# Audio file

[audio\_2024-10-28\_16-32-34.m4a](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

# [Transcript](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK, so as you know, we are working on vaccine hesitancy in some remote area all around the world and in the US work in Alaska. So can you please tell me a little about yourself, your age, your occupation, educational background? And how long have you lived in this city?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[My name is Josh Ankas. I am 38 years old until Saturday and then I turned 39. I've lived.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Happy birthday.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I've lived in Alaska since 2011.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[But I I lived in Anchorage. And then. Moved to Wasilla and. I I think I lived in wasola all but. 2000 actually it was like January 1st, 2000. 14 I moved to Wasilla so. All but three, yeah. There's that. I've been in Alaska and I retired from the military in 2017 and stayed up there because I liked it so much. And then my wife had a business as a Medicaid contractor for the state of Alaska. She was a case manager for people with disabilities.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Mm-hmm.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[And I worked under her until 2021 and we closed the business. So now I'm just retired, I guess.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Great. And what is your educational background?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I graduated high school, so I have a. High school diploma, but no college.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK. Thank you. So you didn't get COVID vaccine, right? OK. What is your idea about vaccines generally? For example, the routine vaccines that you may get from your childhood?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[No.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I had all of my vaccines as a child and then when I joined the military. I think there were only. Two that I had to get that I had not had previously.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[The.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I. I mean. I'm hesitant because of. Ingredients in some of the vaccines about my own children. So. I I understand like as I was. A kid, the. It was just accepted that like I got the chickenpox vaccine or. The measles vaccine and. I don't know that. If there were any adverse effects to me or not, but. I do know. That there are things that are questionable and because of.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[The.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[COVID pandemic and the way that things were done, it does make me question it more because of how untrustworthy the pharmaceutical companies are. Because I have had side effects from other medications and drugs that have been put out that they touted as being great and wonderful, and then they get revoked from the market. Because they were FDA approved and then they find out 10 years later.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[That.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[There's actually issues and I've known people personally who have had things like the hernia mesh implants I had. And a senior leader in the army who had the hernia mesh implant and then he had complications from the hernia mesh implant. And it was like there's commercials on TV about class action lawsuits now. So I guess I do have hesitancy and that's why I didn't get the COVID vaccine because I felt like it was rushed to mark it. And that they were not being transparent with the data and. When you find out that they don't want to release any of the information for 75 years, that right there is a red flag. And so those I I feel like it's probably just the trust in the companies manufacturing them and the lack of accountability. If things do go wrong because of theirs. Or the law that was passed. By Ronald Reagan basically giving them amnesty. If you do get harmed from one of their vaccines, then you can't go back on the company. So they they have no accountability.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Mm-hmm.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[And they have a proven track record of marketing things that then later come out and found to be harmful.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK, great. Thank you. And did you see? Anybody around you that encourage you to get vaccine, like NGOs, individuals?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[It was actually one of the reasons why my wife closed her business because we worked with people with disabilities and we saw human rights violations happening. These people were confined to their homes. They were told that they weren't allowed to go out in.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Ohh.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[The community they were. They were allowed to go outside and walk around their yard. But they were not allowed to even go down the street or go for a walk in the neighborhoods. And when we brought it up, the state epidemiologist, we did several webinars with her and she was saying she was getting information directly from Doctor Burks and Dr. Fauci, so. When we would bring up questions to her like, well, you guys are just saying that people with Down syndrome are at increased risk and they need to get vaccinated. Why are they at increased risk? Because just having Down syndrome in and of itself is not really comorbid. Even though there's cardiac. Symptoms that are usually associated a lot of them have open heart surgery when they're incense shortly after birth, because they're born with heart defects. But they didn't say that they were just saying like, oh, this person has a seizure disorder, they need to get vaccinated. This person has Down syndrome. They need to get vaccinated. And when they touted it as when you get vaccinated. Then you will. Be able to go into the community. Everybody was. Not forced to get vaccinated, but they were basically not given an option because they were told. If you don't get it, you. Can't leave your. House. But when people did get vaccinated, they were still not allowed to leave their house. Nothing changed. They got vaccinated and we're still isolated and we felt like our hands were tied. We were trying to help our. Clients, because that's what the government all the regulations around Medicaid and ADA is about. Empowering people with disabilities and they should be treated like everybody else. But then when this happened, they were all sheltered in place and we saw a massive decline in a lot of. These people in their. Quality of life and their health. And so.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Yeah, I.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Guess. A bad job really opened up our eyes to.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Yeah. And so your wife's job and your job, your job as somehow influenced by COVID.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[A lot of.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK. And vaccination, of course. And OK. Did you see anything in social media, any kind of information that affect your decision about COVID maccini?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I mean, I've seen a lot of stuff that circulated around, but that stuff doesn't really influence my opinion one way or another, cause I tend to do my own research and not just read headlines or see.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Mm-hmm.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[A meme or? Comments that people make and take it as gospel.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I see. OK. Thank you.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[And I don't have a social media now. So I think sometime during COVID I got rid of it and.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[MHM.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I haven't gone back.