

17 September 2021

## **Open Letter from the UK Medical Freedom Alliance to:**

- Dr Michael Fitzpatrick – Author of Comment in the Telegraph 23 August 2021

### **Re: “Teenagers are mature enough to make up their own minds about the Covid jab”**

The UK Medical Freedom Alliance are an alliance of medical professionals, scientists and lawyers who are campaigning for Informed Consent, Medical Freedom and Bodily Autonomy to be protected and preserved.

We would like to respond to your [Comment](#) published in the Telegraph<sup>i</sup>, which refers to the process of administering Covid-19 vaccinations to teenagers. We have set out below our serious concerns regarding some of your statements, especially as you indicate that you are yourself involved in vaccinating young people.

### **Concerns are mainly related, but not limited to, your misrepresentation of the Covid-19 vaccine safety profile and your depiction of the informed consent process.**

1. We are most alarmed by your apparent lack of awareness of the serious safety concerns regarding the Covid-19 vaccines, that have now been raised by many doctors and scientists across the world. Since the start of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in December 2020, **thousands of vaccine-related illnesses and deaths have been reported** through databases in the US (VAERS<sup>ii</sup>), Europe (Eudravigilance<sup>iii</sup>) and the UK (MHRA<sup>iv</sup>).

In the report published by the MHRA on 18 August 2021, there were **over one million (1,165,636) adverse reactions in the UK**, some of them very serious, including seizures, paralysis, blindness, strokes, blood clots and acute cardiac events. This report includes **1609 fatalities**.

For further details regarding vaccine safety concerns specifically relating to children and teenagers, may we refer you to our [Open letter](#) sent to the MHRA on 7 June 2021<sup>v</sup>.

2. We are genuinely concerned that you would assume implied consent on the basis of attending a vaccination centre and rolling up the sleeve, especially if you extend this assumption to teenagers. We would argue that this does not constitute fully informed consent, as required by law and by the Code of Conduct of the General Medical Council (GMC)<sup>vi</sup>.

Specifically, regarding the Covid-19 vaccines, you will be acutely aware that the majority of the population relies solely on the mainstream media for any information. However, it is the duty and responsibility of medical professionals to scrutinize the scientific literature and safety reports and to share **ALL** known benefits and risks of any medical intervention with their patients before proceeding.

3. You acknowledge that the benefit of vaccination to teenagers will be “relatively small” but feel justified to support them in their wish to protect their family and community, appealing to their “good sense and altruism”. This completely fails to consider that the regulatory Covid-19 vaccine trials have not demonstrated whether asymptomatic infection or transmission is reduced, and therefore the vaccine recipient is likely to still be able to spread the virus to others<sup>vii viii</sup>. It has never been claimed by the vaccine manufacturers that their products will prevent transmission or even infection.

Guidance from the UK government is that vaccinated individuals will still need to socially distance and wear masks<sup>ix</sup>. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently advised that *“preliminary evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who do become infected with the Delta variant can spread the virus to others”*<sup>x</sup>. In these circumstances, **there is simply no justification for suggesting that Covid-19 vaccines benefit the safety of others.**

4. We would argue it is most irresponsible for any medical professional to deprecate the significance of myocarditis, as merely causing “mild and transient symptoms” that are “far more likely to be induced by anxieties”. Myocarditis is potentially life-threatening and life-limiting, both acutely and chronically, and the risk associated with Covid-19 vaccines has been reported specifically in young people<sup>xi</sup>. **The risk of myocarditis following the Covid-19 vaccine appears to be 30-200x the normal background risk**, as shown in a recent presentation by the US CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), who are currently investigating 1200 cases of vaccine-associated myocarditis and pericarditis in the US<sup>xii</sup>.

Although many of these cases are described as “mild” and resolve, myocarditis carries a long-term risk of heart failure, and also may require restricted exercise and medication for several months after recovery. Specifically following the Montgomery ruling regarding informed consent<sup>xiii</sup>, we would suggest that most teenagers would consider this information relevant and important to consider.

5. In this context, we are astonished that you can call the question of extending vaccinations to 16- and 17-year-olds a “kerfuffle”. This is a most serious issue, which may have profound and life-changing, potentially even life-ending, consequences for some healthy children and teenagers.
6. We would suggest that any of your colleagues, who may be concerned about legal liability, have every reason to be concerned. It is essential to note that Covid-19 vaccine manufacturers demanded and were granted exemption from any liability for adverse effects of injury or death caused by their products, as they did not feel they could afford to take on this risk<sup>xiv xv</sup>.

**As manufacturers and distributors have been granted exemption from liability, there is the potential that claims for injury or death resulting from Covid-19 vaccines could be made against the individual administering the vaccine**, and the outcome is likely to rest on the question of whether ALL relevant information was provided to allow fully informed consent to be obtained, as per requirements laid down in law.

