**[Youji.mp3](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)**

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[And are you working for healthcare system? OK. So, I want to ask you first of all about yourself and first of all, thank you for participating in the interview. And as you know, we are working on vaccine hesitancy in Alaska in some remote areas in developed countries and in the US, we work on. So., we want to know what are the most important reasons of a vaccine hesitancy in Alaska and how social media can impact. So, for the first question, can you please tell me more about yourself, like your age, occupation, educational background, and how long have you lived in Alaska and what are you doing there?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah. So. My name is Eugene. I'm 23 years old. I've I was born and raised in Alaska, so I've been. I've been here for the past 23 years. I'm going to school in Anchorage, the University of Alaska Anchorage, and I am studying computer science. Anything else?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Your parents. So, your parents are in Alaska too?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah. So, I'm originally from Kodiak, Alaska, which is a island. The southern part of Alaska. My parents immigrated here from Japan, and I was born there.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[That's great. Thank you. And generally, how do you think about vaccines, not only COVID vaccines, but all kind of vaccines? And do you think about vaccines positively or not? And what about the people around you, for example, your family, your friends around you? How people usually think about vaccine generally.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah, it's really interesting because I feel like I've had exposure to both sides. Actually, it's really funny. My mom is anti vaccine, but my dad is pro vaccine. So it's been, it's been interesting. They're not like they're not, like, always fighting. Actually, don't they don't fight about it. It's a very open minded as well. But my my mom has always been someone and. My mom and I should say my mom and her friends, which I know I'm very close with, are people who really believe in, like natural health. You know, I think it's more of like a. The Eastern Asian thing you know of. Yeah. So they, they've always, they didn't like the idea of vaccines and. Yeah, I think growing up, my, my mom was very hesitant. Always about like doing the required vaccines for school. And if, if it wasn't required, basically she didn't want me to do it. But my dad, my dad is kind of the opposite. He was more pro vaccine. And I think part of it has to do with his dad. So my grandpa. By my grandpa actually got polio. And this was before the vaccine, you know, kicked in. And. Yeah. So, I I think because of that, I think he was more of like you know we should we should all give, we should all give vaccines.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[OK. And about about your mother and how she and her friend, her friends think about vaccine, do you think this idea about natural health that you mentioned is something about the environment of eastern countries? Kind of like I mean I want to say, is it somehow environmental or something? About religions or culture, what is it about?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[I don't know. I don't know if I can pinpoint it exactly what it is. I would say my, my, my parents are both non denominational Christians, so they do have a religious background. And actually her friends who are also anti vaccine are also. Christians.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[OK, so they didn't. They didn't get vaccines right in COVID era.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[So the. Yeah. So they didn't give vaccines. Yeah, yeah. But I I also feel like there is a cultural aspect to it, you know of. You know, like natural health. Yeah.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[OK. What about other people around you, for example, people, people who are originally from Alaska. Did you see any people around you that are against vaccines?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[When you say originally from Alaska, you mean like people who were born and born and raised there.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah, yeah, yeah. I mean, not, not not immigrants, people, people who are maybe more live in tribal communities and originally from Alaska.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[I don't, I don't. Not really. If you're talking about like the the Native Americans here, the indigenous people, I'm not really sure what their thoughts are. I don't know if I can answer that.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Question. OK, no problem. So that's fine. It was that interesting answer that I get. Thank you. What about in COVID era? Because COVID was somehow different. It was people really afraid of that. And all health companies, I mean health staff were working on vaccines, and they encourage somehow encourage people to get their. But in other side in I mean general peoples view it was very new, people couldn't trust that. Oh well it's so new. Maybe we are under some experiments. So it was a very weird and. Strange and fearful circumstance, what do you think? How was? How was COVID vaccination there? And did you? Did you get the COVID vaccine and, for example, your mom and her friends who are against vaccine generally, how did you, how did they think about? Who with vaccine?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Hmm. Yeah. So obviously, my mom and her friends were against the vaccine. It's funny because I think half my family got the vaccines and half didn't. Uh-huh. So my dad, me and my older sister, we got the vaccine and so the other half of my family didn't. I think I think here in Alaska, I did hear. A lot of you know. People, people didn't really trust the the vaccines when it came out. I I think I. Was. I was also very worried about getting the vaccine. Because I continuously I'm, I'm hearing both sides like I have friends in the health department. The medical. Yeah. So they, you know, they were recommending me to get the vaccine. But then on the Internet as well, you know, there was a lot of kind of kind of fear. As you said, there's. Like we're maybe, maybe we're experiments or you know, how could we trust something that has, you know, that just came? No. So yeah, I I was very worried about getting the vaccine. I think I wouldn't have gone the vaccine if. If it wasn't for me wanting to travel. So I I wanted. I had plans to go to Japan the year, COVID noted. And I didn't want to cancel the plan and part of the requirements Japan needed during the COVID era was, you know. The the the vaccine proof of vaccine. So that's why I took it. But I remember being very like. In a way kind of scared. When I got the vaccine, like, oh, did I make the right choice?