# Audio file

[Karri.mp3](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

# [Transcript](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[OK, thank you. Can you tell me a little more about yourself, your age, occupation, educational background, and how long have you lived in this city?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[I am a registered nurse. My my. Highest level of. Of college is a Masters degree. I've lived. In this town for six years, but overall I've lived. I have lived 23 years in Alaska, out of the last 30.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[OK. Thank you. And and as you know, we are thank you. As you know, we are working on vaccine hesitancy in some remote areas all around the world and in the US we work and I like to know more about your.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Right.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[A point of view about vaccines generally, and how do you think about it, and is there anybody around you who is against vaccines?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[No, I mean I'm. I'm I am divorced. So I it's just me and my kids. So no, there's nobody that disagrees. Well, I shouldn't say that. I am fully for. Vaccines. I'm 100% I I believe in them and I think that we should use them. And that they help. Considerably with this exist. I have no problems with vaccine and in fact I I struggle. I've studied. A lot. I've been a school nurse and. I wanted to learn more about why people didn't vaccinate their kids, and so I did a lot of studying or I guess, research. Why people didn't vaccinate and I didn't find any legitimate reason for anyone to not vaccinate, actually. So it's been a journey for me because I just wanted to understand the people around me and what was happening and. I I literally did not find anything. The only place only thing I can find online is a website, but all of the. Information on the website is funded by the website so. It's kind of. Circular and it doesn't really tell anybody anything and so. But I will say that I do have my. I have family that does not believe in the COVID vaccine.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[MHM.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[But that's about it. They don't. They don't believe in the.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Though dating people who are hesitant about vaccines, they were only hesitate about COVID vaccine or they had problems with all kind of vaccines.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[My family or.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Yeah, yeah, people around you, people who you know.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Only the only my family is only COVID. I do know, I mean, as a school nurse knew plenty of people who did not vaccinate their children. I. As part of my job, I did not. I do not say anything to them about it. There is a religious exemption in the state of Alaska and it doesn't require you to prove any religion. It's just the signature with an authorization. They do. They do ask or I'm sorry. They do require you to have that renewed every year, so. So I think that's kind of the states way of trying to. Get people who don't want to keep doing that. To this is just my opinion but. Finding. You know, I mean people that really wanna keep their kids unvaccinated are willing to. Throw out this piece of paper and go have it notarized every single year for school. You know I. Mean that's the. That's the dedication right there. So I haven't actually asked people why they don't believe in vaccinations after COVID I had. Had so many conversations with people over vaccination for COVID and I had spent quite a bit of time trying to educate people on COVID itself and then on the vaccine that I just learned that it was. Easier just in terms of doing my job to just allow them to. You know throughout the form, however, then there are people who weren't vaccine hesitant prior to COVID. But now after COVID, they don't want to vaccinate their kids at all, not just with the COVID vaccine, but they're hesitant to vaccinate their kids now. And those. Folks are talk because I have, you know, I have. Tried getting people to. Uhm. You know, tell them. Hey, you have this vaccine missing. People that have normally vaccinated their kids and they have just dropped off and said no, not gonna do it anymore. And so and then I usually get something related to COVID about their vaccine.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Yeah. OK and. What is the? What is peoples reasons more about like not getting COVID vaccine? I want to know if. People are totally worried about vaccines, or especially about COVID vaccine. For example, we heard that lots of people tell us that because we are living in a remote area, they they they felt somehow government is experimenting something. Have you heard this comment?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Ohh yeah yeah that it's causing ADHD. It's causing autism. It's causing all of the. Especially related to that to that one release of that one one quote UN quote study that was retracted and then the I was stripped of his medical license after saying that vaccines cause autism back in the early 2000. But I think or late 90s. No. I mean, we're we're 25 years in from that happening from that being retracted and. The the the. Researcher losing their medical license and yet it's still one of the biggest arguments from people that I see on social media like. Friends, distant friends on social media that I'll post things about that a lot of people. Citing the. The the the The There's website that the CDC provides VA ERS where you can cite, you know, vaccine report. I'm sorry report vaccine injuries but. They're all self. Reported and that's what people don't understand. And then they're looked into and then they're verified there according to, you know. And and people think that this is, you know, hard science that just because somebody posted something on there that it's. It's true, and it's not necessarily true. I've had so many people say, oh, I had an allergic reaction to that. I had a really sore my arm was so sore I couldn't move it, and I had a big red bump on it. And I'm like. Chronic allergic reaction, or they'll say they got COVID nrom the COVID. Shot and I'm like. Oh, what what? Shot did you get and I'm, you know? And I asked about it and. Like. So before, you can't really have done this with the flu shot. So many people say they get the flu from the flu shot and I'm like, well, if you got the flu shot and not the spray, you know it's dead. So it's not possible for you to get the flu, but I try to tell him about it like that. And I don't. I don't. I don't. I'm not. Rude. I just try to tell people. That those are vaccine reactions, and that's totally normal and that, you know, vaccines only really stay in your system about four days and. And then they're out and they're safer than even taking, like, ibuprofen and stuff like that. But people do not want to hear it. They just want to like, they just want to say why they don't believe in it or why they don't, will not do it. And they'll talk about things like. Very minor. I shouldn't say this is not. Minor but very. Small chances of things like getting gambare syndrome or something like that, or they know someone that got that and suddenly it's a a big panic and. And so those are their reasons. Obviously fear based, but I feel like it's being spread a lot through social media. Because it seems like that's where people are getting a lot of their information. They do not want to trust the the local government or the government part of the. Alaska, like healthcare. Facebook page and people just have the meanest things to say when they post things on there about getting. Your flu shot. Or getting your shingle shot or getting, you know, your kid vaccinated for school or whatever. There's a lot of rude comments and. A lot of the. The percentage of people in Alaska, not just. Where we are but. All over the state, not vaccinating their children and utilizing their religious exemption is is going up. And. At my school, if someone isn't fully vaccinated and they don't do it in time. We don't pull them out of schools, they simply tell me to give them a that I can give. Give them the option of the. Of the. Sorry. Of their religious exemption as well. And So what I've learned to do is just say if you know, if you are not going to be able to get you. Know if you. Are not able to get this done or do not want to get this done. We do have the option of the of a religious exemption. And I try to. Put it that way, but they won't necessarily take anybody out. Of school as a result. And I think largely that has to do with this is my opinion, but I I believe that has to do with the fact that there were so many people that took their kids out of school after, during, during and after COVID. So.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[OK. Thank you. And what about about like health care facilities or people, most of the people satisfied with the healthcare system in other states like is it accessible for most of the people? Is it affordable for most of the people?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Or healthcare facilities. There really aren't healthcare facilities in the Denali borough that are accessible. There is one. Healthcare facility called Interior Community Health Center, but they're only open one day a week and. I'm. I'm not sure it used to be that you'd have. To make a a. Well, I think you can call and and get in. Usually you can get in that one day a week, but other than that they're they're only open that one day a week. And so you just kind of have to wait until they they get there. A lot of people will go, will take, take the drive to Fairbanks. To get stuff done or go to the health department there.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[So do you think this?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Which is a.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Do you think this inefficient health care system affects peoples like vaccine hesitancy to or not?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[I don't think it necessarily affects their hesitancy, but it does affect them. Setting. Vaccines, because like it, sometimes it will be months because, you know, they might. They might like. Oh yeah, that's right. And then they forget to make an appointment and then another month goes by before I contact them because I'm giving them time to to get it done. You know, I don't want to be in their face and and then they're. Like, oh, shoot I. Forgot. And then you know, I mean. That kind of happens on a regular basis, but it's it's not necessarily that. I've seen them like be like ohh, I'm just not gonna get that. But I have had I for the most part I have. UM. People will either eventually get it done or they will fill out the religious exemption until they can get it done. If if it's important to them.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[OK, if you are a, they can. Healthcare system policy maker in Alaska and you have a budget and you want to put it in one of these two sides. The first one is infrastructure. I mean like building. Or the other side is. Some community based activities like trust making, which one would you prefer to put the budget on?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Ah. There's already such limited facilities in Alaska in general. I definitely think that given the size of Alaska and the. The just the sheer number of geographical locations that are different from one another as a result of the size. I definitely think that some trust putting putting trust back in the community back in the health department, back in the government. In terms of these? Other things I don't know, but in terms of these medical issues, for sure I think would be. Would be worth the effort and certainly worth a try as long as it didn't take away what was from what was already existing in terms of what's available. But it will tell you, you know like. It's interesting. Supposedly they have these positions available, like the health Department does for the state. I should say the state, not they. The state has like these positions and money available for these positions, but. I will tell you that I. I interviewed for three positions that are. That are funded by the state and they only filled one. And never gave me anymore information about. About that. And then the health department in Fairbanks. There is a position. That, in which an itinerant public health nurse would come down heavily on a regular basis, like Healy, would be. Part of their. Rounds. And they'd be down on a regular basis. And in the six years that I work have worked at the school, they. They have not. They have not had that position filled for longer than about three months.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[I see.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[And and so they use other people to do that. And I I have been able to get itinerant public health nurses to come down and do like a one day vaccination clinic for pet shops and stuff like that. And we usually do that every year except for the, I guess. Two or three years of COVID, but. And they're really, they're great at their job. It's just they don't have enough people and it takes them a long time to get approved. So supposedly there's money in the system, but there's not anyone who is applying or keeping those jobs or I don't know. But the. But the reasoning is but there seems to be. You know a lack of. Lack of people to fill those positions. And like I said, I interviewed for three positions at one place and they only filled one and never thought and just said we haven't filled the other ones like six months later. We're like, we haven't filled the other ones yet. We'll let you know when we do and then. I also interviewed with the with public health and. My nursing degree is an associates degree, but my Bachelors and masters are in health related fields, just not in nursing and they will not even though I have 12 years experience or more, they will not consider hiring anyone without a bachelor's degree. It's just really odd. Unless you start. At the very. Bottom and work your way up, which is taking a pay cut so. There's a lot of like red tape. To to get through to try to become someone in, I mean, I would love a position where I had an opportunity to educate. But I I can't get into those except for into the where I'm not in the town. So.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[And did you see any NGOs or any any kind of non governmental groups that work for vaccination during COVID? I mean some non governmental groups not, not governments.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Answer for COVID vaccine. I guess I should say no, I didn't actually see any groups like that. I was working very closely with the local government and the and neighboring local government, so neighboring borough government and also the. State government when I was. Not just working at the school, but also I was hired to start a COVID vaccination clinic. I'm sorry, not a crooked vaccination clinic COVID testing clinic. We ended up in bringing people in for COVID vaccine clinics. So I largely was with the state and and borough government.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[I see. OK. Thank you. OK. Thank you very much for your time. Is there anything else that you want to add about your experience or anything about like COVID era vaccination and this things?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[No, I no, I think I gave you all all pretty much everything that I've experienced.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Thank you so much. Sorry.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[I just said thank you so much. I appreciate it.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Asha, thank you. Can I have your phone number so that I can send to our financial part?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Yes ma'am. Alright.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Thank you so much and have a great day. Thank you. You too. Bye.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Bye.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)

[Joanna.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrkU)