**Each excerpt below is color-coded for your convenience:**

**inspiring excerpts, interesting excerpts, and funny excerpts!**

**Vaccine-Related**

**Revenues for leading anti-vaccine groups have skyrocketed since the start of the pandemic. The Informed Consent Action Network saw its funding rise from $1.4 million in 2017 to more than $13.3 million in 2021, while Children’s Health Defense, led by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., saw revenues rise from about $1 million in 2018 to more than $15 million in 2021. *(Politico, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 6, 2023)***

**Evangelical ministers, right-wing talk show hosts, athletes, and celebrities who falsely question the safety of vaccines have not only put their own lives in jeopardy, they’ve endangered countless others. A case in point is Kelly Ernby, a Republican deputy district attorney in California’s Orange County who fought vaccine mandates, only to die of Covid at 46. Republicans like Ernby have turned public health into a “partisan culture war,” and the cost can be measured in hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths. The deaths of deluded anti-vaxxers drive home in the “most vivid way imaginable” how dangerous it is to deny science and reality. *(The Week magazine, February 4, 2022)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A large-scale study found that a third dose of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine led to 95.6 percent efficacy in preventing symptomatic Covid infection. In Israel, people who’ve received a Pfizer BioNTech booster have been infected at a rate more than 10 times lower than those who didn’t get a booster, according to a study published in The New England Journal of Medicine. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 12, 2021)***

**Bad week for: Calling in sick, after North Dakota state Rep. Jeff Hoverson missed his own anti-vaccination rally when he got Covid. Hoverson sent word that the disease is “real” and “like a really bad flu.” *(The Week magazine, November 19, 2021)***

**A case for vaccine mandates: Vaccine mandates “are as American as apple pie,” said Max Boot. “Ever since George Washington forced his troops to be inoculated against smallpox in 1777,” we’ve used mandatory vaccinations to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Today, every state requires that schoolchildren be inoculated against a host of viral illnesses, and the Supreme Court has twice upheld vaccination mandates. Yet here we are amid “the deadliest plague in a century,” and many Republicans adamantly oppose vaccination mandates by private employers, restaurants, schools, and businesses. This pseudo-libertarianism is absurd and hypocritical. When it comes to stopping terrorism and crime, conservatives have proved themselves perfectly wiling “to accept substantial infringements on civil liberties.” Yet they now insist it’s purely a matter of “personal choice” whether to get and spread Covid, which has killed more Americans than every war in our history combined. The unvaccinated impose a heavy cost on the rest of us, filling hospitals, requiring expensive care, threatening in-person schooling, and promoting breakthrough infections among the vaccinated. With only 61 percent of Americans fully vaccinated and Delta wreaking havoc, personal choice isn’t working. To participate in society, people should be required to get a shot. *(The Week magazine, August 27, 2021)***

**Fifty-two percent of companies said they expect to have vaccine mandates by the end of the year, according to a survey by Willis Towers Watson. Seventy-eight percent said they plan to track employees’ vaccination status, and 17 percent are considering health insurance premium rewards or surcharges. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

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**Excess death rates for Republicans rose to nearly double the level for Democrats in the summer of 2021, after Covid vaccines were widely available, according to a new study by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The study attributes the death gap, which widened even further in the winter of 2021, to the disparity in vaccine uptake. *(Vice, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 30, 2022 / January 6, 2023)***

**An estimated 163,000 Covid deaths in the U. S. over the past year could have been prevented by vaccination, according to an analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Some 28 percent of U. S. adults remain unvaccinated, and some health officials expect that the death toll will rise in coming months from 805,000 to more than 1 million. *(CBSNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 31, 2021 / January 7, 2022)***

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**Fewer than half of the 229 million doses of H1N1 vaccine the government bought to combat swine flu have been administered, as demand fell off rapidly when panic faded. About 71 million doses already in vials and syringes will soon have to be discarded when their expiration dates pass. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 16, 2010)***

**More than 82 million Covid vaccines – over 11 percent of the total distributed throughout the U.S. – were discarded between December 2020 through mid-May 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Last February, the CDC reported that 65 million doses were thrown away. The doses are being discarded mostly because of lack of demand, inefficiencies, and expiration. *(NBCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 17, 2022)***

