Amid second-largest wave of COVID infections in the US, Florida’s surgeon general calls to halt mRNA vaccines

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On Friday, wastewater data from Biobot Analytics and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) affirmed that the US has now reached its second-highest level of COVID-19 infections of the pandemic. It is anticipated that by midweek, rates of infections will reach 2 million per day with approximately one in 24 people infectious in the population, and up to 100 million Americans could be infected over the entire course of the wave.

Hospitalizations have been climbing fast since the beginning of November, up more than twofold at close to 35,000 COVID admissions for the week ending December 30, 2023, and approaching the highs seen last winter.

Deaths have also been trending upwards, having reached over 1,600 for the week ending December 9. Given the current rates of hospitalizations and the dominance of the JN.1 variant, which the CDC estimated Friday now accounts for 61.6 percent of all sequenced cases, one can assume fatalities will continue their upward trajectory through December and into January.

Dr. David Christopher, an Ohio emergency room doctor, recently warned on his social media, “It’s a total plague ward sh*tshow in most Emergency Departments right now. Don’t believe me? Then ask anyone you know who works in one. If they’re being honest, willing to talk and aren’t too exhausted you’ll likely hear some horror stories. It hasn’t been this bad since December 2021.”

The same crisis conditions are happening throughout the Northern Hemisphere, including in Canada. Ontario-based senior scientist and epidemiologist Dr. Diego Bassani wrote, “Third highest number of daily hospital admissions in Ontario since the pandemic started was reached on January 1, 2024, and school has not even resumed yet. Another very normal new year.”

Mask mandates have once again been implemented at a number of hospital chains in the US and other countries, as COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens are overwhelming health systems globally.

Amid the rapidly rising tide of COVID infections and hospitalizations in the US, Florida’s reactionary anti-vaccine surgeon general, Harvard-trained Dr. Joseph Ladapo, has issued a call to halt the use of anti-COVID-19 mRNA vaccines across his state.

As a public health initiative, especially with the growing height of the current surge, this maneuver is criminally dangerous and politically motivated to garner the attention and approval of the fascistic right in the upcoming Iowa caucuses, where Governor Ron DeSantis trails former President Donald Trump. Ladapo’s call to stop vaccinations is akin to advocating the abandonment of safety belts while driving in dense traffic at high velocities.

Ladapo, employing tactics familiar from anti-vaccine organizations, pseudo-scientific reasoning and willful disinformation and omission, baselessly claims that the minute fragments of DNA that remain after the mRNA vaccine manufacturing process could somehow integrate themselves into one’s DNA and potentially cause cancers, impact chromosomes and have unintended consequences for varied organs including the testes and ovaries, which could then transmit these health problems to offspring. All of this is total nonsense and blatant disinformation.

The mass production of the lifesaving mRNA vaccines entails the use of bacterial DNA to amplify the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, which are then chemically released and cut into linear DNA pieces and converted into the necessary mRNA. Enzymes are then added to chop any remaining DNA into tiny harmless fragments.

Although other vaccines employ their own production methods, the use of cell cultures means DNA fragments are present in such treatments, including the COVID vaccines. Furthermore, the foods we eat and infections we catch with bacteria, fungi and viral pathogens means we are constantly exposed to DNA fragments from a variety of sources.

Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, who also serves as an FDA advisory committee member for the COVID vaccines, explained that any vaccine grown in cells, including measles and chickenpox vaccines, will have traces of harmless DNA fragments. “There are trace quantities of DNA (billionths to trillionths of a gram) per vaccine dose, which is utterly and completely harmless for several reasons.”

Among these reasons, the first is that the DNA fragments would have to enter a cell’s cytoplasm, which hate foreign DNA and employ several molecular/immunological mechanisms to destroy these fragments. Unlikely to survive the cytoplasm, the DNA fragments would then have to cross the nuclear membrane into the nucleus where the DNA is stored, but this requires that they...
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Australia have repeatedly analyzed batches of these mRNA
COVID vaccines and have emphatically stated that they have
found no safety concerns related to these residual fragments of
DNA that have been identified.

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