et al, “Public Health Ethics: Mapping the Terrain,” *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 30 (2002): 170-78. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)