

Influenza Vaccine:

Why Mandates Are Ineffective & Unwise Public Policy



- Influenza rarely kills healthy people under age 65 and natural immunity protects younger people during future influenza outbreaks. ¹
- 80% of all flu-like illness reported during the flu season is not caused by influenza ² but by other viruses and bacteria.
- Most influenza studies are poorly designed and have NOT demonstrated influenza vaccine is effective or safe. ^{3 4}
- Influenza transmission can be prevented or reduced in home and health care settings with hand washing, masking, and separating sick and healthy persons. ^{5 6}
- Like all pharmaceutical products, influenza vaccine carries health risks that can be greater for some than others. ⁷
- Surveys reveal that 60-70% of Americans do not want to get a flu shot even in pandemic years ^{8 9} and more than 50% of American parents are concerned about vaccine safety in general. ¹⁰
- Studies reveal that 60% of health care professionals do not want to get influenza shots and are concerned about the vaccine's ineffectiveness and side effects. ¹¹
- Threatening and forcing Americans to get vaccinated, including firing health care workers who refuse flu shots, ¹² will further erode public trust in vaccines and public health policies. ^{13 14 15}
- The tax dollars spent to purchase, distribute and enforce use of flu shots will guarantee big profits for drug companies but will not guarantee a healthier population. ^{16 17 18}

MORE FLU FACTS



1. Between 5% and 20% of Americans may experience type A or type B influenza in an average flu season and the majority have uncomplicated cases and develop immunity to the strains they were infected with that lasts for several years or longer. ¹⁹
2. Out of 308 million Americans, CDC estimates that about 12,000 deaths were associated with influenza in 2009, a pandemic year. ²⁰
3. Influenza-related deaths usually involve bacterial pneumonia complications, which rarely occur in healthy children and adults. ²¹
4. Influenza viruses constantly evolve and, depending upon the year, the flu shot may or may not contain the influenza strains associated with most reported influenza cases. ²²
5. The 2009 pandemic H1N1 "swine flu" vaccine and the 2010/11 seasonal influenza vaccine containing the pandemic H1N1 component have generated increased reports of Guillain Barre syndrome (GBS), Bell's Palsy, and idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura (ITP); ²³ convulsions ^{24 25} and narcolepsy.

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