

UoO - Official Information Act

From: Michael Baker
Sent: Saturday, 14 August 2021 2:20 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Webinar opportunity hosted by the World Socialist Website

Hi [REDACTED]

Good to keep disseminating these key ideas to new audiences.

I had some questions about this forum.

- What is the topic? Is it a global overview about optimum strategies and interventions to manage the pandemic? Or specifically focussed on school opening/closing policies which would also touch on Covid-19 and children?
- Who is the audience here in terms of interested public, practitioners, or policy makers?
- What format and length - is it panel discussion or a series of presentations (presumably with ppt)?

I may have trouble attending myself as I am talking at a GP conference on morning of 22 August.
Amanda K might be able to step in - she is a paediatrician so has a strong interest in child health.

Ngā mihi nui
Michael

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 14 August 2021 9:07 am
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Michael Baker <michael.baker@otago.ac.nz>
Subject: Webinar opportunity hosted by the World Socialist Website

They would like us to participate in a webinar on Sunday Aug. 22 US/UK / Monday Aug. 23 in Australa/NZ. Timing will depend on who is available, if all of us are available we will do it at about 5PM ET / 10 PM BST / 7AM AEST (monday) / 9AM NZT (monday) adjusted to your availability.

Note this is a political website, the webinar will be on the science. Here are articles published on the site:

<https://apc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsws.org%2Fen%2Farticles%2F2021%2F08%2F03%2Fgurd-a03.html&data=04%7C01%7Cmichael.baker%40otago.ac.nz%7C26910967a355410d90ce08d95e9e546c%7C0225efc578fe4928b1579ef24809e9ba%7C1%7C0%7C637644856409057153%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Iik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=tVzyFa%2FR7I5SkU62Mu19pDMMtAH88liCwMKQJXCZCfc%3D&reserved=0>

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On Sunday, August 22, the World Socialist Web Site (WSWS) will host a webinar devoted to giving a scientific presentation on the present state of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures necessary to eradicate the virus globally. The event will feature leading scientists from around the world, including [REDACTED] and Dr. Michael Baker of New Zealand. It will be chaired by WSWS International Editorial Board Chairman David North, who has written and edited many articles on the pandemic.

The purpose of this seminar is to provide the public with the knowledge that it needs to fight for the protection of lives. It is well-known that there are policies that can be implemented, such as the Green Zone Strategy [REDACTED] and others, that could effectively break the chain of transmission of the virus. Our starting point is that the only viable strategy is to fight for the eradication of COVID-19 globally, that the embers cannot continue to burn in any part of the world.

The forum will center on the question of school reopenings and the need for a globally-coordinated campaign to keep schools closed in order to protect children, their families and society as a whole. Based on all scientific data, we firmly believe that under the current conditions there is no possible way to reopen schools in the US or any other country where the Delta variant is dominant. This policy will inevitably deepen the catastrophic surge of cases, hospitalizations and deaths, including among children.

Just in the US, one of the most economically advanced countries in the world, an estimated 36,000 schools had antiquated ventilation systems in the summer of 2020, the majority of which have not been renovated over the past year. This means that in the coming weeks, roughly 40 million unvaccinated American children will be placed into classrooms with 25, 30, 40 or more of their peers breathing the same air and being exposed to the airborne coronavirus. Similar or worse conditions exist throughout the world, with hundreds of millions of unvaccinated children and their families threatened with exposure to the deadly virus.

Child infections and hospitalizations have surged dramatically, reaching their highest point since the start of the pandemic. COVID-19 is now the leading cause of death among children in Brazil, and every week in the month of July over 100 children in Indonesia succumbed to the virus.

The most recent data from the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS) found that roughly 10 percent of children aged 2–11 years and 13 percent of those aged 12–16 years reported at least one lingering symptom five weeks after contracting COVID-19, including debilitating symptoms affecting multiple organ systems. On a world scale, millions of children could suffer from these symptoms for the rest of their lives. A recent study published in The Lancet found that COVID-19 patients placed on a ventilator lost roughly seven intelligence quotient (IQ) points, while those not ventilated lost roughly four points. A significant number who were not hospitalized but experienced respiratory difficulty lost between one and two IQ points, roughly equivalent to the effects of lead poisoning.

Within the global population, there is growing anxiety and nervousness about the present state of the pandemic and the dangers posed by the spread of new, more transmissible, more virulent, and increasingly vaccine-resistant variants. Masses of people on every continent yearn for a scientific understanding of the pandemic and what measures must be taken to protect individuals, their communities, and the whole of society.

The role that scientific experts can play in educating the population cannot be overstated. If properly armed with scientific knowledge, those whose lives are currently at risk will organize the necessary response to contain and ultimately eradicate the virus.

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From: David North <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 22 August 2021 12:00 am
To: Michael Baker
Subject: Duration of Webinar

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Professor Baker,

The Webinar is scheduled for 90 minutes, from 5pm to 6:30 pm on Sunday (EDT) — that is, in Wellington, on Monday from 9 to 10:30 am.

Best regards,

David North

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From: David North <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 23 August 2021 8:47 am
To: Michael Baker
Subject: Sign in to Webinar

Hi Professor Baker,

The link to the webinar is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86241198827>

Please sign in now so we can make sure the connection is working properly.

David North

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From: David North <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 29 August 2021 9:46 am
To: Michael Baker
Subject: Response to Webinar

Dear Professor Baker,

Allow me to express my appreciation for your participation in last Sunday's webinar. Its live audience was approximately 1,500 and it has now been viewed on YouTube and other platforms more than 4,000 times.

Your remarks made an enormous impression on the audience. As [REDACTED] said in response to your presentation, this was the first time that [REDACTED] had been really told the truth about the impact and implications of the pandemic. [REDACTED] has been immensely strengthened by your explanation of the situation. During the last week, [REDACTED] has been interviewed by major media outlets, including the BBC, and [REDACTED] is quoting verbatim from your remarks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Your work and commitment to truth is of immense importance. The WSWS would like very much to follow your work and report on it. We also hope that you might be available for another on-line event.

With very best regards,

David North