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Yeah, I see. OK, what about healthcare system in Alaska? Are you satisfied with healthcare system in Alaska generally?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[So I have VA benefits and the VA in Alaska, I think is a lot better than a lot of other states.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[MM.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Because I've dealt with the VA in Washington, Texas, Tennessee and Michigan. And Michigan and Alaska are probably the best. Out of. All those but. Tennessee is just a lack. Of. Services. Alaska, really? Because everywhere else they basically make you go to community care. But in Alaska, there's only so many providers, so chances of that provider having other veterans and working with the VA are pretty high. Right down in the lower 48, you might go to a doctor close to you and they've never dealt with the VA and I it took me over a year to get my asthma medication approved through the VA because I was going to an outside provider in Alaska. It was seamless. Basically all the outside providers I saw and knew how to work with the VA. So from my experience with the BA up there, their services are good.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK, thank you. And do you think most of people around you are satisfied with healthcare system?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I think that. The lack of choice for them, probably they don't feel the same way I.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Lack of choice. Do you mean healthcare system is not accessible?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[There were one there was, I think, 1 pulmonologist at one time. That was in the Anchorage area within 100 miles and at one time they were not accepting VA healthcare. So I couldn't go to them. But then I don't know if they got a new pulmonologist in the office and they started seeing VA patients, but it's things like that where there will only be.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Mm-hmm. OK.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[One or two choices for a specialty clinic and if you have a bad experience with one, then sometimes you don't have any other options. You have to either go to Seattle, which happens a lot and that is like a 2 day thing unless you can get an early morning flight, an afternoon appointment and then a night flight to come back. And that's a lot.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Just to go to a doctor's appointment.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK, thank you. Before you, I interviewed with lots of people and I got some interesting comments from them. Sorry. I wanted to share them with you and and know your opinion about them. Uh, one of these interesting comments is that one of the folks told me my my grandparents told me that like 40-50 years ago, government tested a kind of medicine. Now this COVID vaccine came up very soon, very fast, so they didn't have enough time to test it. Maybe they are testing it on us, so we cannot. I wanted to know, have you ever heard these comments from other people or not, and what is your idea about it?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I haven't. Hurt, things like that. But. I do think that it was rushed too quick and that by the definition of a vaccine, it does not fall under that definition. So I think it's more a therapeutic than a vaccine and that's why I.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK. And the other comment was that again they, they told me they're like previous generation, told them that because we are living in a very unique environment in the planet. So we have somehow natural prevention. So we don't need vaccine. What do you think about it?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Well, I think for COVID. Seeing. A lot of my wife's clients who were.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Did.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[And they did. Get COVID still because the staff still had to go home to their families every night and come back to work the next day, so they were bringing it into the house, even with all the precautions that. Were. Being taken but out. Of all of her clients that got it, it was relatively mild and then.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[They.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I don't know that anybody else got it again before we closed her business. Who had it originally. But then me and my wife both got COVID from her parents. And after we got COVID I because I did not get sick for years, I might have a sniffle, but that's as bad as it gets. And then COVID was like a flu for a couple days. And after that I felt like I never got more than a sniffle till. Like this winter 2023 into 2024? Umm. So I think that natural immunity is a thing. With with this. Virus that went around. So because I I did feel like I may have had some cold symptoms, like a sniffle or a low cough, but other than that, after having COVID. In 2020. I never had it severe or I never had anything severe enough. I thought I should get tested after that.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK. And based on data at the first shot of COVID Alaskan people, around 60% of Alaskan people get their first job. But for the boosters at this rate became came down. To less than 20%. What do you think about it? What? What was the reason? In your idea.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I think the. Reason was because people, the 60% of people. Who got it? Also got COVID or a lot of them saw that people who got the shot got COVID and then they realize that it's not actually a vaccine, it doesn't prevent.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[The illness it is touted that it reduces the symptoms, but that that was not even true because. I mean, we knew people who. Had got the vaccine and then still got COVID just as severe. As we did.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK. And I have another comment from another fool. She told me her friend was a as A was an educated person and she was absolutely against vaccine, but because she was an she was a native Alaskan and their tribal leader told them to get vaccine. She was persuaded to get get it so uh, I wanted to ask you if really these tribal leaders have this power to persuade people to get vaccine?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Yes, I I fully believe they have that kind of influence over their communities because even. Places like Kodiak, which is an island, but they tried to stop outside, people from coming in. And other there were villages up north that did not want anybody in there, and even the Iditarod, which is ran every winter. It was really touchy with some of the local communities there where I think that they scared the people in the communities into getting the vaccine and not wanting to let outside people in. So I do think they have. That kind of influence over their communities.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Mm-hmm. OK, sure. Thank you so much. And do you have anything, any experience or anything from COVID period that you want to share with me?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Not that I haven't already, I guess.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK. Thank you so much. And I have a question about your payment method. Do you have Zel or Venmo?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[I have. Even now, I believe.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Can you please write in the chat, write your Venmo account for me.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[When?](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[And then I have to look in. This.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 1](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[OK, sure.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[Speaker 2](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)

[It's it's. Yeah, it's.](https://1drv.ms/u/s!ABaWM2KXgqSGrjc)