

Biden signs bill to counter spike in anti-Asian hate crime

By Darlene Superville
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden signed legislation in May to curtail a dramatic rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and expressed pride that lawmakers who seem to agree on little else came together against hate and racism.

Biden lavished praise on Democrats and Republicans for approving the bill by lopsided margins and sending it to the White House for his signature. Several dozen lawmakers attended the bill signing ceremony, one of the largest groups to visit the Biden White House during the pandemic.

The House approved the bill 364-62, following the Senate’s 94-1 vote in April.

Biden, who stressed his wish to help unite the country as he campaigned for office, said during the East Room event that fighting hate and racism should bring people together.

“I’m proud today of the United States,” he said.

The new law will expedite Justice Department reviews of hate crimes by putting an official in charge of the effort. Federal grants will be available to help local law enforcement agencies improve their investigation, identification, and reporting of bias-driven incidents, which often go underreported.

Some activists opposed the legislation’s reliance on law enforcement.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who is Black and Indian, discussed reports of stabbings, shootings, and other attacks against Asian American and

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To jab or not to jab. That is the question.



really know what’s in them.” I seem to be A-OK with that.

A possible side effect related to the Johnson & Johnson (J&J)/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is blood clots. It was plastered all over the news in April. Random blood clots sound like a serious problem.

While I hope nobody ever has to experience a blood clot of any kind, the probability of having a blood clot after receiving the J&J/Janssen vaccine is 1 in a million. As a reference point, I looked up the possibility of being hit by lightning in one’s lifetime on the National Weather Service website. It’s a 1 in 15,300 chance. That means you are about 70 times more likely to be struck by lightning than to experience a blood clot from the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

Based on the weather service numbers,

MY TURN

■ Wayne Chan



it would be a better investment for me to remove every piece of metal from my house and wrap all the doors and windows with duct tape instead of worrying about the side effects of a vaccine shot.

What about the unknown? What other side effects might happen if I’m vaccinated?

By now, if you’ve read this far, you can probably guess that I didn’t really struggle with the decision whether to get a jab. The alternative — that is, contracting COVID-19 — was all the information I needed to make up my mind.

Still, I meant it when I said I could relate to the fear of the unknown. For the first few hours after receiving my first dose, I paid close attention. Whatever it was, I would be ready.

Would I get a rash? Would my hair fall out? Would appendages just start falling off my body? Would my voice change and give me an irresistible urge to belt out show tunes in the produce aisle of my local market? The unknown can be scary.

The experience was pretty anti-climatic. The only side effects I felt were a sore arm and a night of restlessness. No lost appendages. No show tunes.

Get the shot, folks. The benefits are obvious. And if you do feel a need to belt out a show tune, just stick with Rodgers & Hammerstein and we’re all good.

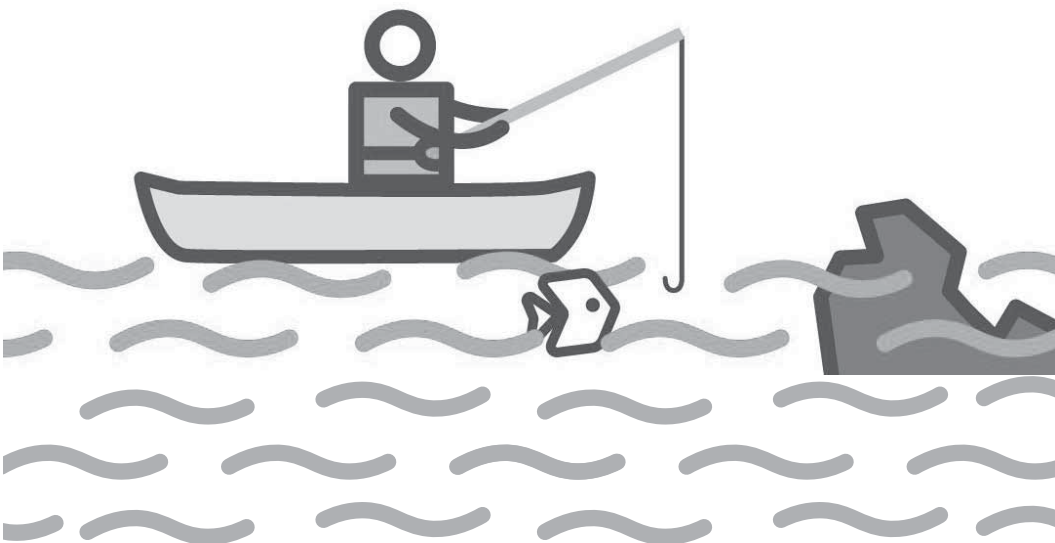
COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccinations, reach out to <https://vaccinefinder.org>

- ♦ In Oregon, call 211 or 1-866-698-6155, or visit covidvaccine.oregon.gov
- ♦ In Washington state, call (360) 236-4501 or 1-800-525-0127, or visit doh.wa.gov/coronavirus

You don’t float. Life jackets do.

Accidents happen in an instant. Whether boating, tubing or swimming, always wear a life jacket.



66% of Asian/ Pacific Islander children have no/low swimming ability

oregonmetro.gov/natureeducation



Parks and nature
Arts and events
Garbage and recycling
Land and transportation
Oregon Zoo