MediaWell

News Item

# History Shows Anti-Vaccination, Misinformation Campaigns Are Nothing New | Wisconsin Public Radio

By Elizabeth Dohms-Harter
April 1, 2021

> Anti-vaccination sentiment is on repeat in this era of COVID-19, as misinformation about unsafe vaccines and mutated DNA is recycled from vaccination and inoculation campaigns that date back to smallpox.
>
> Smallpox was eradicated from the population in 1979. But prior to that, it showed up in waves since its estimated arrival in about 10,000 B.C. With up to a 30 percent mortality rate, smallpox would show up on the faces of those infected and would often leave disfiguring scars.
>
> René Najera, an epidemiologist and editor of The History of Vaccines project by the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, said inoculations prior to the vaccine — whereby pus or scabs from an infected person were injected or inhaled into the body of a healthy person — weren't widely accepted.
>
> […]

Source: History Shows Anti-Vaccination, Misinformation Campaigns Are Nothing New | Wisconsin Public Radio