

First Place: Bob Schulze Award for Poetry – High School

“Vaccine Verse”

By: Carley Sneddon

Grade: 12

School: Petoskey High School

The expressed objective; protection for the collective
Immunity in our community, and a cultivated unity
Ours is reliance on the study of science
Which urges compliance through evidence and guidance

Please continue to honor those we've lost
And the front-line workers that bore the cost
Who promised to protect and honored their oath
Even as illness saw exponential growth
Please rise to the occasion, and get your vaccination

Respect the scientists and biologists, the epidemiologists
The PHDs in biochemistry
Clinicians, statisticians, diagnosticians and physicians
Who've battled opposition to eradicate this condition
Help them achieve their mission and stop the transmission

Celebrate those in immunology and the study of virology
Their research converging to stop the surging
A path of dedication led us to this destination
mRNA will lead the way for all of us to be okay

Please sign up for your shot today

A network of benefit to which you extend

Directly to your neighbors, your elders, and friends

Our grocers, drivers, and mail carriers too

All of those who've kept working and will continue to do

We're all connected; so please don't go unprotected

Others will be subjected to the effects of even one who's reckless

If there's trepidation, speak to your doctor for an explanation

We need to stop the contagion, and do our part for containment

Soon we will all stand together in celebration

Our minds and bodies filled with elation

Of the time we thought of other's lives

So that no one else would have to die

And with this, a final declaration and supplication

To safeguard yourself, your friends and relations

Please abide by your obligation

And sign up today to receive your vaccination