



Health Watch USAsm Newsletter

www.healthwatchusa.org Sept. 1, 2021

Member of the National Quality Forum and a designated "Community Leader" for Value-Driven Healthcare by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

In the Month of Aug Health Watch USAsm has:

- 10 articles/opeds regarding COVID-19.
- 12 Radio Shows concerning the COVID-19 virus.
- 2 Public Presentations.
- 1 Peer Reviewed Publication.
- 1 Written Comment.

Our 2021 COVID-19 Conference Presentations and additional resources can be accessed from: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/COVID19.htm> & www.healthconference.org

Health Watch USA's June 15, 2021 Annual Conference: COVID-19: A Global Perspective

<http://www.healthconference.org>

Health Watch USA's 2020 Activities Report: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Officers/20201231-HWUSA-Report-2020.pdf>

courier journal
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

How the CDC's missteps left Americans vulnerable to COVID-19's delta variant

"Unfortunately, the hospitalization of Jesse Jackson, who was fully vaccinated, and the death of former Kentucky legislator Brent Yonts from COVID-19 are not outliers. It is in line with the Israeli data on vaccine effectiveness and is the culmination of a long string of failures by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in generating timely data and promptly informing the public regarding the risks of COVID-19.

The continued narrative that breakthrough vaccine infections are uncommon is not true. When they do occur, certain groups are at risk of hospitalizations and deaths. As immunity wanes, we all will enter this category. Thus, we will need to receive a booster. For now, wear a medical grade, KN95, or a well-fitted N95 mask, avoid indoor settings and above all keep current with your COVID-19 vaccinations." [References](#) Courier Journal. Aug. 26, 2021.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2021/08/26/covid-19-delta-variant-how-cdc-missteps-left-us-vulnerable/8244233002/>

COVID-19 is ravaging our unprotected children. Opening schools now is dangerous

"Currently, we are confronting a variant that is more than twice as infectious as last year's wild-type

virus; it is more deadly and has an increased propensity to infect children. Kentucky's community spread is extremely high with a test positivity rate of over 10%. To open schools at this time and expect our children to be safe is dangerous cult thinking. Unfortunately, we have done nothing to prepare for continued waves of COVID-19. We have squandered coronavirus funds and just hoped the virus will go away. However, at this point, stopping SARS-CoV-2 will also require a marked change in the way we live, along with a massive infrastructure investment and a sustained commitment to the safety and welfare of others. " [References](#) Courier Journal. Aug. 10, 2021.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2021/08/10/how-to-makes-schools-safer-for-children-amid-covid-19/5543678001/>

CDC study of Kentuckians disputes Rand Paul, Thomas Massie claims about COVID-19 immunity

"Paul, a Bowling Green physician, has been especially outspoken on the subject. In a May opinion piece in The Courier Journal, he blasted "petty tyrants in government" for pushing vaccines and arguing there are no studies showing "any benefit at all" to vaccination for those who have had COVID-19.

.... But retired Somerset physician Kevin Kavanagh, who sharply criticized some of Paul's claims about the vaccine as "reprehensible" in a Courier-Journal opinion article, said in an email Monday that vaccines are even more essential amid the spread of the delta variant. "With the emergence of new variants, reinfections can and are occurring," said Kavanagh, chairman of the patient advocacy group Health Watch USA. "No one wants to become repeatedly infected with a deadly virus." " Courier Journal. Aug. 9, 2021.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2021/08/09/cdc-study-disputes-rand-paul-thomas-massie-covid-immunity-claims/5536638001/>

The delta variant is the biggest public health threat we have faced. Here's how to beat it

"We cannot solely vaccinate our way out of this. We must also implement stringent public health strategies to slow down the spread and mutation of this virus, including universal access to N-95 masks and upgrading building ventilation. In that way, our pharmaceutical development and production can catch up with the emerging variants. The new mRNA vaccines are a medical miracle, and we can develop a new vaccine within weeks. The challenge is in producing and distributing hundreds of millions of doses and placing them into arms. With the (Veterans Health) Administration's large infrastructure and fourth mission mandate, it is the obvious vehicle to implement a nationwide public health care system." [References](#) Courier Journal. Aug. 4, 2021.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/opinion/2021/08/04/delta-variant-biggest-public-health-threat-we-have-faced/5424054001/>



Viewpoint: Should US Adopt an Elimination Strategy Against COVID-19?

On July 29, 2021, Infection Control Today® sounded the alarm regarding vaccine breakthrough infections and

waning immunity, citing Israeli data which found vaccine effectiveness in the prevention of all infections and symptomatic infections to be only 16% after 5 months from full vaccination.

In nursing homes, we need to administer boosters to residents who were fully vaccinated early in this pandemic. Nursing home residents are the most frail and highest risk members in our society.

