

Dear Family, - *this is a long letter so please take the time to read it carefully*

I have been requested to express my views on the current dialogue going on some of our group listserves - about covid and vaccination.

I am very well aware that this is a charged subject so I aspire to respect each of your choices and ask you make the same aspiration.

I want to start that my job description as the Pir is to care for and nurture everyone in our Ruhaniat family, not based on conditions. In that sense, even though I may have guidance and preference, I aspire to hold each and every one of you in my Heart and in the Heart of the Lineage stream. Naturally, like all of you, I also aspire to bring that same nurturing to all beings in all realms.

My views may or may not be the view of our [Murshids' Circle](#) or other senior teachers, who have not been consulted. Further, I don't feel it would be wise for me to enter into debate over this, as it is not my field of expertise, but I am happy to share my views.

We have all seen and felt the devastation this pandemic has wrought, not only on those who have/had the disease or even died, and long covid, but on our first responders, on peoples' livelihood, psychological strains, families separated, life interrupted and so on.

Since I am not a scientist or physician, I do my best to make wise decisions based on what I learn from sources I trust and to the best of my ability, can verify. So, I pay close attention to the source of the facts and the expertise of those presenting.

I feel particularly fortunate to be a personal friend of [Dr. Larry Brilliant](#), one of the world's most esteemed epidemiologists.

Some of you may have read his page turner of an autobiography called [Sometimes Brilliant](#) where he shares becoming a physician, traveling to India, becoming a disciple of Maharaji Neem Karoli Baba, getting a job with the World Health Organization in India and then being one of the four main epidemiologists to rid the world of smallpox. Through vaccination and careful contact tracing the scourge of smallpox ended!

I have a close ear to Dr. Larry Brilliant's guidance, which I feel is based on the best science and knowledge that is available to us. ([Click here to read an article written by Dr. Brilliant with other experts in June 2021](#))

With Dr. Brilliant's guidance, I had no question for myself to get vaccinated and was very grateful to the medical community in bringing the vaccine to us so quickly. I believe, special circumstances set aside, that the evidence in the value of getting vaccinated is overwhelming, both from a personal

level and also as a civic responsibility to lessen the field of where the virus can continue to land and spread.

Science has shown that the disease spreads through the air, which shows the efficacy of mask wearing in closed spaces or when close quarters, even outside.

It is remarkable how effective the current vaccines are, especially before this new Delta variant. Even though breakthrough cases were always expected, the Delta variant has shown itself to be far more transmissible than the previous forms of Covid. The current data shows approximately 20% of recent documented cases are breakthroughs, or people who have been vaccinated.

Science doesn't see this as a failure, though it does change the landscape. Facts show unvaccinated people are 5 times more likely to be infected. Further, almost all hospitalizations and deaths today are among the unvaccinated.

Certainly, it does suggest that the vaccinated should also wear masks to protect themselves and others in the same way as unvaccinated.

From my understanding of the science, and my contact with beings I trust, I wholeheartedly recommend everyone get vaccinated, unless there are specific health concerns that contra indicate vaccination. I believe this is the quickest route to our own safety, the safety of others, and will help end the dominance of the covid pandemic.

It is also important to mention that our Ruhaniat family is worldwide. So the bigger picture is that circumstances vary widely from region to region, country to country, climate to climate, for those who have and those who are impoverished, from urban to rural, from areas with more and less covid infection, and so on.

I strongly encourage our governments do a much better job of making the vaccine widely available to each and every human being who wishes access and not make covid a political issue like is happening in my own country. Those governments that have ample supply and means to produce the vaccine should increase production and share the supply, not hoard.

In an article today Dr Brilliant said:

"So far, 15 % of the world population has been inoculated and about 100 countries have vaccinated just 5 per cent of their populations. Unless we vaccinate everyone in 200-plus countries, there will still be new variants."

He further stated,

"... the Delta variant of the coronavirus may be the most contagious virus ever. The good news, however, is that vaccines – especially those that use messenger RNA (mRNA) technology – are effective against the variant that was first spotted in India".

Making aspirations for each and every one to be protected no matter what course of action and protection you practice.

Much love,
Shabda