Article: Health workers: Show us vaccine data

Section: MAIN, A3

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, November 22, 2020 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

**Standards:**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

**Objectives:**

Students will discuss whether their family members get vaccinations. They will talk about the pros/cons of the new vaccine, and whether all Americans should be forced to get one. They’ll discuss their own comfort level with the timeline of the vaccine, whether it’s become politicized and whether more needs to be done. Students will discuss whether published data and evidence is important when dealing with medicine and vaccines and if they think the vaccine will be both safe and effective.
Pre-Reading Discussion:

• What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture? Are there clues?
• What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

Health professionals tend to be advocates of vaccines, including seasonal flu shots, shingles vaccines and childhood inoculations for measles, mumps and rubella.

Advocate Guess:

Advocate Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who is expected to get top priority to receive vaccines, which could become available as soon as next month?
2. Large health systems, medical societies and the federal government are launching an effort to persuade front-line health care providers to take novel vaccines that were developed, and are likely to be granted emergency approval, in _________ time.
3. In Boston, major teaching hospitals are rolling out what?
4. At New York’s Mount Sinai Health System, a leading infectious disease doctor said he likely will distribute what?
5. Jeffrey A. Hirschfield, a pediatrician in St. Petersburg, Florida, has shared his reservations on Twitter about what?
6. Hospitals in urban areas are taking additional measures to make sure what happens?
7. What is crucial to gaining broader public support for the vaccine, based on the high degree of trust placed in them by patients?
8. Polling last month showed that _____% of U.S. adults were willing to get vaccinated against the novel coronavirus, which causes COVID-19.
9. Medical experts said attitudes among doctors, nurses and the public could shift quickly as new data about the vaccines is revealed. But government, academic and health care officials say that significant numbers of providers want more data about what?
10. A report released Thursday by University of California, Los Angeles, researchers said _____% of Los Angeles health care workers who responded to an online questionnaire (not a randomized sample) said they would delay taking a vaccine.

**Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- *Does your family get vaccinations? Why or why not?*
- *Has your family talked about getting the upcoming vaccine?*
- *What are the pros/cons of the new vaccine?*
- *Will you feel comfortable getting the vaccine? Why or why not?*
- *Should everyone be forced to get one? Why or why not?*
- *Has the medical process to develop the vaccine become politicized? How?*
- *How do you feel about the fast timeline in which the vaccine was created and trials were done?*
- *Is published data and evidence important when dealing with medicine and vaccines? Why or why not?*
- *Do you think the vaccine will be safe and effective? Why or why not?*

After the fastest development ever, the FDA could grant emergency authorization for the two vaccines as soon as December. That would begin an immediate push to vaccinate 20 million people before the end of the year and hundreds of millions in 2021.

“Operation Warp Speed — just that name connotes urgency and timeliness, but could bring to mind for many a fear of the process being rushed,” Koh said. Pfizer and Moderna have provided data from their large-scale Phase 3 trials only via news releases, which contained the highly promising news that both vaccines were 90% effective or more and have not presented serious safety concerns. Bailey, Koh and other leaders said it is crucial for the companies to publish full trial results as soon as possible to win approval from physicians.
• Does this seem too rushed to you? Why or why not?
• What would need to happen in order for you to feel confident to get the vaccine?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655. Copyright © 2020 The Seattle Times Company