In Beijing the total cases in an outbreak were reported to be less than 10. China used over 100 million tests to eradicate what would be classified as a very small outbreak by US standards. [References](#)

Infection Control Today. Aug. 25, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/should-us-adopt-an-elimination-strategy-against-covid-19->

Viewpoint: Expanding Booster Shots to US Adults Needed to Happen

In the Middle Ages a pandemic wiped out 50% of the world's population. Presently we have a much higher population density, making us a feeding buffet for infectious disease.... If we do not follow the recommendations of modern science and public health, we are no better off than if we were living in the Middle Ages. "We do not have the luxury of waiting. Delta is here. In the case of delta, inaction is also an action, and an expedited decision is needed. Currently, the United States is discarding vaccines and these vaccines are known to be very safe. If we do not administer boosters to this high-risk population, we risk having a catastrophe on our hands." The solution, if you have not already done so, get vaccinated. If you are vaccinated and are at risk of immunity waning, get a booster as soon as they are available. [References](#) Infection Control Today. Aug. 18, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/viewpoint-expanding-booster-shots-to-us-adults-needed-to-happen>

Take a Stand Now to Stop COVID-19 Variants

Herd immunity is no longer possible, the virus is mutating and likely has animal hosts. We must raise the bar on public health outcomes, not only focusing on deaths but also morbidity and long-hauler syndrome which can be all too common, even occurring with vaccine breakthrough infections. An emerging pattern is that each new wave which envelops a nation is caused by different variants of the virus. It also is apparent that each major wave is caused by a variant which possesses immune escape properties. Slowing down the replication and mutation of this virus is of utmost importance. We must plan and invest in long-term solutions. This virus might disappear, similar to the 1918 flu, or it could be present for decades. Consistent messaging and widespread embracement of vaccines along with public health measures are key to providing our pharmaceutical industry the necessary time to formulate new vaccines and therapeutics which can effectively treat and prevent infections. [References](#) Infection Control Today. Aug 17, 2021 <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/take-a-stand-now-to-stop-covid-19-variants>

Messaging Muddle: Pushing Vaccination as COVID Vaccines' Effectiveness Wanes

While not perfect, the mRNA vaccines do markedly reduce the chances of hospitalizations from critical disease and death. This is a huge plus. Combining all of these reports shows that to control this pandemic we need to enact multiple layers of prevention including effective masking, vaccinations, upgrading ventilation systems and social distancing. This virus is endemic. It is here to stay, and new variants are waiting in the wings to cause another surge with reinfections and breakthrough infections. If

we do this, we will be able to start to learn to live with this virus, we cannot simply wish it away.

References Infection Control Today. Aug. 12, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/messaging-muddle-pushing-vaccination-as-covid-vaccines-effectiveness-wanes>

Get Vaccinated Even If You've Gotten COVID-19, Study Suggests

A CDC investigation shows 2.3 times the number of reinfections with natural immunity compared to breakthrough infections in those who are vaccinated. Public Health England (PHE) briefing includes updated hospitalization data for Delta, which shows that in the period since the last update on July 19, "1467 people were hospitalised with cases of Delta confirmed by sequencing or genotyping." Of these, 808 (55.1%) were unvaccinated, while 512 (34.9%) had received both doses of a vaccine. This supports the Health Ministry of Israel's data which shows waning of vaccine protection in those who are over 60 years of age and are more than 5 months post vaccination. As Infection Control Today® reported, 8.6% of breakthrough infections in this group of elderly patients have resulted in hospitalization and 2% have resulted in death. **References** Infection Control Today. Aug 8, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/get-vaccinated-even-if-you-ve-gotten-covid-19-study-suggests>

Lambda Variant, COVID-19 Animal Hosts Present Deadly Mix

"Data collected by Britain's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, Japanese researchers, and the US Department of Agriculture paint a picture of a growing challenge. Taken together, the report from SAGE, the viruses' establishment of an animal host and the news regarding the lambda variant is an extremely deadly mix. We need to come together as a society so we can slow down the spread of this virus so viral recombination will not occur, and genetic drift slows. In addition, we need to formulate strategies to prevent the spread from animal hosts to mankind. Above all, we need to learn how to live with this virus so our pharmaceutical giants can develop and manufacture vaccines faster than the virus can mutate." **References** Infection Control Today. Aug. 5, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/view/lambda-variant-covid-19-animal-hosts-present-deadly-mix>

Gain-of-Disfunction? Research Method Comes Under Fire

"Gain-of-function research on viral pathogens is one of the most dangerous academic endeavors which can be undertaken by mankind," says Kavanagh. "Just the gain-of-function research on avian influenza has the potential of wiping out large percentages of the world's population. It is hard to imagine a benefit which justifies the risk, but when one is identified such research should only be undertaken with an assumption that a lab accident may occur. There must be a viable plan which has a very high probability of success for containment of any escaped pathogen and the identification and quarantining of exposed personnel, without a risk of spreading to the general population."

