**Speakers**

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Speaker 1

0:02

Okay, as you know, we are working on vaccine hesitancy in some remote areas all around the world and in the US we work on Alaska. So can you please briefly introduce yourself, your age, your occupation, your education background, and how long have you lived in this city in Alaska?

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I moved to Alaska permanently in 2001

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Speaker 2

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and I worked, I've worked in the telecommunications field for the last, I don't know, 20 years or so. So.

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Speaker 1

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And how old are you? Oh, 54 great. So you usually work with people, most of people or not.

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The last two years, I've

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Speaker 2

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been working for a consulting company from home. Great. Okay,

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Speaker 1

1:03

you you didn't get vaccine, right? COVID vaccine, I mean, right. Okay, what's your view about all kind of vaccines, generally, for example, other kind of vaccines, I know that, for example, in the US, most of people, people get flu vaccines or other kind of vaccines, especially for children. How do you think about other kind of vaccines? Not only COVID

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Speaker 2

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I have received vaccines like the yellow fever vaccine for travel, but the annual flu shot does not prove out efficacy. To me, it's kind of a 5050, shot in the dark, and in my office, I've seen people that got the flu shot and got sick.

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So I get the flu, I

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don't know, once every three years or so,

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Speaker 2

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but the risks of injecting myself with whatever else is in those vaccines, the adjuvants, is not worth the

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Speaker 1

2:04

risk to me. Okay, so what was your reason for not getting COVID vaccine? There is absolutely

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Speaker 2

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zero historical safety data on that vaccine.

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You mean? You you needed more, like

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Speaker 1

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research or installation data, historical

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safety data.

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Speaker 2

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It was brand new, pushed, and it was pushed upon the public quickly and forcefully,

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so that, in my mind, is a very strong No,

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Speaker 1

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I see. What about people around you, your community, your family, your colleagues, your friends? Did they get vaccines or not?

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Speaker 2

2:55

Yes, yeah, several people. My boyfriend, he's had every single shot. We have

3:02

a difference of opinion on that.

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Speaker 1

3:04

And did they like wanted to persuade you to get vaccine? Did they talk to you absolutely, absolutely

3:15

okay, to persuade them not to do it,

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Speaker 1

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I see And did you see anybody around you that get vaccine and had some like side effects or any disease after the COVID vaccine? Absolutely.

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Speaker 2

3:31

A friend of mine from Colorado, who is a university at Northern Colorado, within a week, had a blood clot in his kidney and had to have it removed. Oh, my god, yeah. So if vaccine problems, damages from vaccines are extremely rare, then the chances of me knowing somebody with a vaccine

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injury that's pretty rare.

3:55

Yeah.

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Speaker 2

3:59

So seems like there's a lot of clotting problems with those shots.

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Speaker 1

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And you know, you may know lots of people around you that, like yourself, they didn't get vaccines too, right? What? What? What are other reasons except this, like not lacking the historical data for their it's safety. Is there any other reason that other people didn't get vaccine?

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Speaker 2

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Yeah, the they kept moving the goal posts, they said it would prevent transmission, which it did not. The whole push of that

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of those COVID vaccines was

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just constant, moving at the goal

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Speaker 2

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post. They said it would prevent transmission. It did not do that.

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So I don't see

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Speaker 2

4:54

any point in getting them. And there are people that have problems with them. Nice.

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Speaker 1

5:02

You a question about healthcare system totally in Alaska. Are you satisfied with the healthcare system in Alaska, for example, is it affordable for you or for most of people? Is it accessible?

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Speaker 2

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It's very expensive up here, and often people have to travel to Anchorage or down to Seattle for more specialized care. Do

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you think this

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Speaker 1

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not affordability or not accessibility to healthcare system? May be a reason for some people to not get the vaccines.

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Speaker 2

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No, you can get those. You can get those. All of these shots, flu shots, COVID shots, at the pharmacy, in the grocery store, Walgreens, they're

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offered everywhere. Okay,

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Speaker 1

6:01

imagine you are a like policy maker or a decision maker in healthcare system in Alaska, and you want to put a budget in one of these two parts. The first one is infrastructure. I mean, for example, building more hospitals, bringing more specialists to Alaska. Or the other part is some community based activities, like like trust making activities. Which one do you prefer? Which one do you think people in Alaska may more need

6:38

building out the actual infrastructure so

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Speaker 1

6:41

they need more infrastructure. And as I understand, Alaska has two kind of different communities. People live in urban communities or tribal communities, right? So to like persuading people or talking to people about vaccines or giving some information to them.

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How do you think

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Speaker 1

7:13

I mean, policy makers would be more successful, for example, bringing some university professors to get to give some scientific information to people, or bringing a like religious leader or tribal leader to them, to talk to them and persuade them. I mean by by this question, I mean, which one do people more need to hear? For example, they need more scientific information, or they can influence them more by some emotional aspects. I

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Speaker 2

8:00

A it would be better to see the hard data. However, the data on the seat, on the COVID vaccines, for example, the CDC has the data on the safety and efficacy. However, they won't release it. So it would be it would behoove everyone that the data was released. I see that that would help people to make better decisions, but right now, there's

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a fair level of distrust,

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Speaker 1

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yeah, where, where did you expect to see this data or information? For example, how did you like to have this data, for example, you wanted to see them in social media, in like television or published by some scientific channels. Where did you want to see them to be persuaded to get vaccine?

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Speaker 2

8:59

I think the data needs to be published in a in a unbiased scientific organization, unfortunately, because of what we've seen through the COVID pandemic, you know, like horse paced text tweet from the CDC about ivermectin, which they have had to take down social media is, unfortunately, people look at it, and they get a lot of their news there. But hopefully people are people know enough to not just read something in the media or social media and believe it at face value

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if you're going to,

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you know, say this,

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this is true,

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Speaker 2

9:48

then provide the information behind it. Show us the scientific article and let us I never take things at face value. I always if it does. Include links or references, then I take it as propaganda.

10:08

I see, I understand. Yeah, you're right.

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Speaker 2

10:11

There's a lot of propaganda out there right now. We're in the midst of a huge wave of election propaganda right now, and there's always, you know, experts or scientists say this, that or the other thing, but they never include any references. Okay, show me the data. Show me where you got this information, and let me decide for myself.

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Speaker 1

10:38

I had a question, because I talked to lots of people in Alaska about this topic, and some people mentioned this that we for example, they told me we heard from our parents or from our grandparents that There were some like vaccine testing on people in Alaska. So we cannot, we cannot trust it, because it's too new, and as you told me, and there were no really scientific information about the vaccines. So I want to know if you or people around you have this feeling that, because we are living in a remote area, so they may, they may test a vaccine on vaccine on us. Do you have this feeling about I want to know if living in a very unique geographically region in the world influence your your idea, your opinion about vaccines or not.

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Speaker 2

11:54

Well, I mean being in a remote area, we aren't exposed to everything that they're trying to

12:04

vaccinate against.

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I'm not that afraid of

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polio and smallpox, things like that.

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Speaker 2

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Obviously, if it came up in a community, then we'd have to determine where that came from. So I'm not that fear based about like being tested. There were rumors about batches, having hot batches, and so forth. That's a possibility. And again, the CDC has the data on those lots, and if there is, they should be forthcoming with that information.

12:51

I see, I mean,

12:52

if there is a problem, then why hide it?

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Speaker 2

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I don't know if there is or not, but again, it comes down to control of the information.

13:06

Okay, sure, I understand.

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Speaker 1

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What role do you think some NGOs or citizen scientists, people who, for example, basically they are from native, native tribes and but they are educated. They came out of that community for years, they went to universities, and now they live in Alaska. What role they can have, or they can play for in this situation. I mean, in for example, for informing people, for encouraging people. What do you think about them? Or did you see anybody, for example, like NGOs or some specialists who wanted to encourage you to get vaccine or discourage you about vaccines.

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Speaker 2

14:06

I've never seen any organization discouraging the vaccines ever. It's always been in support of

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and that's because they're paid to do so,

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Speaker 1

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yeah, of course. What about individuals, like doctors, for example.

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Speaker 2

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Well, doctors will always support that idea, because they're paid to do so,

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okay,

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Speaker 1

14:38

okay, let me check the other questions, is there any experience or any other thing that you want to add to our talk about vaccine hesitancy, especially the reasons, because I really want to understand for what reason people really didn't want to get vaccine because when we. We see when we look at the data for vaccination in Alaska, we can see that the first phase people get around 60% of people in Alaska get the first vaccine, but the boosters this percentage come down to less than 20% so it may be because of some side effects, or misinformation or not having enough information, as you told me, what do you think about it? What other reasons could be that's

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Speaker 2

15:37

obviously because of the like I said, the shift in goal posts, they claimed it was supposed to prevent transmission. It did not. People were getting the COVID shots and still getting COVID. Everyone, everyone got it. Even if you got you got the shot or not, everyone got COVID. So I think they realized, what's the point of continuing to receive these

16:02

booster shots.

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Speaker 2

16:05

In some cases, people that continue to get the shots continue to get COVID, it had an effect on their immune system.

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Speaker 1

16:13

Yeah. And do you think bringing this kind of very serious information in social media can affect the vaccine hesitancy in Alaska, for example, people in different groups or different ages could be influenced by information or misinformation in the social media.

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No

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Speaker 2

16:44

I look at like Facebook, for example, during the COVID pandemic, any dissenters of the vaccine were suppressed. That's a known fact

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that Facebook was

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Speaker 2

17:00

pressed by the White House to suppress any hesitancy. So they suppressed those tweets, they banned accounts. So there's that right. There is a high level of distrust by people, particularly in

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social media,

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Speaker 2

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because they're only seeing one side of the argument. I think you need to let people see the data for themselves and make an informed decision.

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Speaker 1

17:28

I see, okay, thank you so much. Is there anything that you want to add? No, thank you so much, and have a very good day, okay, good luck with your work.

17:42

Thank you. Bye,

17:43

thank you.