

Vaccination process, decision has its challenges

My mother and mother-in-law have finally begun their vaccination process. It is interesting to hear firsthand how difficult it can be for the elderly to get their peace of mind.

As a news junkie I have watched numerous television anchors interview elderly men and women struggling to navigate the sign-up process to get the COVID-19 vaccination.

I thought I had the upper hand, knowing how to navigate the internet and was able to research and find what I thought was the official sign up for my mom to get on the list for a vaccination.

I do believe I did sign her up properly. I verified a couple times the name of the local health department and the process I used to register her. To be extra safe I also encouraged her to call her local doctor to see if there was another place she should register.

It just did not make sense that here in Marion, I kept hearing how people in her



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



age range were getting vaccinated and yet in Nebraska, she had not gotten a call or email to get her vaccinated.

We even talked about how one of her friends who is 94 had not been able to get vaccinated. This lady being a bit impatient, convinced her daughter to take her to the injection site and insist on being vaccinated.

It worked for her, so my mom thought about also being so bold, given she is 79 years old and has suffered from a stroke.

Well, after telling my brother what her plans were, he was less than enthusiastic about my mom's intentions, admonishing her that she just needed to be patient and wait her turn.

What I did not realize as I was encouraging my mom to be diligent about getting her vaccine, was in her home county of 13,475 where York is the county seat, they were only injecting 50 shots in arms per week. And then with the frigid temperatures and snow, they actually cancelled one week of vaccinations.

Two weeks ago, my mom did decide to just go and ask when she might be eligible, so she drove down to the local vaccine site, sat in her car and waited patiently for a worker to come to her car. It was then that she got on another list and at last she received her first dose and will get her final inoculation of Moderna March 18 – one day before her 80th birthday.

My mother in law also is on a similar path to being

fully vaccinated, receiving her first dose Feb. 6. She is scheduled to get her second shot March 6. My mother in law who is 86, also had not been contacted about getting vaccinated. It was not until I asked her about it she had gotten her vaccine that she called her local pharmacist and got on a list.

As the age of eligibility lowers here in Grant County, I pray all who are eligible to get the vaccine are signing up and rolling up their sleeves to get the injections.

On a recent work meeting, one of my African American peers, discussed concern about how to get more minority men and women feeling confident enough to get vaccinated. She commented how she herself was hesitant to get the shots.

She knew the fear of

many of her peers thinking back to past, racist, and at times dangerous, health policies and clinical experiments that targeted particularly vulnerable Black and brown communities such as the Tuskegee experiments.

For her, it was about not knowing what the long-term effects of the shots might be. What side effects or complications might occur years down the road that have not been determined yet.

In the end she decided to get vaccinated because as she said, she would rather be alive to hear the lawsuit lawyers advertise for individuals who had the vaccine years before and how she could be involved in a multi-person lawsuit, than the alternative – which would be she was dead after getting COVID-19.

As a Christian, I rely on

God who I believe has empowered scientists to create the vaccine that we now have available to us. As I have listened and read the information about the process the vaccines have undergone to reach approval to begin the vaccination process, I am confident the more widespread the vaccine can be distributed the better all of mankind will be.

So, for anyone reading this column who is currently eligible to get the vaccine, please do so. Please trust that God has this and wants us to do our part to help the rest of society. Let the COVID-19 pandemic be a past epidemic like smallpox which has been erased from the planet, not something we continue to have to lose people to for years to come.

Second intersection conflict warning system to activate Monday

Drivers in Grant County will be the second in Northeast Indiana to utilize one of INDOT's new Intersection Conflict Warning Systems (ICWS).

The ICWS was activated at the intersection of S.R. 26/C.R. 900 S at S.R. 26/C.R. 950 E on Monday, Feb. 22 at noon.

The primary feature of the ICWS is an added alert for drivers to raise awareness of approaching traffic at two-way stop-controlled intersections. The ICWS uses vehicle detectors under the pavement with

fixed and variable messages in signing along with flashing lights to notify drivers on both roads whether there is an approaching or waiting vehicle. The system includes signs and flashing amber warning lights that provide drivers with a real-time warning of vehicles either approaching the intersection on the major road or waiting at the stop sign to

enter the intersection from the minor road.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, Intersection Conflict Warning Systems can reduce severe crashes at intersections by 20 to 30 percent.

Drivers should still use caution when travelling through the intersection and obey all posted traffic signs.

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