Investigation of Attitudes toward Immunization in an Old-Order Amish Community

In this Chapter, Jonathon S. Yoder investigates the attitudes of one Amish Community toward vaccination. Although this investigation was not concerning an outbreak it does concern how likely the possibility is that an outbreak could occur in this type of community. