LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote yes on the South Kitsap School District Levy

I was recently administered the Covid vaccine at St. Anthony Medical Center in Gig Harbor. I can only say how wonderful the service, efficiency and effectiveness of this vaccine was. This America was operating at its best. The medical staff, volunteers and janitorial workers did a superb job providing me care on a mission.

I question what America needs after nine months of federal government chaos, confusion and incompetence. The US military and its leaders any others involved in that effort. God job.

Rick Kown, Poulsbo

Vaccine process was a positive experience

I’m compelled to write in opposition to this newspaper’s policy of running full page ads opposing the public health domain. I think it’s appropriate to discuss gun violence and vaccinations, but the rights of some are protected by our Bill of Rights, but against those in the frin staff, and ultimately the editor himself, who make the decision to publish them. Shame on you.

Timothy Callaghan

Vote yes on the South Kitsap school levy

We’re voting “YES” on the South Kitsap School District Levy. The levy funds programs and positions that aren’t funded by the state’s definition of “basic education.” If they aren’t funded, there is no safety for our children! Our school board members are not just around the corner. This reality, was and still is a tough time for all of us, especially for parents and kids, but, let’s take a chance when we are so close to immobilizing everyone. All directors and staff must be vaccinated before school opens.

James Behrendt, Bainbridge Island

PCHS offers an encouraging start to vaccinations

A big shout-out to Peninsula Community Health Services in Bremerton for their fantastic roll-out of Covid vaccinations. I was a little nervous this morning, but my experience was well-organized and the space in the gym was amazing. I was not in a rush, and I left my first shot and a scheduled second dose. Well done, Peninsula! Some of our sacrifices will be going there, and I invite others to do so as well.

Rick Kown, Poulsbo

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Voting yes on the South Kitsap School District Levy

I have never once seen any of the many directors of teachers, leaders or school board member in my class room. Just for a chat. Just to hear some fun facts or how things were going or not going. So, maybe being different, but who decided to send the Bainbridge students and teachers back to school with immunizations? Just around the corner? Good question.

Peninsula! Some of our donations will be going there, and I invite others to do so as well.

Joy and Jean Bouaque, Port Orchard

Why are so many hesitant on vaccines?

We study Americans’ COVID-19 vaccination intentions in a large, demographically representative online survey of 5,099 U.S. adults, conducted in June 2020. We measured vaccination intentions by asking respondents whether or not they would get vaccinated. In its place, experts will be faced with the new challenge of convincing hesitant groups to get vaccinated. In order to reach herd immunity and end the pandemic.

Second, our results demonstrate that in these ef- forts to vaccinate the hesitant, a one-size-fits-all ap- proach to health communications will be insufficient. While health communications aimed at emphasizing the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine will be impor- tant, for some groups, it will be just as important to emphasize that Americans can be vaccinated against COVID-19 for free, regardless of insurance status. De- veloping these communications and identifying ap- propriate messengers to deliver this information will be vital to stopping the pandemic.

Timothea Callaghan is an assistant professor at the Texas A&M University School of Public Health, and Matt Motta is an assistant professor of political sci- ence at Harvard University. They wrote this for The Conversation. Read more at theconversation.com.

Why will some people refuse a COVID-19 vacci- nation?

Our study provides new insights into the reasons that some Americans do not intend to get vaccinated against COVID-19. We found that concerns about the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine were the most consistent reasons for forgoing vaccination. We also found that portions of the American public did not in- tend to pursue vaccination because they lack health insurance, lack the financial resources they believe they need to be vaccinated or because they have al- ready had COVID-19.

Our study also found considerable evidence that the reasons for not vaccinating were not the same for everyone. For example, women were more likely than men to say they would forgo vaccination due to concerns about safety and effectiveness. Additionally, we found that Black people were more likely to skip vaccina- tion than white people due to perceived safety and effectiveness issues as well as concerns related to the cost of vaccinating and a lack of health insurance.

What this all means for vaccine uptake

Together, our findings point to two key takeaways as the U.S. moves to rapidly vaccinate its population against COVID-19. First, political leaders and public health experts need to recognize that what appears to be a considerable public demand for the COVID-19 vac- cination is more muted in the coming months, as more Americans have the opportunity to get vaccinated. In both places, experts will be faced with the new challenge of convincing hesitant groups to get vaccinated in order to reach herd immunity and end the pandemic.

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Let’s talk about how scientists determined that the vaccine will work. For example, if some Americans in- tend to refuse to get vaccinated due to concerns that the vaccines is not safe, health communications can try to get these groups with easy-to-understand informa- tion about what scientists determined that the vaccine is safe. In a recent peer-reviewed study, we provided impor- tant insight into what public demand for a coronavirus vaccine could actually look like, once Americans have the opportunity to get vaccinated. Just as impor- tant, we detail reasons certain Americans do not inten- dedependent for forgoing vaccination.

Some Americans more likely to get vaccinated

We studied Americans’ COVID-19 vaccination in- tentions in a large, demographically representative online survey of 5,099 U.S. adults, conducted in June 2020. We measured vaccination intentions by asking respondents whether or not they would pursue getting vaccinated for the coronavirus if a COVID-19 vaccine became available.

Our study found that almost a third (31%) of re- spondents did not intend to pursue vaccination. This is concerning, given that recent epidemiological esti- mates suggest that up to 70% of Americans must become immune to COVID-19 in order to put the pan- demic’s spread into de-

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be 250 words or shorter, neatly type- written. The Kitsap Sun reserves the right to reject, edit or condense all letters. Mass submissions are not accepted and writers are generally limited to one letter a month. All letters must include the writer’s first name and (for our verification) address and phone number.

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