



# The Hancock County Democrat

## Hancock County Democratic Party

### Will A Vaccine Make It All Go Away?

**Bruce Workman**

Yes, I constantly find new things to worry about. Why do you ask? In recent newsletters, I may have casually mentioned my observations on the lack of social responsibility by those who fail to follow safe practices during the current pandemic. This week, I have come up with a new fly in the punchbowl. The attack of the anti-vaxxers!

For a vaccine to be truly effective, herd immunity must be established. Herd immunity is the point where enough people are immune so that even those who do not have immunity are protected from infection. Herd immunity is usually achieved when 70 – 90% of the population, depending on how contagious the infection is, have achieved immunity via vaccination. Can we achieve even half of the required number? In addition to supply issues, will anti-vaxxers make the number even lower?

When I first attended Lincoln School (Mrs. Sharpio’s, Kindergarten) I was required to have been vaccinated for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTP), and polio (IPV). This was before the MMR vaccine. I achieved active immunity from those by contracting all three.

One disease to which we achieved herd immunity was smallpox. Originally brought to the Americas by Christopher Columbus as another gift to the indigenous population (Native Americans have so much to be thankful for) it quickly decimated the population of the island the locals called Guanahani. I can vividly remember the horror stories we told each other in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade while waiting in line to get the smallpox vaccine. These included the nurse slipping and shredding the upper arm so badly the bicep was exposed (I am now sure this never happened). By 1977 smallpox was eradicated, due to the vaccination program initiated by the World Health Organization (the same WHO that Trump wants to defund). If not for a few rogue nations (including the US) keeping the virus alive for “research purposes”, there would be no variola virus left in the world. We have come close to achieving herd immunity to other diseases, but efforts were thwarted by large groups of parents who refused to have their children vaccinated.

The anti-vaccination movement is not new, and the membership has remained similar; upper and middle-class citizens who didn’t trust government, science, or medicine. In 1796, Edward Jenner, a British doctor, discovered he could make a child immune to smallpox by taking lymph from a cowpox blister and transferring it to the child. His method with resistance but came to New England in 1800 and was embraced by Thomas Jefferson. In addition to the usual reasons, Jenner’s vaccine was met with objections for the clergy who believed the injection of something that came from an animal into a human was unholy. (continued on page 2)

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**The Historical  
Medical Library of  
The College of  
Physicians of  
Philadelphia**

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In 1879 the Anti Vaccination Society was formed, followed by other analogous organizations in the following decades. Lawsuits challenging various city and state mandatory smallpox vaccination statutes ensued. Following an outbreak of smallpox, the board of health of the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts instituted a mandatory vaccination program for all residents of the city. One resident refused vaccination and criminal charges were filed against him. His appeal went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in the city's favor in 1905 and established the state's right to enact laws to the public in the event of a communicable disease, thus ending lawsuits as a tool of the anti-vaxxers.

Things were relatively quiet until the 1970s after a report was issued by a children's hospital in London reported that 36 children acquired neurological disorders following DTP vaccinations. Decreasing vaccinations resulted in three major outbreaks of whooping cough. An independent expert committee was formed and confirmed the safety of the DTP vaccine.

Another British doctor (or quack), Andrew Wakefield suggested, in 1998, that further research should be done on a possible link between the MMR vaccine and autism and bowel disease. He later alleged the vaccine had not been thoroughly tested for safety before release. The journal that published Wakefield's "findings, *Lancet*, later stated they should not have published his work. The independent regulatory agency for doctors in the UK found the Wakefield had a major conflict of interest. He had been paid by a law firm, representing parents who thought the vaccine had harmed their children, to find evidence to support the case. Reports by journalist Brian Deer presented evidence that Wakefield had falsified his data hoped to profit financially from the investigation. Wakefield had his license revoked and can no longer practice medicine..

Since that time, several research studies have failed to find any link between the MMR vaccine and autism. The vaccine has been scientifically proven to be safe. Science has never deterred the hard-core anti-vaxxers. Jenny McCarthy, 1994 Playmate of the Year, mediocre actress, sub-mediocre author, television host, college dropout, and fulltime bimbo, had a son who was later diagnosed with autism. While this is unfortunate and cause for sympathy, it is her need to assign blame that gets her a hall of shame mention. The need to assign blame is not uncommon and is the motivation behind every conspiracy "theory" (I hate using the word in this context). The one common factor in all of these wild speculations (much better) is the lack of a factual foundation. Some are relatively harmless, and some are very deleterious. Jenny McCarthy's campaign is extremely harmful and based on anecdotal evidence at best. She even relies on Wakefield's discredited research to make her case on *The View* and any other forum she could find.

Much of the controversy surrounds the use of the preservative and antifungal agent, thimerosal, an ethylmercury compound, formerly used in some flu vaccines. Even those numerous studies have found that thimerosal used in the dosage found in vaccines does not contribute to the development of autism, it was taken out of childhood vaccines in 2001. Thimerosal was never used in MMR, chicken pos, IPV (polio), or pneumococcal vaccines autism rates have increased since 2001, yet the ranting continues.