Such a "viable plan" that Kavanagh refers to seems to have been in place when investigators with Osaka University in Japan recently created the pseudo-virus Delta 4+ in making the case that future mutations in the Delta variant could help it to evade antibodies in COVID-19 vaccines. Kavanagh says that the Osaka University research "is an example of gain-of-function research using a pseudo-virus which is extremely beneficial."

In this example, gain-of-function research may have helped sound the alarm, Kavanagh adds. "The

research reported that the Delta virus is one mutation away from fully escaping the vaccine." Infection Control Today. Aug. 30, 2021. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/gain-of-disfunction-research-method-comes-under-fire>

Vaccines Not as Effective Against Delta Variant, say CDC Data

"Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of Infection Control Today®'s (ICT®)'s Editorial Advisory Board, made the same argument on July 27 in ICT® in a Q&A headlined "Everybody Needs to be Vaccinated and Wear a Mask." Kavanagh said that "I am convinced this virus is about one or two iterations away from completely avoiding the vaccine. And remember, we have the lambda variant and the kappa variant which are sitting out there in the wings, waiting for immunity to drop and possibly cause another wave."

" Infection Control Today. Aug. 25, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/vaccines-not-as-effective-against-delta-variant-says-cdc-data>

Why Wait 8 Months for a COVID-19 Booster Shot?

"As ICT® reported, Israel—which launched its booster shot program in the beginning of August—is offering booster shots to people 60 and older who'd had their second dose of vaccine 5 months prior. Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of ICT®'s Editorial Advisory Board analyzed and translated the data by the Ministry of Health Israel and about 3 weeks before the US announced its booster shot plan wrote that the US should begin a similar program immediately.

Kavanagh said in an email to ICT® that "with the Israel data email ICT® published showing that individuals greater than 60 years old and 5 months out from full vaccination plus the recent New York Times data showing that between 12% to 25% of hospitalizations are breakthrough infections, one must ask the question: Why wait 8 months for boosters? This underscores the importance of using the vaccine as a layer of armor and not a panacea. Those vaccinated at the same time need to wear N95 masks and avoid indoor settings." " Infection Control Today. Aug. 20, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/why-wait-8-months-for-a-covid-19-booster-shot->

COVID-19 Boosters Shots for US Adults Coming in September

"Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of ICT®'s Editorial Advisory Board writes in an email to ICT® that the move "comes as a surprise to many since just a few weeks ago people were being assured that breakthrough infections are 'extremely rare', less than 1% in all reporting states. Why the 180-degree pivot? The answer is delta and data provided from the Ministry of Health Israel (MHI). The MHI reported that there was only a 16% Pfizer vaccine effectiveness in preventing symptomatic infections after 5 months post vaccination. And in the group of patients who are over age 60 and more than 5 months since vaccination, a breakthrough infection is associated with a 8.6% incidence of hospitalization and a 2% incidence of death." Infection Control Today. Aug. 18, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/covid-19-boosters-shots-for-us-adults-in-the-works>

COVID-19 Booster Shots Alone Might Not Stop Delta and Other Variants

"Booster shots alone won't turn away the pandemic. The way back to our normal lives involves a multi-pronged approach to infection prevention.

But that won't be enough, Kavanagh argues in an article scheduled to be printed in an upcoming issue of ICT®.

"SARS-CoV-2 has continued to evolve," Kavanagh writes. "It has now become evident that with each emerging variant, the virus has appeared to progressively become more infective. Variants which increase viral load may also increase transmissibility and the opportunity to mutate, along with overwhelming a host's immune system and becoming more virulent." And there seems to be wave after wave of variants.

Kavanagh adds that "to make matters worse, SARS-CoV-2 is infecting a number of animals, including cats, large cats, dogs and gorillas. Most recently, concern has been raised that it may have found an animal host in white tail deer, with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies identified in 40% of surveyed animals."

Kavanagh has always said that COVID-19 vaccines alone are not a panacea in stopping the pandemic. And although booster shots are crucially important, one should also not rely on booster shots alone, either.

There must be a multi-pronged approach to COVID-19 if we have any hope of returning to our pre-COVID normal lives, Kavanagh writes in his article. That includes:

- 1) Upgrade recommendations for mask usage and to use N95 or KN95 masks whenever possible.
- 2) Everyone who can needs to become vaccinated. Similar to Israel, we should fast track approval for mRNA boosters to those who are at higher risk, including those who are immunosuppressed and over the age of 60 and 5 months out from vaccination.
- 3) Upgrade building ventilation systems to increase air exchanges and air sanitization.
- 4) Expand testing capabilities to be able to test frontline workers and school children at least twice a week, and other workers at least once a week.
- 5) Limiting sizes of gatherings, including podding in schools and plans for permanent hybrid instruction to limit class sizes.
- 6) Businesses, including restaurants, need to offer online ordering along with curbside pickup and when possible, home delivery.

Everyone needs to be vaccinated. Mandatory vaccines should be required in many settings, including health care. Vaccine passports or green cards are being implemented in Israel and France and need to be implemented in the United States. " Infection Control Today. Aug. 17, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/covid-19-booster-shots-alone-might-not-stop-delta-and-other-variants>

2-Dose COVID-19 Vaccines Work Against Delta Variant, Says Study

"Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of Infection Control Today®'s Editorial Advisory Board, notes that "the data from the United Kingdom which reports that the Pfizer mRNA vaccine is 88% effective against symptomatic infections appears to be in stark contrast to the 41% effectiveness reported by the Ministry of Health in Israel. The difference can be explained by waning of immunity over time and the vaccine dosage schedule in the two countries."

Israel was one of the first countries to administer vaccines to their population and has a dosage schedule similar to the US. The UK, on the other hand, spaced the 2 doses apart by up to 3 months, says Kavanagh.

"Thus, most in Israel completed their vaccination schedule far ahead of those in the United Kingdom," says Kavanagh. "Israel is currently administering boosters to those above the age of 60 and more than 5 months since vaccination. The United Kingdom is planning to start booster shots in September." "

Infection Control Today. Aug. 12, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/-dose-covid-19-vaccines-work-against-delta-variant-says-study>

Put COVID-19 to the Test

"ICT® EAB member Kevin Kavanagh, MD, asserts that "as we are learning more about the Delta variant and how it can evade immunity, causing breakthrough infections, we realize that expanding our testing activities is imperative. In Germany, everyone in schools and industry are tested twice weekly."

Kavanagh also points out that in the United Kingdom, people who live where the Delta variant is spreading are encouraged to get tested twice a week, and China tests every citizen in Wuhan.

"We need to do much more testing, and we also need to monitor the accuracy of our tests on each of the new variants," says Kavanagh." Infection Control Today. Aug. 10, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/put-covid-19-to-the-test>

Some Experts See a Peak, Steep Decline of Delta Variant Coming

"As experts have been telling ICT® for months now, we control our destiny. Kevin Kavanagh, MD, another member of ICT®'s EAB member, puts it this way: "I am convinced this virus is about one or two iterations away from completely avoiding the vaccine. And remember, we have the lambda variant and the kappa variant which are sitting out there in the wings, waiting for immunity to drop and possibly cause another wave." Other experts echo Kavanagh's "we the people" approach to getting back to some semblance of our pre-pandemic lives." Infection Control Today. Aug. 6, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/some-experts-see-a-peak-steep-decline-of-delta-variant-coming>

As US Reaches Vaccine Milestone, Question of COVID Booster Shots Persist

"Israel announced last week that it will be the first country to offer COVID-19 vaccine booster shots to citizens 60 and older, and that effort officially began last Sunday. As Infection Control Today® (ICT®) reported Monday, booster shots for older Americans might be something the United States will soon undertake.

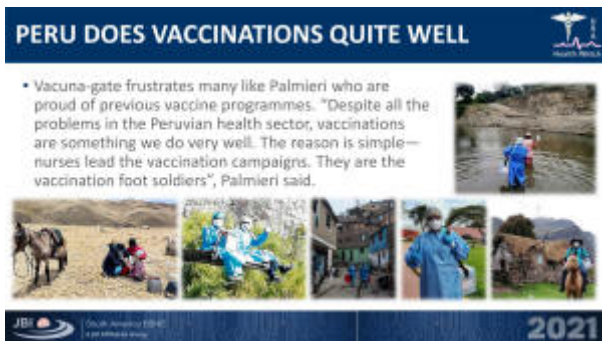
Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of ICT®'s Editorial Advisory Board, said this morning that "Israel was one of the first countries to vaccinate a majority of its citizens. They used a dosage schedule similar to the United States. Recent data from the Ministry of Health in Israel has shown that immunity is waning in those over 60 years of age who have received their second dose of the vaccine 5 months ago."

Regarding booster shots, Kavanagh says that "in the United States our most vulnerable, along with nursing home residents, were given vaccinations early on in the pandemic. They are at risk of breakthrough infections with significant morbidity and mortality. Similar to the policy in other countries, I feel that the United States needs to administer boosters to our most vulnerable, before we see a repeat of last year's devastation in nursing homes caused by the Delta variant."" Infection Control Today. Aug. 4, 2021.

