

I was originally seen at my local small town hospital ER (Stoughton, WI) for shortness of breath. Due to my respiratory depression I was paralyzed, sedated, and then placed on a ventilator. Because they were unable to maintain my oxygen saturation above 92%, I was flown by UW Med Flight to St Marys Hospital in Madison, WI and admitted to their intensive care unit.

I woke up a few days later in the ICU still on the ventilator. Due to COVID restrictions my wife and other immediate family were unable to enter the hospital which I was surprised but completely understood the reasoning for this restriction. The staff contacted my wife and family by phone so I could hear their voices. They went above and beyond any expectation that I had to make me feel safe and comfortable in a very strange environment/situation (even though I had worked as a critical care RN in this very same unit it was still stressful)

I was eventually weaned off the ventilator and transitioned to oral antibiotics so I could return home.

Approximately, one month later I suffered a heart attack and again went to Stoughton ER. Due to positive ECG changes and lab values confirming a heart attack, a cardiologist at St Marys was contacted by the ER physician. The “gold standard” and needed treatment was an immediate cardiac catheterization. Although the cardiac cath lab was open, there were no open ICU beds. The ER staff contacted over 8 different cardiac care centers but due to no available ICU beds, I had to be treated medically resulting in permanent heart damage!

Since the helicopter was available they explored hospitals in all surrounding states but the answer was the same there ICU beds were full with over 80% of the patients were unvaccinated COVID patients

By the time I had my MI I had completed all three of the initial Covid vaccines (Dec 20 dose 1, Feb 21, dose 2, and April 2, 21 dose 3)

I fully support people's choice to be vaccinated or to refuse a vaccine but if someone knowingly refuses a vaccine then I don't believe they have the right to tie up critical resources like ICU beds and ventilators.

I fully respect our local Amish and Mennonite communities. They don't believe in medical science and when they get sick they stay home and let nature run its course.

The next pandemic may have already started. What has Senator Johnson done to make sure we have adequate medical facilities and equipment throughout the US?

As a retired RN, and patient who suffered because people refused the vaccine but then wanted everything done for themselves and/or their families when they developed the disease.

I would be more than happy to produce all of my medical records and to testify either in person or by zoom!

We need to do better during our next pandemic! I'm sure that's why you are doing this Post Covid autopsy on our response and handling of the public health crisis.