**My grandfather Philip died nearly 30 years ago, and now the final members of the World War II generation are leaving the stage. Politicians from both sides of the aisle this week paid tribute to former GOP senator and presidential candidate Bob Dole, who was grievously wounded on an Italian battlefield and went on to dedicate his life to public service. His death came just two days after that of Col. Edward Shames, the last surviving officer of Easy Company, the Army airborne unit whose story was immortalized in Band of Brothers. Shames jumped into Normandy on D-Day, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and requisitioned a few bottles of Cognac from Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest. He later used them to toast his first son’s bar mitzvah. These men weren’t saints, but they understood that in times of national peril, citizens have to make often terrible sacrifices for the greater good. Yet many of us refuse to make even the smallest sacrifice in the fight against Covid, a disease that is still killing 1,300 Americans a day. When I read about people refusing to roll up their sleeves for a shot, I can only shake my head and think of Philip rolling up his trousers to show me where his leg used to be. *(Theunis Bates, in The Week magazine, December 17, 2021)***

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**Flu cases are down 98 percent in the U. S. this year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The unprecedented decline was driven by mask wearing and other Covid preventive measures, fewer people traveling, and a record number of Americans receiving flu vaccinations. *(NBCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 22, 2021)***

**$20 billion: The possible cost to the nation in lost productivity because of the flu vaccine shortage – almost twice as much as in a typical year. The average worker misses about 1.5 days a year because of the flu, said David Cutler, a health economist at Harvard. That absenteeism rate could double because of scant flu vaccine supplies. *(Associates Press, as it appeared in Rocky Mountain News, October 22, 2004)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Forgetting that vaccines save lives: “For most of human history, half of all children died before reaching age 15,” said Sarah Zhang. That number is down to 4 pecent globally, and much lower in developed countries, largely because of vaccines. Infectious diseases that used to seriously sicken or kill children, including diphtheria, smallpox, polio, whooping cough, measles, and meningitis, have been nearly eliminated thanks to vaccination. “But the success of vaccines has also allowed for a modern amnesia about the level of past human suffering.” That’s enabled anti-vaccine quacks like Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to make parents more afraid of the shots than the diseases their kids aren’t getting. If the Senate approves RFK Jr’s nomination to head the federal Department of Health and Human Services, it will normalize the anti-vaccine movement, and diseases of the past will start creeping back. “No vaccine is perfect,” but the benefits are overwhelming compared with the minuscule risk of side effects. When at least 95 percent of people are vaccinated, “herd immunity” can drive a pathogen like polio or smallpox out of circulation. Wiping out a century of progress against dread diseases would be a supremely selfish, and self-destructive, act. (The Week magazine, December 6, 2024)**

**Global sales of Covid-19 vaccines and treatments exceeded $79 billion in 2021. Forecasts from companies and Wall Street analysts point to at least $90 billion in combined Covid drug and vaccine sales – a market that didn’t exist before 2020 – for 2022. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 11, 2022)***

**Governors in states with vaccine mandates have 52 percent approval ratings on aggregate, while their counterparts in states without mandates are at 42 percent, according to a survey by the Covid States Project. Governors who’ve actively banned vaccine mandates even by businesses that want them, including Ron DeSantis in Florida and Greg Abbott in Texas, collectively have a 36 percent approval rating. *(Politico.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 29, 2021)***

**Bad week for Iconoclasts: with a new data analysis of 11 million adults showing that people who have chosen not to be vaccinated against Covid are 72 percent more likely to be involved in “serious” traffic accidents. Researchers theorized that anti-vaxxers so distrust authority that they defiantly “neglect basic road safety guidelines.” *(The Week magazine, December 30 / January 6, 2023)***

**The level of Covid-19 risk we can live with is also not entirely a scientific question. It is a social and political one that involves balancing both the costs and benefits of restrictions and grappling with genuine pandemic fatigue among the public. The U. S. is now running an uncontrolled experiment with every strategy all at once. Covid-19 policies differ wildly by state, county, university, workplace, and school district. The least-vaccinated communities have some of the laxest restrictions, while highly vaccinated communities tend to have some of the most aggressive measures aimed at driving down cases. Hard questions lie ahead. *(Sarah Zhang, in TheAtlantic.com)***

**Good week for: Listening to Donald Trump, after the former president disclosed during a tour appearance that he got a booster shot and – to some booing – urged the audience to do so. Trump said MAGA fans who disdain vaccination “are playing right into their hands.” *(The Week magazine, December 31, 2021 / January 7, 2022)***

**A sticker advises: “Love a nurse. They call the shots.” *(Los Angeles Times Syndicate)***

**Vaccine mandates were upheld by the Supreme Court in 1905, and go all the way back to 1777, when George Washington “mandated smallpox protections for revolutionary troops.” Even many libertarians agree that “we are not free to inflict harm on others” by spreading a potentially deadly infectious disease. Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas and other Trump governors engage in their “lethal partisanship” anyway; if anti-vax posturing plays well on Fox News, thousands of additional deaths is a small price to pay. *(The Week magazine, October 29, 2021)***