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/s-us-reaches-vaccine-milestone-question-of-covid-booster-shots-persist>

Health Watch USA - Presentations

COVID-19: Lessons Learned in Peru and the Lambda Variant



Dr. Patrick Palmieri from Peru discusses the Peruvian COVID-19 pandemic and Lambda Variant. The effects of the Lambda Variant are uncertain because of an underdeveloped healthcare system and poor recordkeeping. Similar to what was reported by Dr. Paul Yonga from Kenya corruption was a major barrier <https://youtu.be/oTOFjiLYa2Q> . In Peru's case this involved a lack of ventilators and oxygen. There also appeared to be a higher rate of physicians being

diagnosed with COVID-19 who are vaccinated. This observation is compounded by questions of the efficacy of the vaccine and some healthcare workers giving fake vaccination shots. Compared to excess death data, the true death rate in Chile was three-fold higher. The difference was created by the Government only counting those deaths which had a positive test in a country with limited testing. This is a situation similar to India. (Dr. Rodrigueus-Bano from Spain also discussed this problem in his presentation <https://youtu.be/pWuu10Gg7ro>). There is very little vaccination hesitancy in Chile. The vaccine rollout was marred by a scandal of the rich and influential receiving the vaccine first. One success is the Peruvian program of vaccinating people in their homes. It is perplexing why vaccines and at home vaccinations are so controversial in the United States. This type of activity should be what public health is all about. (23:12)

Download Slides: <http://www.healthwatchusa.org/HWUSA-Presentations-Meeting/PDF-Download/20210720-HWUSA-Meeting-Palmieri.pdf>

View YouTube Video of the Presentation: <https://youtu.be/bd5-vkiEdwU>

The Doctor Is On: Fields Tough Questions About COVID-19



"COVID-19 is not just respiratory; it affects every organ of the body. This is a serious type of infection. And we need to be focusing on trying to keep this virus from spreading, plus protecting our young." The pediatric hospitals are filling. But you also need to remember that approximately 200,000 or more children have lost a caregiver to COVID-19. I mean, they can spread the disease. And it's having a profound impact on them. And people who are not getting elective surgery, they're not

getting it because the hospitals are filling with [patients who have COVID-19]. It's a numbers game. Vaccination is a shield, cuts it down a bit. Masks are a shield, cuts it down a bit. Put those two together, and you're now starting to get some significant protection. You fix indoor building ventilation, you do social distancing, and now you start to formulate a workable plan of getting out of this

pandemic." Infection Control Today. Aug. 11, 2021. <https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/the-doctor-is-on-fields-tough-questions-about-covid-19>

Radio / Podcasts

COVID-19: Breakthrough Hospitalizations

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses breakthrough hospitalizations with COVID-19. Vaccines are protective but the New York Times reports 12% to 24% of COVID-19 hospitalizations are in vaccinated patients. Baptist Healthcare system reports a rate of 15%, the University of Kentucky reported a rate of 18% of current hospitalized patients. These patients would be expected to be those who are immunocompromised or greater than 60 years of age and more than 5 months post full vaccination. Similar to Kentucky's Governor, we need to up our game with the wearing of masks, using medical grade, KN95s or well-fitted N95 masks. The Surgeon General has recommended, high quality masks, upgrades to ventilation and testing in school systems. Medical disinformation is also a significant problem and has many of its roots in organized intelligence campaigns of foreign adversaries. (16:39) Jack Pattie Show. 97.3 FM. Aug. 27, 2021. <https://youtu.be/gaBK4nhTmsc>

COVID-19: Early Vaccinated Elderly are Dying

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses the vaccination waning in the elderly. Jesse Jackson and his wife, fully vaccinated in January, were hospitalized with COVID-19. Past KY Rep. Brent Yonts recently passed away from COVID-19, was fully vaccinated in February. Boosters need to be given now. Finally, all need to wear masks. Misinformation states that masks will not filter small viruses. But the particles which are transferred between people are actually small droplets between the sizes of 10 to 100 microns. Masks can effectively stop these particles. Use a high-grade medical mask, KN95 or a well-fitted N95 mask. Jack Pattie Show. Aug. 23, 2021. <https://youtu.be/8lUXWhSSvaQ>

COVID-19: Placing Children on The Pandemic's Front Line

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses the risks of opening schools during the height of the Delta Pandemic. 20,000 students are quarantined in Mississippi. Almost 100,000 children contracted COVID-19 over a one week period and there is a 1% rate of hospitalizations. There is a definite need to fast track FDA authorization of vaccines in the below 12 year old population. Adults who have been vaccinated with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine may be at risk for waning immunity. Data from Israel found overall that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was less than 50% effective in preventing infections with the Delta Variant. The New York Times found that 12% to 24% of COVID-19 related hospitalizations were breakthrough infections. All need to be vaccinated and wear an N95 mask along with receiving a booster when one is available. Jeff Santos Show. Aug. 22, 2021. https://youtu.be/lUCLy_rbiXc

COVID-19: Should We Triage Unvaccinated to the End of the Line ?

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses the problem of vaccinated individuals postponing needed surgery for patients with COVID-19 who chose not to be vaccinated. Similar to Polio

and Measles 90% of the public will have to be vaccinated and follow public health advice before the pandemic stops. With high community spread, the virus may undergo recombination, swapping RNA with another virus, and produce a super virus. Deaths are mounting, almost a million souls as measured by excess deaths. New Zealand views the pandemic seriously and closes down with just one case. Other countries have similar views such as Australia, S. Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. Schools cannot open safely with high community spread and test positivity rates above 12. Schools need to upgrade their ventilation systems, provide high quality N95 masks, twice weekly testing and small class sizes with hybrid teaching. SARS-CoV-2 is endemic and here to stay. Jack Pattie Show. FM 97.3. Aug. 20, 2021. <https://youtu.be/nUlchF4dwGO>

Future Delta Variant Mutations Seem to Elude Vaccine Antibodies

Although the data are preliminary, Kevin Kavanagh, MD, a member of Infection Control Today®'s Editorial Advisory Board, says that the findings warrant attention. "This report is an example of gain of function research using a pseudo-virus which is extremely beneficial," Kavanagh tells ICT®. "The research reported that the Delta virus is one mutation away from fully escaping the vaccine. It is possible that those infected with the Delta variant may have a degree of immunity, but those vaccinated or who had COVID-19 with a previous variant will be at high risk for a significant reinfection."

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/view/delta-variant-mutations-seem-to-elude-vaccine-antibodies>

COVID-19 Articles of Interest

Vaccination Status May Be Considered To Get ICU Beds At Dallas-Area Hospitals If Covid Spread Worsens

Forbes: "A spokesman for the task force told Forbes that doctors at the meeting noted unvaccinated Covid patients were suffering worse outcomes, leading to an internal memo being sent to members of the task force—which provides guidance for physicians in the Dallas area—telling doctors they could take vaccination status into account when deciding who to care for, if needed."

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicholasreimann/2021/08/19/vaccination-status-may-be-considered-to-get-icu-beds-at-dallas-area-hospitals-if-covid-spread-worsens/>

COVID-19 Boosters, working well in Israel, President Biden considering moving time up to 5 months.

Israel Prime Minister Bennett: "...we're also going to be talking about COVID and the Delta variant, which is wreaking havoc across the world. You were the first to call the pandemic 'the pandemic of the unvaccinated,' and that could not be more true. Just about a month ago I took a very tough decision, a policy decision that Israel would pioneer the booster shot, the third shot. I can report to you, Mr. President, to everyone, that we've reached almost three million Israelis that have received the booster shot, and the bottom line is it's safe and it works. The good news, finally, is that the tide is turning in Israel."

United States President Biden: "And you started your program early and you're having great results,

and we're going to start mid-September. But we're considering the advice you've given that we should start earlier, and this is promising. The booster program is going to start here in September the 20th, pending approval of the FDA and the CDC committee of outside experts. And the question raised is, should it be shorter than eight months [before a booster shot]. Should it be as long as five months? And that's being discussed. I spoke with Dr. Fauci this morning about that." Biden and Bennett Press Conference. White House. Aug. 27, 2021. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/full-text-biden-and-bennetts-statements-at-the-white-house/>

China's reported local COVID cases are back to zero after a Delta outbreak. Here's what happened

"China took testing to an unprecedented level during this go-round. Local authorities checked their populations repeatedly, a dozen times in one city alone, to ensure every last infection was caught. In all, more than 100 million tests were administered. Quarantines also played a larger role. The Chinese capital of Beijing at one point was sealed off from other places with even a single case. It also cut off trains and flights from hotspots around the country, even though the city ultimately posted fewer than 10 infections in the delta flareup."

<https://fortune.com/2021/08/23/china-covid-local-cases-zero-delta-variant-control/>

New COVID variant detected in South Africa, most mutated variant so far

The study also found that the C.1.2 lineage has a mutation rate of about 41.8 mutations per year, which is nearly twice as fast as the current global mutation rate of the other variants. The scientists stressed that the combination of these mutations, as well as changes in other parts of the virus, likely help the virus evade antibodies and immune responses, including in patients who have already been infected with the Alpha or Beta variants. The scientists added that further work is required to understand the exact impact of these mutations and to see if they give the variant a competitive advantage over the Delta variant.

