OPINION

Why I'm Not Vaccinated | Opinion

LISA BOOTHE , *HOST, "THE TRUTH WITH LISA BOOTHE"*

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I am not vaccinated. In a sane society, a personal decision like this would not warrant a column, or even an explanation. But we do not live in a sane society. As a healthy 36-year-old woman, COVID-19 does not pose a statistically meaningful threat to my life. I have a 99.97 percent chance of survival. Why would I get a vaccine for a virus that I do not fear and that isn't a threat to my life—particularly when there is an element of risk from the vaccines?

Despite this completely rational and data-driven viewpoint, the Biden White House recently broke its previous promise and issued federal mandates that will be applied to about 100 million Americans—two-thirds of all workers. For companies with 100 workers or more, employees must be vaccinated for COVID-19 or subjected to weekly testing starting on January 4, 2022. Health care workers at facilities that receive federal funding are also required to get the vaccine. The Pentagon has issued a vaccine mandate for service members, as well.

In September, when the mandates were first announced, Biden said the guiding principle was to "protect vaccinated workers from unvaccinated co-workers" and "reduce the spread of COVID-19 by increasing the share of the workforce that is vaccinated in businesses all across America." But the vaccines clearly haven't accomplished that goal to-date, so what exactly is the point of mandating vaccines that have thus far failed to stop the spread? Furthermore, what is the point of only testing the unvaccinated, when it is now clear that the vaccinated are also still spreading COVID? And why is natural immunity being completely ignored and denied any relevance *whatsoever* when over 100 research studies have affirmed its effectiveness? That seems at least a little strange.

HBO's Bill Maher recently railed against the COVID-related hysteria that has taken over the nation. Maher pointed to a Gallup poll that found 41 percent of Democrats believed

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Comments posted on **Newsweek** today the unvaccinated have an over-50 percent risk of hospitalization, but, per Gallup, it's actually "0.89 percent." This then raises the obvious question: Is the Biden administration governing by paranoia or based on the actual underlying facts?

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During a July CNN town hall, Biden told the American people, "you're not going to get COVID if you have these vaccinations." This declaration came after a group of fully vaccinated Texas Democratic state legislators turned a visit to Washington, D.C. into a super-spreader event. Shortly after, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky admitted, "unlike with other variants, vaccinated people infected with Delta can transmit the virus." In August, Walensky told CNN that the vaccines "continue to work well with Delta with regard to severe illness and death, but what they can't do anymore is prevent transmission."

Her comments were in response to a study that examined an outbreak that began on July 3 in Provincetown, Massachusetts, involving 469 cases. Seventy-five percent of the cases in that outbreak occurred in fully vaccinated people, and there was no significant difference found in viral loads between the vaccinated and unvaccinated. A recent study published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* journal came to a similar conclusion, finding that vaccinated people are just as likely to spread the Delta variant as unvaccinated people within their households.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson actually pointed this out himself when he recently said the vaccine "doesn't protect you against catching the disease and it doesn't protect you against passing it on." Anecdotally, Americans have also witnessed an ever-growing list of high-profile fully vaccinated people who have contracted COVID—White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki being one of them. In the Senate alone, fully vaccinated Senators Lindsey Graham, John Hickenlooper, Angus King and Roger Wicker all have contracted COVID. Celebrities like Chris Rock and Khloe Kardashian have also gotten breakthrough cases.

Protestors gather in Grand Park outside City Hall at a March for Freedom rally demonstrating against the L.A. City Council's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for city employees and contractors on November 8, 2021 in Los Angeles, California.
MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

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To its mild credit, Big Pharma warned us in advance. Pfizer's chairman told Lester Holt of "Dateline" last December that he wasn't sure if the vaccine would stop transmission. Moderna's chief medical officer told *Axios* last November, "I think we need to be careful, as we get vaccinated, not to over-interpret the results." He went on to say, "When we start the deployment of this vaccine, we will not have sufficient concrete data to prove that this vaccine reduces transmission." It's unclear why some now seem so surprised that the vaccines haven't stopped the spread.

What's more, is it possible that our myopic approach is outright counterproductive? Dr. Robert Redfield, former CDC director and now a senior advisor to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, said that 40 percent of the recent COVID deaths in the state of Maryland were among the fully vaccinated. It's tough to know exactly what to make of that, but it surely isn't encouraging, at minimum.

Comment

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Even though there is some evidence that therapeutics like monoclonal antibodies can cut hospitalization and deaths up to 85 percent, the treatment is rarely discussed. In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis has established monoclonal antibody sites throughout the state, but he was originally criticized for doing so. At the Miami monoclonal antibody site, more than 60 percent of the patients receiving monoclonal antibodies are themselves fully vaccinated. If the goal is saving lives, shouldn't we embrace an all-of-the-above approach like DeSantis has done in Florida?

The vaccine helps protect the vaccinated from dying, but it does not protect the vaccinated from either getting or spreading COVID. In other words, it seems clear to many of us that the vaccine is a *personal* health benefit, not a *public* health benefit. Therefore, whether to get vaccinated is a profoundly *personal* decision, not a *public* health decision. And not everyone is high-risk. There is a more than a thousand-fold difference in the risk of mortality between the old and young. The decision I am making as a healthy 36-year-old is different than the one Joe Biden should make as a 78-year-old. And low-risk Millennials like me comprise the largest generation in the broader U.S. labor force.

At a time when America faces a worker shortage and a supply-chain crisis, why would we sideline more workers? Vaccine mandates in cities like New York have already shut down 26 firehouses due to staff shortages. One hospital in upstate New York had to stop delivering babies due to too many maternity workers resigning over the mandate. Many firefighters, police officers, nurses and military men and women also have natural immunity because they had to work during the height of the pandemic; why exactly are we now punishing them again?

Vaccine mandates do not make sense. But most importantly, they are immoral. The government does not own us. I reject mandates because I believe in freedom. I am praying the rest of the country wakes up from this psychosis that has taken over. Is it too much to ask for a little common sense and bodily autonomy?

Lisa Boothe, a national television commentator, is host of the podcast, "The Truth with Lisa Boothe."

The views expressed in this article are the writer's own.

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Shot or not? · 15 November, 2021

I am vaccinated. The writer chooses not to be. I am older and have an underlying health issue that makes a vaccination a better choice for me. Her situation is different. We both made informed decisions. Good for both of us.

Reply 175 17

Sayitagain · 16 November, 2021

Kumbaya? Selling freedom from vaccination is part of a larger effort to sell distrust in vaccinations, elections, the media and government. It is part of the authoritarian playbook. If vaccinations, elections and the government can not be trusted, then support for an antidemocracy group gains tract...**See more**

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spafon · 15 November, 2021

I got two Moderna shots and a Pfizer booster. I felt that the benefit likely outweighed the risk. But there clearly are cases where it harms people and it is also clear that it is very limited in its ability to stop the spread of the Delta variant. And there are early treatments that are not offi...**See more**

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3 replies

Guest · 16 November, 2021

If someone is at very low risk of death from covid - lower than in a bad flu year (medical fact) - would that person not want to catch covid and most likely have mild symptoms? They could then recover and have a natural immunity that will last for years rather than having to keep having booster dose...**See more**

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SFIII · 19 November, 2021

A small but growing number of recent studies have shown that getting the shots eliminates 'naturalizing antibodies.' This means that the shots partially erase any natural immunity you had previously gained from organic exposure to the virus and any variants. This will make you more dependant upo...**See more**

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Kate Russoliloo · 15 November, 2021

It's not up to the unvaccinated to protect the vaccinated. That is the vaccine's job.

Reply 46 1

1 reply

Anon · 15 November, 2021

Agree with all your points, except you don't mention taking preventive measures such as good nutrition, supplementation with proper levels of Vit D, Vit C, zinc, quercetine, etc. Lots of sleep, exercise, fresh air. Refusing the "vax" does not mean complacency, at least for those of us more at risk.

Reply 95 22

2 replies

IAgree · 18 November, 2021

Lisa Boothe - you are a phenomenal human being. I fully support your stance and agree that people should not be forced to get "vaccinated" or treated any differently if they are not. Individual sovereignty is a core principle that we need to uphold.

Reply 11

Fox1743 · 15 November, 2021

It is a mix. Got Covid November 2020. Moderna Vax May 2021. Covid again September 2021. My problem is medical community not testing enough. Thought I was having heart issues in September Covid illness. 5 weeks of medical tests, Primary MD, Cardiologist, ER's Etc. On a whim I got tested and found out...**See more**

Reply 33 2

Mylyte · 17 November, 2021

Seriously! I'm finding the same thing dealing with doctors for issues other than covid. "Do you want me to order an ultrasound for you? " I was asked this at a recent physical. I wanted to scream, "Who's the doctor here?"

Reply 4

1 reply

Liz · 16 November, 2021

Best article I have read in a long time! Thank you for sharing all of the data you have reported. If you choose to be vaccinated than that is the right choice for you but the rest of us who don't deserve the same freedom. I will be sharing this well written article with many. Thank you for being ...**See more**

Reply 16 3

ssohara · 15 November, 2021

There are real reasons people are wary. Consider Tuskegee. Not the airmen, the syphilis study. The one where African Americans were NOT treated, but studied. This hurt credibility with them and is one reason for their lower vaccination rates. Also, consider thalidomide. The mothers who gave birth to...**See more**

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2 replies

Bsgifford05 · 15 November, 2021

This conveniently leaves out the part where the vaccine does make it less likely you will get covid if exposed and that you are less likely to transmit it. We all know we can't get to 100% prevention but we do have responsibility toward society to lower our risk factors as much as we can.

Reply 121 80

AgainstForce · 15 November, 2021

It does not in fact reduce your chance of spreading COVID to be vaccinated, nor does it make it less likely you will get it. The only promise currently borne out by the vaccine is that some people have had milder cases than they would have done, which is a safe assertion since we cannot know how wel...**See more**

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3 replies

Guest · 15 November, 2021

By that logic, shouldn't we do the same with the flu? Or reduce speed limits everywhere to a maximum of 20 mph? Those two factors are each responsible for 10s of thousands of deaths every year, and those deaths are absolutely made up of other members of society than the person who passed the flu or ...**See more**

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Pelosi, Dems Rip McCarthy for GOP Failure to Condemn 'Bigoted Rhetoric'

The Democratic leaders blasted "Leader McCarthy and the entire House Republican Leadership's repeated failure to condemn inflammatory and bigoted rhetoric."

Kyle Rittenhouse Could Sue Joe Biden For Defamation

Questions have been raised as to whether Rittenhouse has a case against the president over a September 2020 tweet linking him to white supremacy.

Joe Biden's Gas Prices Headache Is Far From Over

The Department of Energy has announced the release of 50 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

'Build Back Better' Would Likely Cost Trillions More Than Democrats Claim

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