Anti-vaxxer parents continue to insist that is their inherent to determine what is best for their children. I have numerous objections to this line of thinking. First, it assumes that the children are legally at the complete mercy of the parents whether they are benevolent or not. Second, nearly anyone can become a parent . (continued on page 3)

## Will A Vaccine Make It All Go Away? (continued from page 2)

There are no qualifications, tests, licensing requirements, or even basic competency assessments. Third and most important, it denies any social responsibility to the surrounding community and the children of other parents.

It is apparent the anti-vaxxer movement has no basis in science, social responsibility, or the ability to reason logically. Therefore, I believe it safe to assume that many will refuse to have themselves or their children vaccinated once a safe COVID-19 vaccination becomes available. This

virtually assures that SARS-CoV-2 or one of the other variations of coronavirus, such as MERS-CoV or SARS-CoV, will make a reappearance in future years. Now there is something to worry about!

**“It is apparent the anti-vaxxer movement has no basis in science, social responsibility, or the ability to reason logically “**

## Donald Trump Listens to His Gut. And It’s the Gut of a Racist. David Corn Washington DC, Bureau Chief, Mother Jones

Slipping in the polls, Trump ratchets up the racism.

With the coronavirus pandemic surging—and deaths and hospitalizations once again increasing—President Trump chose to start this week by attacking a race-car driver. Why would he do that? Simply, because the man is Black. Trump has a track record of demonizing Black sports figure, and with this assault, Trump was opening yet another front in the racist culture war that he is waging to solidify his shrinking electoral base and to distract from the killer virus that he has miserably failed to thwart. On Monday, Trump [called on](#) Bubba Wallace, the only Black full-time NASCAR driver, to apologize for the recent episode in which a noose was found in a garage Wallace used.

Trump accused Wallace of perpetuating a “hoax.” But there was none. A noose had been found, but an FBI [investigation](#) determined that it had been placed in this garage prior to Wallace using this facility

and that there was no hate crime directed at the driver. End of story. But Trump decided to pour gasoline and light a match. And to further inflame, he linked this controversy to NASCAR’s decision to ban the Confederate flag from its events. So in one tweet—which came days after Trump gave speeches that equated preserving the so-called Confederate heritage with celebrating American greatness—Trump both called on a Black man to bend a knee (before his white colleagues) and unabashedly defended the Confederate flag.

This was hardly new territory for Trump. He has often targeted his white wrath on Black athletes. He [derided](#) NBA superstar LeBron James as dumb. He denounced NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who kneeled to protest police violence, [saying](#) Kaepernick ought to leave the United States and referring to protesters who took a knee as a “a son of a bitch.” And, of course, Trump has a long history of racism and bigotry. His family real estate business [discriminated](#) against Black renters. (continued on page 4)



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claytoonz.com

## Donald Trump Listens to His Gut. And It's the Gut of a Racist. (continued from page 3)



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He led a racist campaign against the Central Park Five. He became a darling of the conservative movement by advancing the racist birther conspiracy theory that claimed President Barack Obama was born in Kenya. During the last presidential campaign, he proposed “a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on.” It goes on and on: refusing to disavow David Duke, referring to Mexicans as “rapists,” insisting there were “very fine people” at the racist and anti-Semitic Charlottesville protest. Last month, Trump retweeted a video showing a supporter of his shouting “white power.” (After that made headlines, Trump deleted the tweet but refused to apologize or disavow the original video.)

Trump’s baseless and fact-free slam on Wallace was not shocking. He was sticking with his effort to change the channel from pandemic deaths and economic calamity to a race-driven political civil war. In recent weeks, as he has given up on leading the nation through the coronavirus crisis, Trump has increasingly amped up the demagoguery, depicting Black Lives Matter protests and the destruction of Confederate (and other) monuments as the No. 1 threat to the United States. And his strike on Wallace, while heavy-handed, blunt, and inaccurate, also had a twist to it.

As he aims to whip up his extremist base—apparently believing that is his only chance of victory in November—Trump realizes that his Confederate flag-waving loyalists and other of his supporters resent being called racists. In fact, much of the conservative movement for decades has sucked at the teat of anti-racism, insisting that liberals and many Black critics have been too quick to hurl the charge of discrimination. With

his blast on Wallace and his untrue depiction of the noose incident as a “hoax” that Wallace somehow cooked up—as if this episode was similar, as White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany actually said, to [the Jussie Smollett case](#)—Trump was signaling to his devotees that, yes, you see, all these charges of racism are phony-baloney. That is, racism is not the problem; the real threat to the nation is false accusations of racism. So when *you* are called a racist, well, that’s just another hoax.