<https://www.ipost.com/health-science/new-covid-variant-detected-in-south-africa-most-mutated-variant-so-far-678011>

Caleb Wallace, Anti-Mask 'Freedom Rally' Organizer, Dies at 30 With COVID

"The San Angelo Freedom Defenders founder took Ivermectin, among other unproven home remedies, to treat the virus. Caleb Wallace, a Texas man who helped organize the "Freedom Rally" and other prominent protests against pandemic restrictions, has died from COVID-19. He was 30." <https://www.thewrap.com/caleb-wallace-anti-mask-freedom-rally-organizer-dies-at-30-with-covid/>

US Surgeon General urges

"In the classroom, there are layers of protection that the CDC has laid out to keep children safe from COVID-19 - including wearing properly fitting masks, properly ventilating buildings and regular testing..." <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/27/health/us-coronavirus-friday/index.html>

I'm the Parent of a 3-Year-Old. Why Can't He Get Vaccinated Yet?

"Yes, the FDA is requesting more data. With delta on the rise, that doesn't make much sense."

<https://slate.com/technology/2021/08/coronavirus-vaccine-kids-fda-clinical-trials-delta.html>

New CDC Study: Vaccination Offers Higher Protection than Previous COVID-19 Infection

In today's MMWR, a [study](#) of COVID-19 infections in Kentucky among people who were previously infected with SAR-CoV-2 shows that unvaccinated individuals are more than twice as likely to be reinfected with COVID-19 than those who were fully vaccinated after initially contracting the virus. These data further indicate that COVID-19 vaccines offer better protection than natural immunity alone and that vaccines, even after prior infection, help prevent reinfections. <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0806-vaccination-protection.html>

The Delta variant carries a higher risk of hospitalization, a study finds.

People who are infected with the highly contagious Delta variant are twice as likely to be hospitalized as those who are infected with the Alpha variant, according to a large new British study.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/27/health/delta-variant-hospitalization-risk.html>



COVID-19 Lessons Learned: A Global Perspective

Health Watch USAsm & Massachusetts Nurses Association



White Paper: COVID-19 lessons learned: a global perspective

On June 15, 2021, infectious disease authorities from around the world participated in a joint webinar to share experiences and lessons learned in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the overriding goals of the conference “COVID-19 Lessons Learned: A Global Perspective” was to provide documentation of worldwide COVID-19 response strategies, in order to combat the plethora of misinformation and conspiracy theories that are being actively disseminated. This misinformation is having a profound negative impact on controlling the pandemic in many countries. Misinformation which was addressed in the conference included challenging the seriousness of COVID-19 infections, a refusal to recognize aerosolization as the major mechanism of spread, a belief that schools can be opened safely without implementation of extensive

control strategies, and that masks and vaccines are not effective. A second goal was the identification of common strategies between nations. Common strategies included the implementation of a range of closures, mask mandates, travel bans and the need for expanded testing. But of utmost importance there was recognition of the need to implement a coordinated national strategy, which is depoliticized and led by scientists. ARIC. Aug. 26, 2021.

<https://aricjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13756-021-00992-x>

Conference Videos are Now Available. Continuing Educational Credits through Southern Kentucky AHEC. For more information on continuing education go to www.healthconference.org

COVID-19: Introduction To Suppression Strategies

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses strategies used by many countries including exclusion, elimination, suppression, and mitigation; along with the disruptive influences of misinformation and false hopes for herd immunity. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/Ej98j5WiGUw>

COVID-19: Lessons Learned in Australia

Professor Imogen Mitchell, Clinical Director of the Australian Capital Territory COVID-19 Response, discusses lessons learned in Australia. To date there are 910 deaths from COVID-19. If the United States did as well, adjusted for population, we would have lost less than 13,000 individuals. Australia is a federated nation, early on the State and Territories formed a national governing committee, guided by scientists, to formulate and direct the nation's COVID-19 response. Strategies included a zero tolerance for cases with cities imposing lockdowns, masking, physical distancing, along with strong testing and contact tracing for as few as 1 or 2 cases. Travel restrictions and 14-day quarantine were imposed on those entering the country and travel between State and territories was restricted during outbreaks. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/UpFrw3Wdbmw>

COVID-19: Lessons Learned in Singapore

Dr. Matthias Maiwald, Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Microbiology & Senior Consultant in Microbiology, National University of Singapore, discusses the COVID-19 response in Singapore. Strategies used were social distancing, mask wearing, and the closing of schools and non-essential businesses during a full lock-down. In addition, contact tracing was facilitated by phone app reporting of contacts in Singapore's population. Outbreaks occurred in migrant workers' dorms, and other outbreaks were associated with the airport, a hospital and a shopping mall. At hospitals, all patients were tested for SARS-CoV-2 upon admission and staff were tested every two weeks, if vaccinated; and once a week, if not vaccinated. An important observation was that during the full lock-down, infectious diseases caused by many other respiratory viruses all but disappeared. Rhinoviruses and enteroviruses reappeared 13 weeks after the end of lock-down, later adenoviruses reappeared. However, influenza stayed at a very low level well into 2021. This is a testament as to how effective the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 is in comparison to other respiratory viruses, and how difficult it will be to eradicate it around the world. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/-WPQv9ghTy0>

COVID-19: Lessons Learned in Kenya

Dr. Paul Yonga discusses lessons learned in Kenya. Kenya adopted a suppression strategy guided by a newly formed National Emergency Response Committee. The country utilized regional and localized

lockdowns, mandatory masking, curfews and social distancing. Barriers included stigmatization of the disease, large political rallies and a lack of vaccines, the latter of which inhibited the long-term effectiveness of a suppression strategy. There were also poor working conditions for frontline workers and healthcare staff, including a lack of PPE and pay shortages. Currently, Kenya is expecting another wave, possibly driven by the Delta Variant which comprises 90% of sequenced cases in some regions. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/oTOFJiLYa2Q>

COVID-19: India In Crisis -- Vineeta Gupta, MD, JD

Dr. Vineeta Gupta describes the conditions in India and the socioeconomic challenges which inhibit the pandemic's control. The impact of the Delta (B1617.2) Variant on India and the United States is also discussed. <https://youtu.be/vsOj76yBH9g>

COVID-19: Lessons Learned in Spain

Dr. Jesús Rodríguez-Baño, MD, PhD from University Hospital Virgen Macarena, University of Sevilla discusses Spain's COVID-19 response. Spain is a federated nation. The country underwent three waves. During the first wave a national emergency was declared, and a hard lockdown was enacted. In the second and third waves regional governments guided the response. During these waves there were limits on gatherings and universal masking was mandated. Spain did not have a well-developed anti-vaccination movement as was seen in other European countries. However, the COVID-19 response became politicized during the second and third waves, a phenomenon seen in several other countries, including the United States. There was also intense discussion over the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Politics and economics took the lead in some of the decisions instead of healthcare, but everyone agreed there needs to be a balance in every decision taken. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/pWuu10Gg7ro>

COVID-19: Lessons Learned in Germany

Dr. Sebastian Hoehl presents on COVID-19 lessons learned in Germany. Dr. Hoehl was one of the first to recognize that asymptomatic spread is a major contributor to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. In his presentation he discusses strategies used by Germany to quell COVID-19 surges and the importance of frequent testing in the opening of schools. He also discusses the social disparities of COVID-19 and how it targets and disproportionately affects the socially disadvantaged. YouTube Video: https://youtu.be/_9is03QomGI

COVID-19: Lessons Learned In The United Kingdom

Dr. Stephanie Dancer provides an extensive description of how SARS-CoV-2 spreads and the importance of aerosolization. COVID-19 clusters at NHS Lanarkshire, Scotland, was caused by spread from the community, and was transmitted in hospitals by both patients and staff. Corrective measures included the use of masks, opening of windows and minimizing the risks in bathrooms and of toilet plumes. Air exchanges in most hospitals were deficient. They were improved to six complete air exchanges per hour for general wards and ten for bathrooms. Proper building ventilation is of utmost importance in controlling respiratory pathogens. YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/sMW3wUWUboA>

COVID-19: Lessons Learned in the United States

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh from Health Watch USAsm discusses how the United States has viewed and dealt with COVID-19. Barriers to true acceptance are exemplified by Kubler-Ross stages of grief: Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression and Final Acceptance. The role of foreign adversaries and misinformation is

discussed and how this is preventing true acceptance of COVID-19 and an effective pandemic response.
YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/eV8lBv7ADU4>

COVID-19: Comments Regarding Variants

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh Discusses COVID-19 Variants

1. The Delta Variant detected in The United States & the need for more genomic sequencing to detect community spread.
2. Mutations and Variants can be tracked on the websites.
<https://nextstrain.org/> and <https://outbreak.info/>
3. How Variants are named and How The Spanish Flu Got its Name.
4. Almost all nations in almost all pandemics mitigate the severity and extent of disease and deaths.

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/U9Xs6JizJSE>

COVID-19: Veteran Administration's Fourth Mission

Acting Deputy Secretary Carolyn Clancy and Under Secretary Dr. Beth Taylor discusses the Veteran Administration's fourth mission to aid and support state and local health care systems in times of pandemics and other health emergencies. The presentation details the Veterans Administration activities to support health care systems during the COVID-19 pandemic along with lessons learned during the reassignment of resources and staff to support the United States' pandemic response. YouTube Video:

<https://youtu.be/oBtNJeoNW2k>

=====

**To subscribe to Health Watch USAsm
newsletter go to:**

<https://healthwatchusa2016.hosted.phplist.com/lists/?p=subscribe&id=1>



Visit and "Like" HW USA's Facebook Page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthWatchUsa>

