

ADDENDUM TO TESTIMONY OF CLAIRE MORTIMER, FNP IN FAVOR OF LD 867

In my private medical practice over the past four months **83%** of the patients with COVID-19 infection who required medical treatment and who I have kept out of the hospital have been **fully vaccinated for COVID**.

The manufacturers of these COVID vaccines have never claimed that they prevent infection or transmission of COVID infection.

These vaccines are not neutralizing vaccines, like other vaccines. This is a significant difference.

It is clear to me that although the vaccines provided some protection for the first few months after injection, the science now shows that the protection with boosters is very short-lived and minimal.

In the field of vaccinology, when the effectiveness falls below 50%, it is categorized as a **vaccine failure**, not a "break-through infection". The effectiveness of the COVID injections has fallen into that category since delta variant and omicron variant have dominated the circulating coronavirus in Maine.

At this point in time, the risks of the vaccines for most individuals is greater than the diminishing and short-lived benefit.

I also wish to comment on the phenomenon of **natural immunity**, which is the strongest immunity to COVID-19 infection. Natural immunity occurs when a person has been infected with COVID-19, then recovers and tests negative.

Those people with natural immunity are the safest people to be around, because they are the least likely to be infected, and they are the least likely to transmit the infection. Those with natural immunity have both antibodies and robust T cell immunity.

Natural immunity is the goal of herd immunity.

Natural immunity is the path to ending the pandemic because is the strongest obstacle to spreading the infection.

People with natural immunity, particularly health workers who have become infected as a result of the work they do, should be working with the elderly and the immune-compromised because they pose the least danger to others. Instead, health care workers with natural immunity have been fired and taken away from the bedside because they wisely chose not to take a vaccine that gives no benefit to them - only risks.

The recent policy change of allowing COVID infected people return to work as soon as 5 days after testing positive when they are still likely infectious is very dangerous, especially when health care workers are pressured to return to work too soon for patient safety. When there are so many health care workers with natural immunity wanting to return to work, it is very unwise and unsafe to instead push infected workers back to work before they want to or should.

These policies are not based on science.

I can provide citations from scientific journals for my statements.

Please note that data presented at the hearing regarding numbers of vaccinated vs unvaccinated hospitalized for COVID-19 infections define anyone who has not received a booster as unvaccinated.

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