

Vaccine advantages

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Swine flu has provoked a state of global hysteria; and just as an antidote emerges, false accusations have already swirled that the vaccine will not be safe.

What is especially troubling about these allegations is that the vaccine has not even been released yet. In fact, the H1N1 vaccine remains, and will remain for at least two more weeks, in very basic testing stages.

The accusations range from pithy comments to outrageous statements; the most extreme of these being that the vaccine will be more harmful than swine flu.

To put it plainly, this suggestion is utterly ludicrous. The so called 'evidence' is based on past swine flu vaccines, not the 2009 version.

If the H1N1 vaccine has not even been released yet, how is it possible that it can already be branded as unsafe?

Anti-vaccine argument

However, it is important to concede some ground to these apocalyptic worriers. In 1976, 25 people, nearly all of them over 75 with preexisting medical conditions, died from the swine flu vaccine out of over 40 million immunized.

If you do the math, that is a .0000062 percent fatality rate. That is not a very high percentage when compared with the potential thousands saved.

Considering the evolution in medicine and technology available today versus in 1976, the vaccine should be that much more capable

"Based on how vaccines are produced and cleared, my assumption is that the vaccine will work and work well," said **Dr. Robert Wallace**, a pediatrician at Suburban Pediatrics.

Nevertheless, Wallace found it important to note that the vaccine is still being tested, most likely becoming available in mid-October.

"It is still being determined by the FDA whether the H1N1 vaccine is both safe and effective. Only once it is deemed acceptable in each of these areas will the masses be immunized," said Wallace.

Will it be too late?

Common wisdom holds that viruses spread the fastest in densely populated, enclosed areas, and swine flu has proven to be highly contagious.

Obviously, the fact that SHS opened before the vaccine is available will not help control swine flu. In fact, it is more than likely that there will be an H1N1 outbreak in early September, similar to what occurred at Camp Livingston this summer.

Taking into account that swine flu will spread and that a vaccine will be available, who would not take the vaccine? It is more probable that he or she will laugh themselves to death than die from the H1N1 vaccine.

Faced with these odds, who would want to take the chance of getting H1N1?

Each student must make their own decision on whether to take the vaccine, but to make the correct, one the facts must be available. And the fact is, not all of the facts are available.

So even if you are skeptical of the H1N1 vaccine's safety, at least wait until it is possible to reach a verdict based on facts, not fear.

Vaccine disadvantages

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Out of the 70,893 total cases of swine flu worldwide, there have been 311 total deaths. Without undermining the tragedy of each individual, we must notice that such a low death ratio should not be resulting in a potentially government enforced vaccination.

Many United States citizens are eager for prevention from the swine flu that is being offered by the vaccine in order to keep themselves and their families safe. However, what many of us do not know is that this vaccination could be extremely detrimental to the health of children and adults.

Vaccine Manufacturers

There is a current race between vaccine manufacturers to produce the first swine flu vaccine that will be effective beginning on October 15.

Baxter Pharmaceuticals has been a leading competitor and has produced a vaccine called Celvapan along with Novartis Pharmaceuticals whose vaccine is near completion.

This would be great news, except for the fact that according to the article, "Vaccine may be more dangerous than swine flu" by **Dr. Russell Blaylock** the Baxter vaccine contains animal tissues from the African green monkey, which transmit a number of viruses. Even worse, Baxter Pharmaceuticals have previously been involved in manufacturing questionable vaccines.

As if this is not scary enough, several years later, this same company produced a seasonal flu vaccine containing the bird flu virus which was going to be distributed to eighteen countries, potentially resulting in its own worldwide pandemic.

Thankfully, though, the virus was found and removed before anyone could have taken the vaccine.

Clearly, the wise decision would be to cut ties with Baxter Pharmaceuticals. Nevertheless, the World Health Organization continues to work with them in creating the new swine flu vaccine.

Dangerous ingredients

So hopefully Novartis Pharmaceuticals will be the company that will be creating our vaccine, right? Wrong. It has been found that their vaccination contains a dangerous ingredient called squalene that has been proven deadly in animal studies.

Squalene is the main problem. It can trigger autoimmune disorders such as arthritis or multiple sclerosis. This was proven with the outbreak of the Gulf War Syndrome.

Do not be fooled: doctors, who claim that these vaccinations are safe, only conducted studies two weeks after consuming the vaccine which is not effective because side effects do not kick in until several months after injection.

Although the actual ingredients are currently unknown because it is still under chemical testing, there is reason to believe that the vaccine is unsafe.

As **Dr. George Smulian**, infectious disease specialist, stated, in the 1980s an influenza vaccine was released that caused paralysis in patients which is a major complication but also curable with antibiotics over the course of several months.

Of 1,500 readers of Nursing Times Magazine, only 37 percent said that they would definitely take the vaccine. The 53 percent who either said no or maybe, said their main reason was the safety concerns.

This vaccine is going to be highly targeted towards students and pregnant women. That includes you. What would you do? Is it worth the risks?

Deadlier than swine flu?

What we missed about school, but now hate

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The old English proverb once said, "All good things must come to an end," could not be truer about summer break.

Lazy days at the pool and summer jobs have come to an end and have been replaced with hours of lectures and hoards of homework.

There are fun aspects of school though such as friends you have not seen all summer, extracurricular activities you are dying to get back to, and teachers that you can look up to.

"I miss seeing my friends every day because sometimes it's hard to see them during the summer," said **Katherine Brown**, 10.

While we look forward to seeing our friends, what we fail to remember are all the people that we, simply said, find very annoying and intolerable.

Getting to see our buddies is great and all, but with the privilege of seeing them, there is the ordeal of coping with some people that we may not get along with very well.

While we cannot change the way people act, we must keep in mind that these people are someone's friends too, and they could be our friends if we put ourselves out there.

"I miss having sports after school because it gives me something to look forward to," said **Jessica Buchberger**, 10.

Extracurricular activities occupy our time and give us something worth doing. Over the summer, we dream of the days we can stay after school to participate in the activities we love so much.

However, when they start, we quickly learn that these activities take a huge commitment. Extracurriculars take us away from our friends and prevent us from going home and relaxing after a long day of school.

Even so, it may be hard to believe but there are other teachers that are very difficult to deal with and sometimes can make the school day excruciating. After a little time in hindsight, some teachers may not be as bad as we made them out to be.

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-Katherine Brown, 10

I miss having sports after school because it gives me something to look forward to.

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