

A Shortcut for Exposing Misinformation: Let the Real Experts Do it For You

“18 Reasons Why I won’t be getting the Cover Vaccine” by Christian Elliot is a classic example of how anyone without a background in science, medicine, or epidemiology can “recycle old misinformation by wrapping it in a new package” (#2 below) and draw attention to his website promoting some other product he/she is selling.

In Christian’s case what he and his wife are trying to sell physical fitness counseling. Check out his website itself where he doesn’t even mention his education, but promotes himself as a good-looking family man who likes to research and pass on other information as a hobby. And, true, he seems like a nice guy, and may be sincere in his efforts to inform people, but he’s way out of his league.

It saddens me that supposedly well-educated people are so easily swayed by such misinformation when it takes literally seconds to google the opposing point of view by searching for credible fact-checkers or other known, trusted, established, and reliable sources of refutation.

I do not have the time, patience, or expertise in any given subject to pit my unprepared mind against that of someone who has amassed and cherry picked studies from people or organizations who or which support his/her belief systems. That’s why I get other experts to help me find out the truth. **But don’t trust me, check out the pros (1) and cons (2 and 3 below) for yourself, and you decide.**

1) “18 Reasons Why I won’t be getting the Cover Vaccine” by Christian Elliot <https://www.deconstructingconventional.com/post/18-reason-i-won-t-be-getting-a-covid-vaccine>

2) Science Based Medicine’s Refutation of the 1) above article <https://sciencebasedmedicine.org/christian-elliots-18-reasons-i-wont-be-getting-a-covid-vaccine-viral-antivaccine-misinformation/>

3) Snopes Fact-Check of 1) above article <https://www.snopes.com/news/2021/04/16/18-reasons-why/>

In addition to my preference for credentialed experts in the field over the self-proclaimed ones, **we are all learning from the empirical evidence supporting the efficacy of the vaccines themselves: they are working.**

There is no need to vilify or shame and lose family or friends who disagree. Some of them are just biding their time to see how this plays out. Others may not be able to transcend their fear or distrust of government or institutions which may have failed them in the past. Still others cannot admit that they might be wrong, and would literally bet their lives on it. Time will tell. Ultimately the proof will be in the pudding, not just the recipe.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

Joe Barile, May 6, 2021

(with a [background](#) in Philosophy, Education, Journalism and an interest and respect for Science and the Arts)