



ELSEVIER

EDITORIALS

Editorial—We want you vaccinated



The American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons Society is taking a strong stance based on existing science supporting SARS-CoV-2 (Covid) vaccination and will require every attendee at the 2021 annual ASES meeting¹—October 20–23, 2021 in Tampa, Florida—to be fully vaccinated (unless medically exempt).

As of August 5, 2021, more than 200 million cases of Covid have been reported worldwide, with over 35 million infections in the United States alone, and about 5 million in France and Germany.⁶ Other nations have been hit even harder on a per capita basis. There have been more than 4 million deaths across the globe,⁷ still others have struggled with severe infections requiring lengthy hospitalizations, some desperately dealing with debilitating aftereffects, known as “long COVID syndrome.”⁵

The scientific and medical establishment went into overdrive early in the pandemic and by late 2020 produced several vaccines that were approved in the United States and other countries for experimental use authorization. Some of these vaccines used mRNA,^{2,4} an innovative technology, as the carrier to induce immunity. This was an unprecedented accomplishment in mankind’s long struggle against micro-biologic invaders, and the lessons learned from this may produce many long-term benefits for medicine, science, and future patients.

The successes of the vaccination program are truly remarkable—a recent article in *Nature* highlights what we have learned, with more than 1.7 billion doses provided in just 6 months, and underscores the efficacy of vaccination.³

Despite the vaccination success, however, the pandemic lingers on. Multiple variants have appeared, some of which, notably the Delta variant, are more infectious than those with which we have been battling, especially for the unvaccinated. Although we understand that some people have been reluctant to be vaccinated, now more than ever, they need to be vaccinated. To be sure, those propagating fear of vaccinations regrettably have hindered our efforts to conquer COVID and continue to place citizens in the direct path of harm.

The editors of the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery* and the Presidential Lines of the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons and the Société Européenne pour la Chirurgie de l’Epaule et du Coude (SECEC) strongly urge all adults with access to the vaccines to get in line and receive the vaccinations.

This is the only way we are going to end this pandemic, short of acquired immunity from more infections and many more deaths, which is not acceptable. We wear a mask daily in our surgeries, but we’re tired of wearing masks when going to the grocery store, or out to a restaurant, or anywhere. We’re tired of social distancing, and we’d like to go to a movie, or a play, or a ballgame. We’d like to hug somebody again, or at least shake hands.

Let’s end this thing. It has gone on too long. We can do it—get vaccinated.

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