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 percent 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 policies¹³, 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 percent 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 convulsions²⁴ and narcolepsy.²⁴
References - Influenza Vaccine: Why Mandates Are Ineffective & Unwise Public Policy


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7 Centers for Disease Control. Possible Side Effects from Influenza Vaccine. http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/side-effects.htm#flu


20 Centers for Disease Control. 2010. Updated CDC Estimates of 2009 H1N1 Influenza Cases, Hospitalizations & Deaths in the U.S. http://www.flu.gov/individualfamily/about/h1n1/estimates_2009_h1n1.html


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