

Good afternoon,

I am a mother of 3 beautiful children. Since their birth, my goal has been, day in and day out, to keep them safe, healthy, and happy. As this past year has progressed, I've seen more and more "writing on the wall" of things to come that make me terrified for my children. This massive push to force children, who are at nearly a 0% risk of getting this virus, to partake in a medical experiment with no equal to date is at best unsettling, and at worst, a potential point of no return.

I will not let my children be a part of this experiment. I am a highly educated health professional. I've done the research. I've weighed the pros and cons, and have decided that for my children, the risks of this unknown therapeutic outweigh the potential benefits. My right as a parent to determine what is best for my child shouldn't be at the cost of my children becoming lepers, having their "unpopular" choice made public by forcing them to wear a mask or refusing to allow them to attend school. If the shot works, then no one should be worried about whether my child has it or not if they've determined the shot is something they want their own child to have.

More importantly, we are on a precipice. If we step off this ledge and go down the road of making private health information public domain, of allowing personal health decisions to dictate the life one is allowed to live in our society, there's no turning back. Every new therapeutic can be deemed necessary for the "public good" at the whim of whichever politicians are in office. It will open the door to further discrimination by businesses, asking for proof of being free from other diseases. What stops the government from deciding it is in the best interest of the public for all women to be on birth control until they're married? 25? etc.? You are on a very slippery slope and the precedent we decide to set today, right now, will be either the moment we fought for and stood up for protecting personal health and medical autonomy, or the moment you allow the state to dictate what is "best" for the citizens.

Please fight to be on the right side of history. No good can come from further division. We have seen the hostility, divide, and hatred a mandate to wear masks has caused; removing our ability to choose what goes into our own bodies and that of our children cannot possibly end well. And when the choice is to comply or to be ostracized, there's really no room for a decision at all.

Thank you for your time and your efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AP' followed by a stylized flourish.

Aubrey Phelps