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Many New COVID Cases, One New Vaccinated Patient! Wed Webinar – See You There!

Ever wonder why some people don't get COVID? We still don't know. I haven't had COVID – to my knowledge. Probably many of us have had COVID and didn't know it. I have had several new COVID patients in the last ten days; none had to go to the hospital.

If the Republicans take over either House of Congress, it is likely that the polarization around COVID (with, as I've pointed out before, Republicans dying at a higher rate than Democrats) will only get worse. According to one expert, a nakedly partisan investigation of Fauci would do even more damage to the fraying public trust in public health officials. Vaccine skeptics have touted Biden's recent COVID infection despite his four vaccines as “a tactic that vaccine skeptics have used to question the effectiveness of vaccines or mandates.”

Schools are playing catch-up while trying to address the traumas and challenges from the pandemic. According to this report, patterns in 2021–22 show some encouraging evidence of rebounding. “The gains made during the 2021–22 school year are at least parallel to the pre-pandemic sample, and in some cases actually steeper.” School efforts range from lengthening the school year, food drives, after school offerings, and even health screenings. Significant teacher shortages still exist, despite efforts at boosting pay and teacher recruitment.

And yet another study on the effectiveness of vaccination: US counties with higher proportions of persons ≥ 12 years of age fully vaccinated against COVID-19 had substantially lower rates of COVID-19 cases and deaths. I was pleased that I was able to convince one unvaccinated person last week to take “the jab.” And then we find that: The share of US adults believing that harassing public health officials was justified rose 5.4 percentage points from 20% (218 of 1081 respondents) in November 2020 to 25% (276 respondents) in July to August 2021 ($P = .046$). Axios highlighted that: there's so far been little evidence of success bridging partisan communication divides. A recent article examining the evidence of whether democratic vs authoritarian governments did better or worse on the pandemic and found little overall difference from a macro perspective. I've summarized in the past what I perceive are the key variables: social trust in government (e.g. New Zealand) and developed health systems that emphasize both public health and primary care (again New Zealand and most European countries but neither China nor the U.S.). Lastly, some believe that our response to monkeypox will be simply another national public health failure.

How should we respond? Organized medicine and trade groups representing health professionals should be organizing local efforts – e.g. pairing Republican and Democratic health professionals to appear side by side in support of science and vaccinations. Such efforts continue to be vitally important as right wing health professionals [continue to push ivermectin](#), with little or no medical institutional pushback. As national public health efforts will founder, state led public health initiatives could make a difference; AND has a state level proposal we would be happy to share. Some states are taking the lead and [likely expanding Medicaid](#) or [access to abortion services](#).

We also need to begin to focus on the November elections in either a partisan or non-partisan manner. Ask Nurses and Doctors is focusing on all of these. Please join us this Wednesday at 8pm for a Recruiting and Training Webinar. Objective: Engage health professionals in partisan and/or non-partisan activities through the end of the year. The current lineup of speakers is:

- **Heather Booth** — an American civil rights activist, feminist, and political strategist who has been involved in activism for progressive causes. She will be speaking about organizing, in general, for the November elections.
- **Evan LeBrun** — of Mainers for Working Families, will be speaking about Paid Family Medical Leave and challenges of organizing at a state level
- **Jeff Lerner** — leader of the AND efforts in PA - a critical state in this November's elections - will be speaking about op-eds, twitter, and other social media.

We will also be speaking about the importance of health professionals creating short (less than a minute) videos on the abortion issue similar to the link immediately below. Easy to create!
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1unzl7thd6c7MkLunkXDyJP9qFBFKQI0s/view?>

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-6rpj4oEtZeefSTM0uYjOY4T0MzOVvc>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Hope to see you there!

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