Trump does try to have it both ways. He constantly asserts he has done more for Black Americans than any president since Abraham Lincoln. (Fact-check: LOL.) When Trump held his first post-pandemic campaign rally at a Tulsa arena, his campaign flew in two dozen members of its Black Voices for Trump group and displayed them prominently at the event. (Herman Cain, the 74-year-old co-chair of this outfit who attended the rally without wearing a mask, was subsequently [hospitalized](#) for COVID-19.) And Trumpworld does push back whenever Trump’s racism arises as an issue. As reporters at the *Washington Post* were examining Trump’s recent attempts at “amplifying racism and stoking culture wars,” they reached out to Armstrong Williams, a Black conservative and Trump supporter, who defended Trump with this curious [statement](#): “President Trump has been more exposed to black people, black leaders and black culture than most previous presidents. He doesn’t see the implications of his tweets in the way that his critics do. He just loves his supporters.” So the president doesn’t understand what it means to tweet out a video of a supporter yelling “white power”? Williams then deployed the some-of-his-best-friends defense: “This is someone [who spoke at length on the phone to Don King](#) on election night—I was with Trump when he took the call. White House. That’s who Trump is.” (continued on page 5).

## Donald Trump Listens to His Gut. And It's the Gut of a Racist. (continued from page 4)

Williams was scraping the bottom of the barrel.

Trump's latest weaponizing of racism is an audacious move: he is embracing white supremacy (or its most powerful symbols) *and* absolving racists of being racists. Most political strategists would tell a candidate slipping in the polls because of his divisiveness and incompetence to be less divisive and more competent. But as Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and adviser, recently [remarked](#), "He's really the campaign manager at the end of the day."

At the start of this week, Trump's White House was prepping to promote talking points hailing the economy. But Trump had another plan. He blew that up with one racist tweet. His fans, advisers, and apologists often say Trump follows his own instincts and calls his own shots. As his presidency heads toward bankruptcy—as thousands of Americans continue to die in the pandemic and as tens of millions remain out of work—Trump is holding on to what he knows best: demagoguery and hate. He is indeed listening to his gut, and it's a cauldron of racist bile.

**"This is someone who welcomed Kanye West at the White House. That's who Trump is."**

## The Confederate Flag Bill Workman

I was pleasantly surprised recently when I saw a vehicle drive by flying the American flag. Too often I have seen vehicles around town flying both the American flag and a Confederate flag together, sometimes only a Confederate flag or a Confederate flag license plate is displayed on a vehicle. I have even seen a few Confederate flags flying in front of houses.

When I see the Confederate flag proudly displayed in public, it angers me for 2 reasons.

1)The Confederate flag is antithetical to the official Flag of the United States of America. One ideal our American flag represents is the evolving premise stated in the Declaration Of Independence published on July 4, 1776 "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Conversely, the Confederate flag is representative of the horrendous opposing notion that fellow human beings can be enslaved because of race.

2)The Confederate flag is a flag of treason.

Article III Section 3 of the US Constitution which was ratified on June 21, 1788, stated: "Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort." On April 12, 1861, at 4:30 AM, Secessionist forces began bombarding Fort Sumter defended by United States soldiers flying the American flag. After 34 hours the United States military forces at Fort Sumter surrendered to Rebel forces. Thus, began the Civil War. Rebel forces started a destructive war against the United States of America with an estimate of 750,000 soldiers killed in 4 years. The Confederacy became an enemy of the United States.

When I see the Confederate flag still being proudly displayed in public, I wonder if the person flying that flag is either ignorant of the true history of the Confederate flag or worse he or she supports what that flag stood for, racism, the subjugation and hate of fellow human beings based on race.

## Weekly News Update

[ICE tells foreign students if their college goes to a complete online schedule, then they must either provide proof that they have transferred to a school that has in-person classes or leave the country.](#)

[Lindsey Graham's Democratic Opponent, Jamie Harrison, is raising absurd amounts of campaign cash. The last poll rated the race as a dead heat.](#)

[Coronavirus 2020 Outbreak: Latest Updates as of July 7 5:23 p.m.](#)

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["USA v Scott" and the Fight to Prove That Humanitarian Aid Is Not a Crime](#)

[Supreme Court says Manhattan prosecutor may pursue Trump's financial records, denies Congress access for now](#)

[Build Back Better: Joe Biden's Jobs and Economic Recovery Plan for Working Families](#)

**Saturday July 11, 2020** Nick Rubando Virtual Fundraiser with Congressman Tim Ryan [Facebook Live](#) 7:00—9:00pm

**Sunday July 12, 2020**

**Monday July 13, 2020** Hancock Democratic Party July Meeting  
Zoom 7:30pm

**Tuesday July 14, 2020**

**Wednesday July15, 2020**

**Thursday July 16, 2020**

**Friday July 17, 2020**

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*Our mission is to support, promote, build and perpetuate the Democratic Party in Hancock County, Ohio, by recruiting, screening, and training qualified Candidates, raising funds, registering voters, distributing literature, advertising, and doing other such appropriate activities.*



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<https://hancockcountydems.org>

