

## Should you or should you not **take the vaccine?**

This is the question on many people's minds, and it is not an easy question to answer. But the "experts" and their collaborators in the media will be, and already are, demanding that you do what you're told and just take the vaccine. One of these "experts" is Ben Shapiro. The former Breitbart staffer touted the widely publicized and hoped-for efficacy of the vaccine and opined, "Get the vaccine, dopes."

Shapiro is not the only one telling people what to do where the vaccine is concerned. Anthony Fauci, for instance, worries that people won't want to get jabbed. "My primary biggest fear is that a substantial proportion of the people will be hesitant to get vaccinated," he said.

Just get the vaccine, dopes.

And then there's our most outrageous of oligarchs, Bill Gates, a man who thinks his money alone entitles him to be considered an expert. He too holds that people should do what they are told. We won't be able to live normal lives, he has claimed, until "almost every person on the planet has been vaccinated against coronavirus."

In other words, just get the vaccine, dopes.

These types of sentiment overlook many important factors related to the vaccines under development. First, they are not all the same, even when comparable. The Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine, for example, has similarities with the Moderna vaccine in that both rely on messenger RNA. But these two vaccines have important differences. The Pfizer vaccine, for example, is quite elegant in its formulation and is, in fact, quite ingenious in its technology. It is, indeed, a very good candidate for a vaccine. Even so, clever as it is, it is not perfect, and important details remain unknown.

Some puzzling issues have arisen. Four people in the Pfizer trial (which had tens of thousands of participants) were afflicted with Bell's palsy — a weakening or paralyzation of facial muscles — after receiving the vaccine. No one knows why and there doesn't seem to be anything in the vaccine that might cause such an outcome. But it occurred. There have also been allergic reactions.

Should everyone take it? Of course not. Some health authorities are already admitting as much. The guide published for usage of the Pfizer vaccine in the U.K. notes, "Any person with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis to a vaccine, medicine or food should not receive the COVID-19 mRNA



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Vaccine BNT162b2." Those on anticoagulants might want to avoid the vaccine as well, the same document notes. Women who are pregnant or considering pregnancy might wish to avoid the vaccine, as well. Based on its ingredients, the vaccine seems unlikely to have an impact on female fertility, but testing hasn't been done for verification and the risk should be avoided.

What about other vaccines when or if they become available? Unknowns abound.

The key point, and one that goes directly against those who favor mandatory

vaccination, is that individuals should decide for themselves whether or not to get the vaccine. This means vaccine development should be done with significant transparency and the public should have ready access to vaccine-development data so that people can make informed healthcare decisions. This has rarely, if ever, been the case with regard to vaccine development.

Mandatory vaccination, moreover, is counterproductive. If a vaccine must be made mandatory to ensure it is utilized, then the suspicion immediately arises that there is something intrinsically wrong with the vaccine that prevents people from requesting it voluntarily. A truly beneficial and safe vaccine, proven to be such, in the context of a transmissible and potentially deadly disease, would be broadly demanded by a vast majority of the population. In such a case, intense customer demand would likewise provide intense incentive for suppliers to deliver the vaccine in large quantities and with enhanced rapidity. No government intervention would be required. Only a defective and suspect vaccine requires a mandate.

Despite what the "experts" say, forced and coerced medication of people — not least when that coercion comes as a result of an orchestrated fear campaign — is unethical and intrinsically destructive of freedom.

So why do people willingly go along?

An answer is that people have been conditioned to doubt their own judgment and ultimately give up their independence of thought and action. This is a trend of ancient lineage, but it has been drastically accelerated during the COVID year. It is a trend that must be stopped and reversed if freedom is to be recovered. On COVID questions — masks, social distancing, forced closures, and so on — it is more necessary than ever to revolt against the constructed pseudo-reality that controls behavior.

And so on the question of whether to get the vaccine, there is only one legitimate answer, and it is this: You decide. ■