



TRUST SCIENCE, COMMON SENSE ON VACCINES

Ike Koziol, MD, University Park

The Dec. 1 edition of the Herald-Tribune had two important, contrasting articles.

The first article described the plan by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo to eliminate vaccine mandates for schools.

The second article reported on the fact that global measles cases have dropped 71% over 24 years.

The latter achievement is the result of tremendous advances in vaccines – as well as mandates that require some vaccinations for entry into schools.

Measles is one of our most contagious and viral diseases, and it has spread in many areas of America because of anti-vaccine beliefs.

Polio is a very contagious disease that leads to disability and sometimes death; in fact, at one time it caused thousands of deaths on an annual basis.

It should be a disease of history because Jonas Salk discovered the polio vaccine in 1955.

Should they be guided by scientists with proven track records – or by politicians and a politically driven doctor like Ladapo?

Should they be guided by common sense or false information?

Parents should protect their children. They should follow the science and get their children vaccinated.

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This letter to the Editor from Dr. Koziel was published in September 2025.

DELIVERING SOME FACTS ON VACCINES

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If I were addressing a MAGA convention, here are some questions I would ask the audience:

Have you seen a serious case of measles? (I have – and you do not want that for your family.)

Do you know the severe complications of Hepatitis B? Need a news break? Check out the all new PLAY hub with puzzles, games and more! (They include possible liver damage and death.)

Do you know anyone who had polio? (It is a disease that had been eradicated at one point – and it can cause paralysis and require ventilators for those who are affected.)

More: Florida surgeon general says he doesn't need to study impact of ending vaccine mandate

Have you heard of RSV? (It is a virus that can cause pneumonia.)

Do you know about German measles, chickenpox, tetanus and mumps? (They are diseases that can cause serious illness and even death.)

All of the diseases listed above can be prevented by vaccines.

And in Florida, it used to be required for children to receive some of these excellent vaccines.

But Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo is planning to stop the state requirement for school children to get some vaccinations, which experts agree help to save lives.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Kennedy Jr. has fired the experts and researchers who help ensure these vaccines remain approved.

While Ladapo is a doctor, he is not a virus expert.

And how can you trust RFK Jr., who is a conspiracy theory person?

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