**Measles: A measles outbreak spread across West Texas and eastern New Mexico this week, infecting at least 66 people. Texas reported at least 58 cases of the highly infectious viral disease, with 45 cases located in rural Gaines County and 13 people hospitalized. It’s the state’s largest measles outbreak in almost three decades. Texas health department spokesperson Lara Anton said the cases were concentrated in a “close-knit, under-vaccinated” Mennonite community. Almost 14 percent of school-age children in Gaines County opted out of at least one required vaccine last school year – one of the highest rates in Texas. Health officials warned that the percentage was likely higher, since it doesn’t count home-schooled children. Lea County in New Mexico, which borders Texas, also reported eight measles cases. Local health officials in both Texas and New Mexico were organizing free vaccination clinics. (The Week magazine, February 28, 2025)**

**Meat Loaf, who died last week, was a beloved entertainer and a devoted husband and father, said Andrew Mark Miller at FoxNews.com. He was also a critic of mask and vaccination mandates who declared in one of his last interviews, “If I die, I die, but I’m not going to be controlled.” *(The Week magazine, February 4, 2022)***

**Doctors in Covid-ravaged Missouri say that anti-vaccine sentiment runs so high that some patients are wearing disguises to get their shots. Dr. Priscilla Fraze of Ozarks Healthcare says patients have begged her, “Please, please, please don’t let anybody know that I got this vaccine.” The hospital now offers shots in a “private setting” to protect patients from being shunned. *(The Week magazine, August 13, 2021)***

**Nearly 319,000 of the more than 1 million Covid deaths in the U.S. could have been prevented if all eligible adults had gotten vaccinated, according to an analysis by researchers at Brown University and Microsoft Al Health. The states with the most preventable deaths were West Virginia, Wyoming, and Tennessee. Massachusetts had the fewest. *(NPR.org, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 27, 2022)***

**Good week for: Consequences, after NFL teams released a number of non-vaccinated players, including New England Patriots veteran quarterback Cam Newton. Under league rules, teams with outbreaks among unvaccinated players can forfeit games, lose pay, and be fined. *(The Week magazine, September 10 / September 17, 2021)***

**Pfizer said it expects to sell about $15 billion in coronavirus vaccine doses this year, netting a profit in the high 20 percent range of revenue. The company said it plans to deliver 200 million doses of its coronavirus vaccine to the U.S. by May, earlier than its initial forecast of July. *(CNBC.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 12, 2021)***

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**Covid-19 is now the leading cause of death for police officers in the U. S. Some 420 have died from the disease since January 2020, compared with 92 who died from gunfire, the second-leading cause. (The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 8, 2021)**

**Since the pandemic started, “five times as many police officers have died from Covid-19 as from gunfire.” (The Week magazine, November 5, 2021)**

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**The racial gap in vaccination status has nearly disappeared, thanks to intensive public education and outreach efforts, a new Kaiser Family Foundation survey indicates. Seventy percent of Black adults, 73 percent of Hispanic adults, and 71 percent of white adults report having received at least one shot of a Covid vaccine. *(Reason.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 29, 2021)***

**Are vaccines actually risky? No. Over the past 30 years in America, vaccines have saved the lives of more than 1 million children and a lot of money; at least $540 billion in health-care costs and trillions more in social costs. They don’t cause autism: Scientists now believe that neurodivergence is 80 percent inherited, although factors such as advanced maternal age can also play a role. And adverse side effects (beyond a sore shoulder) are vanishingly rare. Fewer than one thousandth of 1 percent of people who get the Pfizer or Moderna Covid vaccine, for example, go on to develop the potentially fatal heart condition myocarditis; Covid itself is seven times more likely to cause it. Still, some people say they have been harmed by vaccines. Just minutes after getting her Covid shot in 2021, neuroscientist MichelleZimmerman felt pain rush up her left side; she was later disgnosed with brain damage and can no longer work. She believes she got one of 60 million contaminated doses of the since-recalled Johnson & Johnson vaccine. “The devastation of what this has done to my life,” said Zimmerfman, “feels too hard to comprehend.” *(The Week magazine, December 20, 2024)***

**Covid vaccines saved the lives of 19 million to 20 million people worldwide in the first year of their availability, according to a disease-modeling study published in British medical journal The Lancet. Officially, their have been 6.3 million deaths, but most experts think the number is far higher. *(The Economist, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 8 / July 15, 2022)***

**About 55 million Americans have become ill from the swine flu so far, the federal government reported. About 11,160 died. About one in five Americans received the swine flu vaccine. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, January 29, 2010)***