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[So what are the impacts of social media? Because you actually study are studying computer science. I'm sure that you are so expert in this. And how people use social media for important and serious topics. For example, I know that most of people these days use social media and when it is locked down and they're they are staying at home, of course they are using their. Smartphones a lot and they are. In the social media all the time. But I want to know how people trust and see the social media information in serious topics. For example, have you ever seen some people who? Get vaccines or not get get vaccines because of some information or misinformation in social media.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah, I mean I I would say social media has a big part and how we get information like. You know, I've always been someone who is always skeptical. So when I when I hear or see things on social media, I usually like double check on, you know, Google search to see if it's actually true. Yeah, I think I think the, the the scary or like the the the most impactful part of social media is that. I get more exposure on social media than I do on like credible news sites. So. You know, I I think. Every, every news or information that I find is usually through social media just because it's everywhere like I've Instagram my Facebook and you know, you have all these different things popping up. Yeah, I guess. I think was was the other question like. Like, have my friends been sort of carried away by social media. Umm. Yeah, I don't know. I can't. I can't really give it a like a a clear example of like. Yeah, you know, like seeing some social media news and then like, believing it, but yeah.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Did you did you use any misinformation in social media in COVID era?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Did I did I see?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Any misinformation, I mean some wrong information or something that discourage people for vaccination.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah. Yeah. No, I think I, I don't. I don't know about misinformation like like I said, I can't give you like a specific example. But yeah, definitely like on social media, there's a lot of like people making. I don't know memes or or skits about like. You know, vaccines are gonna like. I don't know. They're gonna plant a chip in your brain or something. That was like, a pretty big meme. You know whether whether people, people took that seriously or more for a laugh, I'm not really sure. For me, I took them more as a joke, but. Yeah, you you can't help but think like, oh, maybe it might be true. Yeah, even though sounds ridiculous.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah, it was so crazy. So. Thank you for this question and. How is the? How is your feeling about healthcare system generally in Alaska? Do you think it is always accessible for you? Is it affordable for you and for most of the people around you?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[I would say so, yeah. You know, affordable that's always a question mark here in the states. But accessible I think so I I would never lived in somewhere too rural. I've always been more of a. In in these bigger communities where you know I didn't have to fly out to receive. Healthcare actually. Ohh I take that back. So any any anchorage I would say is accessible in Kodiak. It's a little bit, it's kind of unique healthcare accessibility because it's an island and it's like a. A little bit of a smaller community. So not all healthcare services are available and so sometimes. You know, we would have to fly out to Anchorage. To the mainland in Alaska to receive healthcare services we couldn't receive in Kodiak and. Yeah, even though that sounds like a lot of trouble, I think. I think the the healthcare system kind of made it very simple where they would like book you a flight and even sometimes a hotel. So you could, you know, receive the healthcare service. OK. Yeah. Yeah, I would say it's, it's pretty accessible. It's just kind of a little different from other places.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[I see. And did this feeling was the same in COVID era? I mean, in COVID, when people really afraid of disease and virus, this health care system. Was the same in that era too.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Honestly, I'm not really sure I didn't receive any kind of like. Me or my family didn't receive any kind of like service during that time, but I I knew. I know from what I've heard, I know hospitals are really busy. Some people couldn't get. The service that they needed on time. Luckily for my family, we didn't have to experience that, so I'm not. I'm not really sure what it was like during the. There.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[OK, if you are a policymaker in Alaska in, I mean healthcare system and. You have a budget you want to put on like community based activities for trust making, for example or. In or like, encourage people to get in to get vaccines or put this budget on healthcare system facilities, infrastructure like building new hospitals bring more specialists and experts and staff. And which one do you prefer? What do you think? Do you think we need more awards and community based activities or healthcare system infrastructure in Alaska?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[And that's for getting people to get vaccines.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Sorry. Yeah, yeah, yeah. For. For encouraging people to get vaccine. I mean, to to solve the vaccine hesitancy problem in Alaska.