

Do you know the difference?

by RG

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Many questions and concerns have been raised during this past year of what we should, as citizens, be doing in the prevention of spreading the COVID-19 virus, which has so overwhelmingly overtaken every aspect of our everyday lives. This has grown more in recent weeks with the number of persons being fully and or partially vaccinated on the increase. Most assuredly, the confusion has been complicated by the mixed messaging coming from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC)-Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the Administration-President Joe Biden, and most convincingly from the head of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)-Dr. Anthony Fauci who is a physician-scientist and immunologist, one who treats issues brought on by immune system problems to include hay fever and other allergies.

History shows that the United States has survived many outbreaks of pandemics beginning with the Spanish Flu of 1918 which lasted through 1920. A vaccine was developed which has all but eliminated the Spanish Flu. However, since the Spanish Flu is a H1N1 virus, subsequent variants have come forth over the years which the current Coronavirus is a strain. The most devasting pandemic experienced in the U.S. prior to COVID-19 and is eerily similar in its initial impact on the citizens was the Poliomyelitis Virus or more commonly known as Polio. Sadly, polio impacted the US for several years after its initial outbreak in the 1920’s finally reaching its peaks in the 1940s and 1950s. In 1952, it saw its worst year with 57,628 cases with over 3,100 deaths reported. (www.healthline.com) If not for the support of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who contracted polio at the age of 39 in 1921 and suffered with it for the remainder of his life being paralyzed from the waist down, who also was instrumental in the formation of the organization of the “March of Dimes” , and whose efforts helped raised funding of over $25.5 million dollars which Jonas Salk, an American virologist and medical researcher, may not have been able to develop a vaccine in 1952. Salk’s action also led to the development of an oral vaccine developed years later in 1960 by Albert Sabin, a Polish American medical researcher. Both vaccines helped in the eradication of polio from America. As a young boy starting school in the fall of 1962, I remember my Mom having to take me to my pediatrician to get vaccinated against polio and other viruses such as hepatitis, rotavirus, diphtheria, influenza, and pneumococcal virus or pneumonia, in-order to start school. A few years later a vaccine booster was also required.

The issue that I have had all along has been with the mixed messaging that has been filtering throughout the duration of this virus onslaught for some 14 months. The conflicting statements made by Dr. Fauci and the CDC Director, Dr. Walensky, often have been at odds with one another and have, as I have stated previously in other writings, added to, and contributed to everyone’s confusion of what they should actually be doing. As polio and COVID-19, as well as Rubella (German Measles), the Measles, the Spanish Flu, and other variant strains of the H1N1 virus are all airborne viruses, meaning the major way it is transmitted from one person to another is through the vapor droplets from coughs and sneezes of infected persons. The only virus of those mentioned where facial mask were worn was the Spanish Flu of 1918. Medical personnel have always worn mask when performing surgeries as well as wearing surgical gowns and latex gloves when doing operations. As contagious as polio was and is and its similarity in how it initially effects the human body and for the duration of the outbreak, no mask were required to be worn by the citizens. So why now, if the vaccine is effective which by all reports all COVID-19 vaccines are effective.

Early on municipalities took it upon themselves to restrict everyone’s free movement, shutting down restaurants, bars, churches, all sporting events, and all other social gatherings to include not allowing gatherings at one’s own home. A major overstepping of the authority. Most of these prohibitions if not all have been a violation of everyone’s freedoms and civil liberties though they, government leaders at all levels, think not. The Second and Fourteenth Amendments of the US Constitution are very clear in stating that no government or official of the government can restrict or make laws that restrict the people. However, the government has ignored the law and done what it will without being constrained or being held accountable.

Corporations have all followed suit from the beginning having restricted or reduced workforces and implemented daily temperature checks of its employees in hopes to prevent any future potential lawsuits which might be brought on by employees who may contract COVID-19 in the workplace. All these actions have been a major overstepping when comparing the actions taken in the 1920’s, 1940’s and 1950’s. The appearance is one that indicates health professionals of that time, though concerned and worked on developing vaccines did not call for a total restriction or shut down of businesses and people gathering as with this COVID-19. Were doctors then more leveled headed in their approach than those of today or is it the just plain better to be safe than sorry scenario?

Bottom line is getting vaccinated is a personal choice. Everyone on an individual basis must make up their own mind whether they wish to get vaccinated. Certain professions and jobs most assuredly call for individuals to heavily consider getting vaccinated. Some of these include doctors, nurses, EMTs, and other first responders as Police, all will more than likely be required to be vaccinated in order to perform their duties. Jobs that require personal contact with other individuals such as teachers and all in-person airport customer service representatives of the airports and airlines including pilots and flight attendants should heavily consider getting vaccinated if it is not already a requirement. Also, we all should realize that as time goes on and these “so-called” masking mandates and other restrictions are relaxed or eliminated, traveling whether by bus, cruise ship, train and most definitely by air – current airline requirements for international travel are already in place – will require a verification of being fully vaccinated before the individual is allowed to board the aircraft. Most airlines have a variation of this requirement already in place to include those individuals who have not been vaccinated or who refuse to get vaccinated. These persons must provide a confirmation dated no more than 3 days prior to their departure date that they have been tested for COVID-19 and they have been found free and clear of “any” of its symptoms no matter how mild.

The most challenging aspect of this whole affair other than overcoming the virus itself, has been the wading through the never endless waist deep mixed messaging being put forth daily. Early in its journey COVID-19 was shown that contracting it was more prevalent in certain situations than others such as close encounters or being in close quarters with infected persons in doors but outside in the open air the percentage of contracting COVID-19 was minuscule with some sixteen tenths of one percent chance meaning a person has a better chance of being struck by lighting than contracting COVID-19 both of which are lethal. Just ask the female Oregon high school track athlete who over the weekend collapsed during her final lap. She was wearing a face mask as required by the State and she collapsed. The restriction of airflow and not allowing for proper oxygen intake was caused by the facial mask which the coach has now stated he will no longer require his track and field athletes to be masked.

So as time moves forward, we are eventually closing in and drawing this seemingly never-ending episode of hysteria to a final season ending trailer. Holdouts on vaccinations appear to be biding their time when the majority of Americans and now the “illegals” become fully vaccinated. Until things change in this country, this is still a land of freedom where each person has the right of choice though many are attempting to dictate how we each should act laying out a list of “dos and don’ts” to follow which they themselves do not adhere to their own preaching. My choice is to get vaccinated, because the first time I did not have a choice. My parents made that decision for me but this time I do have a choice and since the first time gave me no problems, I feel this time will be no different for I am already halfway there.

So, as according to the Dr. Fauci’s reasoning, we just need to keep in mind that if, *ifs* and *buts* were candy and nuts, we all would have a Merry Christmas!!!!