7. Your reference to “insecurity and defensiveness of the medical profession”, attacking colleagues who have a greater awareness of these issues and are raising concerns, highlights the lack of due diligence on your behalf, when it comes to scrutinizing the available data. You claim that your role is to “reassure them about vaccination”, when we suggest that your role should be to inform with a balanced representation of benefits and risks to the individual.
8. You state that with previous vaccinations, you “have never felt obliged to read out the small print from the vaccine data sheets”. We suggest that rather than confirming a lack of requirement, this indicates another lack of due process and care on your behalf, as fully informed consent should always be paramount prior to any intervention. Regarding Covid-19 vaccines, there is also significant uncertainty regarding long-term effects, as the regulatory trials have not yet completed. This resulting absence of long-term safety data must be shared with anyone prior to vaccination.

9. We take grave issue with the way you portray the process of obtaining consent, which you describe as a “simple process”. We argue that there is absolutely nothing simple about administering a substance that is still in development and based on completely new gene-based technologies to healthy teenagers, especially in light of the safety signals, referred to above.

You describe the consent process as “merely following the requirements of the official guidelines” when it is **the absolute duty of any health practitioner and required by law to obtain fully informed consent**. Anyone administering a Covid-19 vaccine is legally and ethically obliged to first ensure that all relevant information is provided, specifically with regards to safety and efficacy, and that this information is understood and accepted by the patient before proceeding.

Patronizing patients who may be “not well versed in classical languages”, implying that they are not entitled to be presented with all the information, is not appropriate or acceptable, especially coming from a doctor. It is the responsibility of each practitioner to present the information in a manner that is understandable to the individual.

10. **Informed consent is the cornerstone of good medical practice and is specifically referenced in the NHS Constitution<sup>xvi</sup>**. It is the duty of any GMC registered doctor to “*give patients the information they want or need in a way they can understand*” and also “*treat patients as individuals and respect their dignity*” and respect their right to reach decisions about their treatment and care<sup>xvii</sup>. Under no circumstances may this law be violated or perceived as a mere formality that gets in the way of any attempt to pursue an agenda, whatever that may be.

In the current situation, which is fraught with uncertainty and fear, the public is looking to professionals for balanced and well-resourced advice. We suggest that any medical doctor, and certainly anyone administering Covid-19 vaccines, bears the responsibility to convey information comprehensively and based on all available evidence. You have a privileged and influential position in your Telegraph Column of reaching a large audience, and it is imperative that you hold to the highest standards of ethical medicine based on scientific evidence.

The simplified, one-sided, patronising, and propagandised tone and content of your article fall far below “good medical practice”, disregarding readily accessible safety data and communicating a lack of respect for the right of every individual to be comprehensively informed before giving consent as well as their right to refuse treatment without coercion, penalty or restriction being applied.

**We therefore strongly recommend that you immediately review and redact your statements and issue a more balanced version of your article, including comprehensive and scientifically validated information regarding the available evidence on safety concerns in teenagers.**

We implore you to consider that the first principle of all medical practice is to “first do no harm”.

We thank you for reading this letter and sincerely hope you consider its contents in full.

UK Medical Freedom Alliance

[www.ukmedfreedom.org](http://www.ukmedfreedom.org)

Cc: The Telegraph



- 
- <sup>i</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/health-fitness/doctors-diary/teenagers-mature-enough-make-minds-covid-jab/>
- <sup>ii</sup> <https://www.openvaers.com/covid-data>
- <sup>iii</sup> <http://www.adrreports.eu/en/index.html>
- <sup>iv</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-adverse-reactions>
- <sup>v</sup> [https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5fa5866942937a4d73918723/60bf3f0affc4e3bf7d28d17f\\_UKMFA\\_Open\\_Letter\\_MHRA\\_Vaccines\\_Children.pdf](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5fa5866942937a4d73918723/60bf3f0affc4e3bf7d28d17f_UKMFA_Open_Letter_MHRA_Vaccines_Children.pdf)
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-medical-practice/duties-of-a-doctor>
- <sup>vii</sup> <https://www.businessinsider.com/who-says-no-evidence-coronavirus-vaccine-prevent-transmissions-2020-12?r=US&IR=T>
- <sup>viii</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/371/bmj.m4037.full.pdf>
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9126855/People-social-distancing-wearing-masks-getting-Covid-vaccine.html>
- <sup>x</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
- <sup>xi</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/myocarditis.html>
- <sup>xii</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/acip/meetings/downloads/slides-2021-06/03-COVID-Shimabukuro-508.pdf>
- <sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2013-0136-judgment.pdf>
- <sup>xiv</sup> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2030600>
- <sup>xv</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/coronavirus-pfizer-vaccine-legal-indemnity-safety-ministersb1765124.html>
- <sup>xvi</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>
- <sup>xvii</sup> <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-medical-practice/duties-of-a-doctor>