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[So. Yeah, I would say I would say community based something community based would be more impactful. Yeah, I think people just had a lot of doubts and a lot of questions, right that weren't answered. And that's why they didn't. They were skeptical of the vaccine. So I think some some sort of like. Event where it's Q&A you have health experts and then people can come to like, ask questions or know more about. Uh. You know the vaccine and side effects or whatever, that that would be, I think that would be that would have been really beneficial. Yeah. Also you said something about like policies, what kind of policies could you could could you implement to encourage people to take the vaccine? I feel like the other thing that. Triggered a lot of people here in Alaska. Is that and a lot of places like a lot of institutions, vaccines were a requirement. Like if you wanted to, you know, like go into this building, you had to have proof of vaccine COVID vaccine. And I think that really upset a lot of people because. You know, it's it's one thing to encourage someone, but but then it's like another thing to force someone to take the vaccine and no one wants to be forced. I think Americans here, here in Alaska, people are more conservative, like people like their freedom.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Uh.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[So forcing someone to take the vaccine it just. They just don't like that.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[I see, but it was not obligatory, you know, in lots of countries, this is where obligatory. And for example, in my own country, if we if for example, a doctor tell people discourage people about vaccine.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Then.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Police would come and arrest him. So yeah, it was really crazy and it was obligatory everywhere. It was like a crime. If you say I I don't want to get vaccine. It was like a crime, but.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[OH really? Oh.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah, but in the US, I know that it it is, it was not obligatory that's that's you know because of the culture of these people. I I see. So yeah, it was very interesting that. Forcing people you you think that forcing people to get vaccine was somehow? I mean, make people more against vaccine? Maybe because it's it was an issue for the freedom that. That's right. So for the next question. I would ask you, uh. Yeah, this thing if you want to put some budget or some effort on social media to impact people positively about vaccine, which age group do you think we should work on more? Or which kind of materials do you think? For example, we can work on some scientific materials to for. Young people to I mean for as an input for young people or we can work on some more child friendly materials to give to children and educate them through social media. What do you think about it?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[UM. What age group? I I would say my age group just because I know for me personally, I still hesitate with the idea of vaccines. Like I would, I would say I'm I'm more leaning towards pro vaccine, but I do have these like thoughts in the back of my head that are. That kind of leave me a little bit worried. So yeah, and I know I know a lot of people kind of like myself who are in that same position of. Leaning more towards vaccines, but still a little bit worried. So yeah, I would say age group, my age group, but. Also, the kind of material. Maybe. I think some something that would reassure me is. I would reassuring. Maybe some sort of assurance? Like a reassurance that, you know, this is something that's safe and something that's been tested on. And then we're not going to see any kind of irregular side symptoms side effects.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[For some scientific facts and some results of some experiments that don't worry, it is safe and we assure you that.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[It is safe.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Yeah.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[That's fine. And do you think if we want to? For for community based activities, if we want to use some leaders for communities, for example, or religious leaders appropriate for this work or no. For example, we can work on some NGO's. Or, for example, some academic people university professor. Users or some celebrities, or maybe a soccer player who can who can make them most impact on people's ideas or people emotions.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[I. I would say. For me personally, my parents, it would be nice to. Yeah. I don't, I don't. I don't like that question just because I don't. I don't want to get too political into things. I'll talk about myself more personally. I think for me personally, it would have been a lot helpful if my both my parents were supported by the vaccine. I think it's it's, it's kind of. It it kind of worries me or I I feel very off when I'm going against what my parents want me to do. So like for my mom. Yeah. And the way she was kind of disappointed in me that I took the vaccine and. Like I'm not I I don't regret it. But at the same time, it would have been more. You know, even a lot. I I feel I feel like I would have had a better experience getting the vaccine if both my parents were supportive of it.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Thank you. And uh, is there anything, any experience, anything about vaccine during COVID that you want to share with me?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[No, no.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[OK. Thank you. And as most of the people who are interview are positive about vaccines, just like you and maybe because of the title of our project, but we are not really looking for old people to be positive, we want to. Understand what are really the reasons, or because this research is belonged to NIH, they need to know if they really have to do something in remote areas. So we really need some. People who are against vaccine two, we want to talk to them. What are your reasons? What do you think? Why do you feel insecure or these things? So if you kindly introduce us to your mother or their friends if they like. We can just. Make some appointments and talk to them. I'm really. I will be really happy to talk to them and hear their. I mean, opinions about vaccines. I would appreciate if you introduce us to them and give my e-mail to them or my my professors e-mail so. So that we can talk to them and thank you very much. I don't know. I'm not sure if I have your phone number because because of the payment I need your phone number. Could you please give me your phone number too?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[OK. Thank you so much for your time and. Have a good day.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)

[Thank you. Bye.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGqSE)