

AOTW: To vaxx or not to vaxx...appears that's still a question for some

August 13,
2021

Good morning.

The heat has broken this weekend after a pretty torrid stretch. Beautiful weather to be had. Get out and enjoy it, with a little less sweat involved.

As we work our way through August markets continue to creep upwards, new highs after new highs. Good news for portfolios for sure. How long this upward trend can continue unabated is unknown. Historically the markets have a few wobbles each year. This year we haven't. As advisors, we expect some volatility to return. It's actually a healthy thing for the markets. Underneath it all, the economy seems to be doing pretty well, corporate earnings have been solid, Delta variant news flow on the other hand is picking up which has some people unnerved. For those of us vaccinated we're pretty well protected, but for those who've shied away from the needles they are indeed in the line of fire. Stay tuned to see how this all plays out.

Next week, yours truly, is taking his first trip since this "little event" started. Of course I'd choose to head out to the land of extreme heat and wildfires, but it's a trip nonetheless. I don't look forward to wearing a mask for five plus hours on the flight, but I'll do it because I'm a good citizen. (I believe that's the feedback you'd get if you ask people; 95% accuracy within two standard deviations)

Most of our readers have likely been double vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine. I on the other hand had the AstraZeneca/Moderna combination. Still no third head, I'm doing well.

I think some of those who haven't been vaccinated are perhaps skeptical of the science behind the development of mRNA vaccines in conjunction with how quickly they were developed. The vaccines of old, that we've all grown up with, are perhaps more comfortable for some. More traditional, backed by long standing science etc.

Novovax (from Maryland), was working on developing their own "old school" COVID vaccine back in early 2020. The company certainly doesn't/didn't get nearly the attention of Pfizer/Moderna/Astra/J&J.

Little fanfare, and not backed by a big pharma, they were slower to move through trials. Now that the developed world seems flooded by mRNA vaccines they still don't receive much attention.

But it turns out they've got a vaccine with impressive efficacy, 96% against the original strain, but more importantly it reports a 90% efficacy against the new variants.

Combine strong efficacy with old school technology and maybe, just maybe, the quality Novovax vaccine will convince the skeptics to take the vaccine. That is if it gets the attention it appears to deserve given the glut of other vaccines.

Good article from the [Atlantic](#).

This is a good article to send to anyone you know who hasn't been vaccinated. That is if they have an email...

Have a great weekend.
See you in a couple weeks.

Penned by Greg Roscoe

Sincerely,

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