

Florida Surgeon General Issues Health Alert on mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

By – Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo | Feb. 17th, 2023

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Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo has sent a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) citing that there has been a 4,400 percent increase in reports of life-threatening conditions in Florida since the rollout of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Highlights From the Letter

- The State of Florida has never seen this type of response following previous mass vaccination efforts pushed by the federal government.
- There has been a 1,700 percent increase in reports after the release of the COVID-19 vaccine(s), compared to an increase of 400 percent in vaccine administration for the same period.
- The reporting of life-threatening conditions increased by 4,400 percent.
- According to a recent study, mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were associated with an excess risk of serious adverse events, including coagulation disorders, acute cardiac injuries, Bell's palsy, and encephalitis, to name a few. This risk appeared in one person in 550, which is a high rate.

We have never seen this type of response following previous mass vaccination efforts pushed by the federal government. Even the H1N1 vaccine did not trigger this sort of response. In Florida alone, we saw a 1,700 percent increase in reports after the release of the COVID-19 vaccine, compared to an increase of 400 percent in vaccine administration for the same period. The reporting of life-threatening conditions increased [by] 4,400 percent.

— Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo

Health Alert on mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Safety

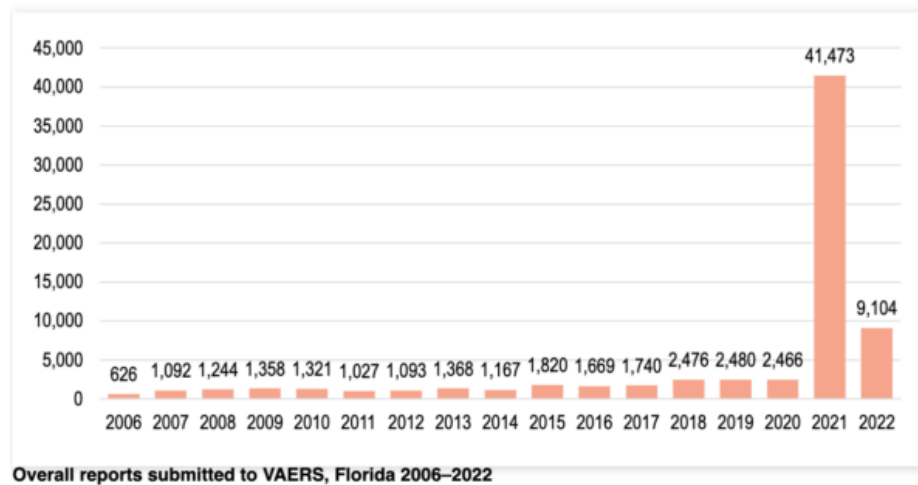
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The COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges that the health and medical fields have never encountered. Although the initial response was led by a sense of urgency and crisis management, the State Surgeon General believes it is critical that as public health professionals, responses are adapted to the present to chart a future guided by data.

The State Surgeon General is notifying the health care sector and the public of a substantial increase in Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) reports from Florida after the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.



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In Florida alone, there was a 1,700 percent increase in VAERS reports after the release of the COVID-19 vaccines, compared to an increase of 400 percent in overall vaccine administration for the same period (Figure 1).

The reporting of life-threatening conditions increased by over 4,400 percent. This is a novel increase and was not seen during the 2009 H1N1 vaccination campaign. There is a need for additional unbiased research to better understand the COVID-19 vaccines' short- and long-term effects.

The findings in Florida are consistent with various studies that continue to uncover such risks. To further evaluate this, the Surgeon General wrote a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) illustrating the risk factors associated with the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and emphasizing the need for additional transparency.

According to a study, Fraiman J et al, Vaccine. 2022, mRNA COVID-19 vaccines were associated with an excess risk of serious adverse events, including coagulation disorders, acute cardiac injuries, Bell's palsy, and encephalitis. This risk was in one in 550 individuals, which is much higher than other vaccines.

A second study, Sun CLF et al, Sci Rep. 2022, found increased acute cardiac arrests and other acute cardiac events following mRNA COVID-19 vaccination.

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Additionally, Dag Berild J et al, JAMA Netw Open. 2022 assessed the risk of thromboembolic and thrombocytopenic events related to COVID-19 vaccines and found preliminary evidence of increased risk of both coronary disease and cardiovascular disease.

While the CDC has identified safety signals for stroke among individuals 65 and older following the bivalent booster administration, there is a need for additional assessments and research regarding the safety of all mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

To support transparency, the State of Florida reminds health care providers to accurately communicate the risks and benefits of all clinical interventions to their patients, including those associated with the COVID-19 vaccine as additional risks continue to be identified and disclosed to the public.

The State of Florida remains dedicated to protecting communities from the risks of COVID-19 and other public health concerns, specifically by promoting the importance of treatment and promoting prevention through healthy habits. We encourage our health care partners and providers to do the same.

(End of Health Alert)

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health
of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

February 15, 2023

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Drs. Califf and Walensky,

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many challenges that the health and medical field have never encountered. Although the initial response was led by a sense of urgency and crisis management, I believe it is critical that as public health professionals, responses are adapted to the present to chart a future guided by data and common sense.

As Florida's Surgeon General, it was in the public's best interest to issue guidance for using mRNA COVID-19 vaccines in children and in young men based on the absence of a health benefit in clinical trials. This guidance followed preliminary data analyses by the Florida Department of Health. We continue to refine and expand these findings, including addressing methodological issues inherent to evaluating vaccine safety and efficacy.

In addition to Florida's analysis of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, academic researchers throughout our country and around the globe have seen troubling safety signals of adverse events surrounding this vaccine. Their concerns are corroborated by the substantial increase in VAERS reports from Florida, including life-threatening conditions. We have never seen this type of response following previous mass vaccination efforts pushed by the federal government. Even the H1N1 vaccine did not trigger this sort of response. In Florida alone, we saw a 1,700% increase in reports after the release of the COVID-19 vaccine, compared to an increase of 400% in vaccine administration for the same period. The reporting of life-threatening conditions increased 4,400%.

This increase in adverse events, compared to the percent increase in vaccine use, further explains the significant uptick we are seeing in VAERS reports. These findings are unlikely to be related to changes in reporting given their magnitude, and more likely reflect a pattern of increased risk from mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. We need unbiased research, as many in the

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