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Coronavirus vaccination - Is it ethical to vaccinate children to protect the elderly?

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To: Brendan.Murphy@health.gov.au

Mon, Sep 7, 2020 at 2:53 PM

For the attention of:

Dr Brendan Murphy
Secretary, Department of Health
Chair of the COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments for Australia - Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group

Dear Dr Murphy, it's astonishing to see the global 'race for coronavirus vaccines' currently underway, apparently at the behest of software billionaire Bill Gates.[1]

Have public health authorities properly considered the implications of implementing fast-tracked experimental coronavirus vaccine products across the global population, probably on an annual basis?

This is an extraordinary development on the back of a virus that appears to not be a threat to most people.

Dr Murphy, I question whether it's ethical to implement global coronavirus vaccination, particularly as children and young people and others do not seem to be too adversely affected.

In this regard, I request you consider my argument included in my recent rapid response published on The BMJ - **Is it ethical to vaccinate children to protect the elderly?** 5 August 2020, i.e.

I was astonished recently to read in The Guardian that children in the UK are given the nasal spray flu vaccine to protect their grandparents, even though children do not often get severe flu.

This was acknowledged by Professor Peter Openshaw, from Imperial College London, one of the members of the UK's Sage scientific advisory sub-group Nervtag, during a House of Lords science and technology committee meeting in June to discuss COVID-19 vaccine development.

And now there are plans afoot to vaccinate children against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 to protect the elderly.

According to The Guardian article "A vaccine against Covid-19 may not work well in older people who are most at risk of becoming seriously ill and dying from the disease..." and this "may mean immunising others around them, such as children".

It's been reported that most paediatric cases with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection are mild and severe COVID-19 disease in children is rare. (See comment published in The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health.)

How can it be ethical to vaccinate mass populations of children against SARS-CoV-2 to protect the elderly if most SARS-CoV-2 infections in children are mild, and severe COVID-19 disease in children is rare?

How can it be ethical to vaccinate mass populations of children against flu if children do not often get severe flu?

Vaccinations are medical interventions which have risks. It seems to me unethical to vaccinate someone against a disease which is not a significant threat to them to protect others, e.g. the elderly. This is a particularly serious matter to consider in countries which have coercive vaccination policies, e.g. Australia and the United States.

And now Reuters reports "AstraZeneca has been granted protection from future product liability claims related to its COVID-19 vaccine hopeful by most of the countries with which it has struck supply agreements..."

According to Reuters, Ruud Dobber, a member of Astra's senior executive team, said "This is a unique situation where we as a company simply cannot take the risk if in...four years the vaccine is showing side effects".

So AstraZeneca has been granted protection from future product liability, and children around the world will be left with the risk of side effects in order to supposedly protect the elderly.

In my opinion this is not ethical.

What do doctors think about this, about vaccinating children with flu vaccines and future coronavirus vaccines to supposedly protect the elderly?

This is not to negate the risks of flu and SARS-CoV-2 for the elderly, but efforts should be concentrated on finding medications to help them directly, children's right to their own natural defences should not be sacrificed in this regard.

Dr Murphy, I request your consideration of this email and my BMJ rapid response, and your open reply.

This is an important matter of national and international public interest, relevant to taxpayer-funded, and potentially coercive, vaccination policy.

Please forward this email to independent advisers Mr John Anderson, Mr Rob Hetherington and Ms Kirsten O'Doherty. I have forwarded this email directly to other members.

Yours sincerely
Elizabeth Hart

Independent citizen investigating the over-use of vaccine products and conflicts of interest in vaccination policy

Reference:

1. According to Bill Gates: "Humankind has never had a more urgent task than creating broad immunity for coronavirus. Realistically, if we're going to return to normal, we need to develop a safe, effective vaccine. We need to make billions of doses, we need to get them out to every part of the world, and we need all of this to happen as quickly as possible." What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine. 30 April 2020: <https://www.gatesnotes.com/Health/What-you-need-to-know-about-the-COVID-19-vaccine> The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is currently the top donor of the World Health Organisation, with the BMGF founded-Gavi Alliance in fourth place, behind the United States and the UK. World Health Organization Contributors - updated until Q2-2020: <https://open.who.int/2020-21/contributors/contributor>