

By Dr. Derek Conte

In January of 2020, COVID-19 hit the world like a train. In the panic, many governments responded by issuing lockdowns, vaccine mandates, mask-wearing requirements, closing small businesses, and emptying schools. Other nations (Sweden) did not do this. Some countries though (New Zealand, China), were reported to have placed their citizens under virtual house arrest. Source: Reuters.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/virus-free-new-zealand-investigating-new-community-covid-19-case-2021-08-17/>

In December of 2020, the FDA gave an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) allowing the vaccine to become available to the public with less testing. Source: Mayo Clinic.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/history-disease-outbreaks-vaccine-timeline/covid-19>

Vaccine mandates followed. Few groups were harder hit than doctors and nurses, some of whom were given the ultimatum of receiving the vaccine or losing their jobs, livelihoods, careers and even their professional reputations. Some that refused to comply were fired or resigned.

Source: ABC News. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/hundreds-hospital-staffers-fired-suspended-refusing-covid-19/story?id=80303408>

The CDC estimates that over 700 million doses of the vaccine have so far been administered to Americans. Source: CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/whats-new/covid-vaccine-recommendations-9-12-2023.html>

Some caught the virus anyway, even multiple times, and have even been found to transmit it.

Source: Cleveland Clinic. <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/can-vaccinated-people-transmit-covid-19-to-others>

Some U.S. military service members have refused the vaccine and have been discharged from service even after serving honorably in combat. This article/video from AMERICAN MILITARY NEWS is absolutely stunning: NOVEMBER, 2023

--- "Video: Heart issues skyrocketing in military, US Navy medic says Navy Medical Service Corps Lt. Ted Macie, who is an active-duty officer... claimed that the U.S. military has experienced a major increase in heart-related issues with helicopter and fixed-wing pilots. Macie claimed that Defense Department data shows a 937% increase in heart failure, a 152% increase in cardiomyopathy, a 69% increase in ischemic heart disease, a 62% increase in pulmonary heart disease, a 36% increase in hypertensive disease, and a 63% increase in other forms of heart disease compared to the five-year average before 2022." --- Source: <https://americanmilitarynews.com/2023/11/video-heart-issues-skyrocketing-in-military-us-navy-medic-says/>

But again, no specific causality is suggested. I hope we can all have a clear answer one day.

Panic can cause even the best intentioned people to take extreme measures, rushing to adopt solutions without foresight of potential consequences. Hopefully, we will balance strong actions with wisdom and restraint in the future. Have a safe, prosperous and healthy New Year.

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