**A universal coronovirus vaccine? Researchers are working to develop a single vaccine to work against all coronoviruses and new variants, reports the Los Angeles Times. La Jolla Institute for Immunology in California has just received a $2.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund its research into a “pan-coronavirus” shot. “It’s a class of viruses that we know can cause global pandemics,” says La Jolla president Erica Ollmann Saphire. “We’re trying to ward off the next pandemic.” That effort will also involve researchers from several institutions in Boston: Brigham and Women’s Hospital, MIT, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Boston University. To develop a universal vaccine for coronaviruses – which caused the deadly SARS and MERS outbreaks before Covid-19 – the researchers need to isolate parts of the virus that are ths same in every strain. They then need to develop vaccines that will train the immune system to recognize and target those particular areas. Other scientists are also working on a universal coronavirus vaccine. Researchers acknowledge that creating a shot that works against all coronaviruses will be challenging, given the enormous complexities of viruses and their ability to mutate rapidly. But they say developing a vaccine that works against, say, SARS and Covid-19 appears to be possible, because they’ve already found antibodies that attack both of the viruses that cause those diseases, *(The Week magazine, November 12, 2021)***

**The U.S. now ranks 57th in the world for the percentage of population vaccinated, Bloomberg’s vaccine tracker has found. One of the most highly vaccinated countries in the world five months ago, the U. S. now trails all of Western Europe except for Switzerland – mostly because of vaccine hesitancy and refusal. *(Vox.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**More than 96 percent of Tyson Foods’ 120,000-person workforce has been vaccinated against Covid-19. Less than half were inoculated when the company announced on Aug. 3 it would require vaccines as a condition of employment by Nov. 1. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 5, 2021)***

**Vaccine fakers regret their lies: Ukraine is suffering a catastrophic Covid surge, said pediatrician Yevgeny Komarovsky. Hundreds of people are dying here every day – 546 were killed by the virus in a single day last week – and any official who claims there are still hospital beds free “is lying.” Bodies are piling up in hospital hallways, and morgues are full. “There are still a few openings in cemeteries,” but there won’t be for long. This calamity is largely a result of Ukraine’s abysmal vaccination rate, the worst in Europe, with only 15 percent of the population fully inoculated. Now, “a terrible new problem has arisen.” Some unvaccinated Ukrainians are finally coming around to the idea that they must get shots – but they can’t, because they already bought vaccination certificates. By some estimates, half of all Ukrainians claiming to be inoculated have purchased papers. One man I know bought vax cards for his parents so they could travel to Turkey without getting shots: He has now buried them. Despite this grim situation, most Ukrainians still fear vaccination. President Volodymyr Zelensky recently posted a message on social media urging people to roll up their sleeves, and had to take it down days later because of a deluge of hateful comments. “If anyone still has brains left, please get vaccinated.” *(The Week magazine, November 5, 2021)***

**United Airlines said 593 employees faced termination for failing to comply with the carrier’s Covid-19 vaccination mandate. Replacing those workers shouldn’t be an issue: The company received 20,000 applications for 2,000 open flight-attendant positions. *(NBCNews.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, October 15, 2021)***

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**I am sick of the pandemic. You are sick of the pandemic. We are all very, very sick of the pandemic. It seemed last spring that vaccination might soon end this ordeal . . . and then, Delta brought a huge new wave of misery and death, nearly all of it among the unvaccinated. *(William Falk, in The Week magazine, December 10, 2021)***

**An unvaccinated elementary school teacher in Marin County, California, infected half the students in her class of 24 after she briefly took her mask off to read a story. Most of the students infected were in the two rows closest to her desk, according to a CDC case study – and many of them spread the virus to their family members. (The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 10/September 17, 2021)**

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**Since May, when coronavirus vaccinations became widely available, people living in counties that voted heavily for Donald Trump in 2021 have died of Covid-19 at rates 2.8 times higher than those who live in areas that went for President Biden. The higher the share of the vote that went to Trump in a county, the higher the number of Covid deaths. *(NPR.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 17, 2021)***

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**In 1777, George Washington had the entire Continental army – then 4,000 men – vaccinated. This action, considered controversial at the time because few American doctors believed in vaccination, may have saved the army as a fighting force. *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 236)***

**A Washington state trooper who quit rather than comply with a vaccine mandate has died of Covid. Robert LaMay, 50, was hailed on Fox News for his anti-vaccine stance, with host Laura Ingraham saying he had awakened “a sleeping giant.” LaMay leaves a wife and four children. *(The Daily Beast, as it appeared in The Week magazine, February 11, 2022)***

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