

Comments from Bob Midden  
Regarding Enforcement of the CMS Rule  
by the Wood County Board of Health

1. More than 160 valid, authentic scientific studies have documented the effectiveness of the vaccine.
2. Extensive double-blind clinical studies have demonstrated much greater rates of adverse events and severe health problems for those infected with COVID-19 than for those who have been vaccinated. While long-term effects of the vaccine are not known beyond about a year, long-term effects of COVID-19 are also not known. But there is more evidence that COVID-19 will cause long-term adverse effects than the vaccine. Long-term adverse effects of vaccines are very rare. Some scientific studies have estimated that as many as 7-50% of people who have COVID-19 will suffer some type of prolonged adverse health effects including fatigue, cognitive impairment, and long-term damage to some body systems and organs, as well as death and disability.
3. The concept that the decisions that we make about our own health practices do not affect others is a fallacy.
  - a. Those who are not vaccinated are much more likely to be infected. Infected people can transmit the virus. Thus, those who are not vaccinated pose a higher risk of infecting others and spreading COVID-19. This prolongs and expands the effects of the pandemic including adverse effects on public health and on the economy.
  - b. Health care resources are limited. Unvaccinated people are more likely to need health care. Recently, all of the hospitals in the area have been on emergency bypass because their emergency rooms had no remaining capacity for new patients. This is due, in part, to the number of people with COVID-19 needing care. This has almost never happened before. This has occurred in very many other places throughout the country and around the world. Elective surgeries sometimes need to be delayed and consultations with physicians sometimes have to be scheduled far in advance because there are so many patients with COVID-19.
  - c. Unvaccinated people who become infected are hosts for the virus to mutate. The more infected people there are, the more opportunity there is for the virus to mutate to a form that is resistant to the immunity that is generated by existing vaccines. If that happens, those who chose to be vaccinated may no longer be protected or their protection may not be as strong due to decisions by some not to be vaccinated.
  - d. The cost of medical insurance depends on the shared costs of medical insurance for everyone insured by a specific plan. I received a rebate in the past when the health care costs for my medical insurance plan were lower than anticipated. When the health care costs are higher than anticipated, my insurance premium increases. Those who are not vaccinated are more likely to incur greater health care costs and that could lead to increases in insurance premiums. Likewise, the taxes we pay to cover Medicare and Medicaid costs could need to increase if there are more health care costs.

- Because unvaccinated people are more likely to develop COVID-19 and have more severe cases they are likely to increase total health care costs.
- e. Those who are not vaccinated are more likely to become sick or die and that reduces their ability to contribute to our economy which affects us all.
  - f. Thus, we help to protect each other, not only ourselves, by being vaccinated and using face masks. I was vaccinated as soon as I could be and I use face masks in public even though I am vaccinated, in part to protect myself, but even more importantly, to help protect you.
  - g. It is a duty of the Board of Health to protect the health of everyone in our County and thus it is our duty to promote vaccination of everyone who is eligible and to establish policies, rules, and regulations that enforce this within the limits of our legal authority. It is important that we explain this to others who may be misinformed or have serious misconceptions about this. Vaccination and use of face masks to reduce virus transmission is, in fact, a civic duty. We are truly all in this together!!
4. Three hundred million people died from smallpox in the 20<sup>th</sup> century prior to 1978. No one has died from smallpox in the last 40 years because of vaccines. A courageous, creative, and incredibly dedicated and hard-working group of public health and medical practitioners starting in the late 1950s and continuing until 1977 scoured the globe finding every smallpox outbreak and vaccinating people to terminate those outbreaks. They persisted despite encountering resistance to vaccination and many who believed it should be their right to resist vaccination. If that right had been respected, some of you who are here today, might not have been here because you died from smallpox or you might be carrying the scars of that dreaded disease. It was due to the courage of those workers and VACCINATION that we no longer have to worry about dying or disfigurement from smallpox. Variolation was a method used to protect people from smallpox in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The death rate was about 1% (1 in 100) but very many people chose that because it was much better odds than smallpox which killed 30%. Indeed, royalty were some of the first people to adopt this practice even though variolation caused the death of [Prince Octavius of Great Britain](#), the eighth son of [King George III](#) in 1783. Nevertheless, most people chose variolation because of the better odds it gave for surviving a case of smallpox. About 1.6% of people who contract COVID-19 die but less than 0.0003% of people die from vaccination so you are more than 6,000 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than from vaccination. Furthermore, the adverse health effects including long term effects are much more severe and much greater for COVID-19 than for vaccination.
  5. The mission of Wood County Health Department is to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles and protect the health of everyone in Wood County. The Bylaws of the Board of Health state under Board Duties: The Board of Health shall adopt policies and make such orders and regulations as are necessary for the promotion of health, the prevention of disease, and the abatement or suppression of nuisances. The Board shall make such orders and establish such policies as are needed from time to time

- for the administration of the health district to aid in (1) implementing the Board's mission (2) enforcing the standards, rules and requirements of the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Public Health Council, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency; and (3) performing other duties required by state and federal laws and other applicable state and federal agencies.
6. I therefore believe that it is our duty and responsibility to fully enforce the CMS Rule because it will help to prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles and protect the health of everyone in Wood County.
  7. I recognize that some residents of our County are strongly opposed to actions like this such as vaccine mandates. I also recognize that there are some residents of our County who strongly favor it. I believe that, just as courageous public health professionals, practitioners, and workers have in the past, faced resistance, but nevertheless persisted in their efforts to do what was most effective for promoting health and preventing disease, we must do the same and enforce a Rule that is based on sound, valid, and authoritative science and is designed to prevent transmission of disease and protect health.
  8. Science is responsible for virtually all of the improvement in public health since the 18th century including the development of the germ theory of disease, the discovery of the cause of cholera and the means to stop cholera epidemics in London by Dr. John Snow in the mid 19th century, the adoption of sanitation of water by chlorination and major improvements in the cleanliness of cities in the early 20th century (this actually accounts for a greater increase in life span than the development of antibiotics), and the elimination of smallpox from the world by VACCINATION. Now is not the time to abandon science or to neglect its power and value in our efforts to serve the mission of the Health Department. It may not be popular with all of the residents of our County all of the time, but our role is not to seek popularity and instead to work as well as we can to *prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles and protect the health of everyone in Wood County*. We need to be courageous in these efforts and do what is deemed most effective for serving this mission based on the best available scientific evidence.