



OFFICE OF THE CORONER

L. Brian Varney, M.D., Coroner

February 25, 2021

Dear Fairfield County Residents,

As the elected Coroner of Fairfield County, the health and welfare of our citizens is of my greatest concern. As I am out and about in our community and also through monitoring social media, I am aware that our community members have widely varied thoughts about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. I would like to offer my reassurance and encouragement to get us moving toward better vaccination statistics.

This is not just about numbers or scores, but numbers really do matter. First, let me tell you that the COVID-19 vaccines being offered have an effectiveness that exceeds many currently offered and routinely accepted vaccines. The influenza vaccine ranges in effectiveness year to year but can range between 10% and 60%. Average effectiveness is about 40%. The Covid-19 vaccines are projecting an efficacy of about 95%. This is truly remarkable. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are very similar. Both require two doses given about four weeks apart. The third manufacturer which will be able to supply vaccines in our area is Johnson & Johnson. That vaccine only requires a single dose but does report an 85% effectiveness. The effectiveness rate for all three COVID-19 vaccines is very encouraging.

Another number we need to consider is what it will take to reach herd immunity. This is a term often spoken but not really explained. Basically, herd immunity means that a large portion of a community is immune and cannot continue to spread a particular infection. In general, this requires about 50% to 65% of a population to be immune, either by natural exposure or vaccination. In the case of COVID-19, it is suspected that it will require a higher degree of immunity due to the highly infectious nature of this virus. Currently it is believed that 75% to 80% of the population will have to be immune to prevent further epidemic spread. As of the writing of this letter (2/22/2021), the current estimate remains less than 20% of our "herd" is immune. We will need herd immunity before our society will be able to return to normal.

There are several false statements circulating which may cause some to be afraid to be vaccinated. These include fears of so-called "trackers" in the vaccine, DNA infiltration to change our genetic makeup, even the suspicion that the vaccine is a covert means of achieving population control. I would like to address these one by one.



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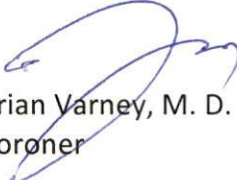
First, there is no evidence of any type of tracking device or technology involved in the manufacture of the vaccines. The large number of researchers, developers, producers, distributors, administrators, etc. would make it impossible to keep such an operation secret. It just is not logical to think this could be true.

Second, it has been suggested that this vaccine will enter our DNA and somehow change our genetic makeup. This will not happen with this vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is an m-RNA vaccine. The "m" stands for messenger. When the vaccine is given this m-RNA is received and interpreted by our system as a foreign substance. This causes our immune system to produce antibodies. These antibodies will basically be standing by like soldiers at the ready. If the virus does try to enter the vaccinated person's body, those antibody soldiers will go to war to prevent the virus from being able to take over. The m-RNA from this vaccine does not enter the nucleus of our cells which is where the DNA resides.

Third is a suggestion that somehow the vaccine is meant to cause some sort of population control. This is pure paranoia. Again, with all the steps and levels and people involved in the production and release of this or any vaccine, this just is not logical. The vaccine is meant to save lives, not cause further loss thereof. Currently in the United States there have been 28.2 million COVID-19 cases and over 500,000 deaths. In Ohio there have been 960,000 cases and over 17,000 deaths. In Fairfield County there have been over 14,400 cases and 157 deaths.

The only way our society will ever return to normal is to eventually reach herd immunity. *The one thing every individual can do is add one more number to the total of those vaccinated.* We still have a long way to go but better days are ahead as we increase the number of Fairfield County residents who are vaccinated.

Respectfully Yours,



Brian Varney, M. D.
Coroner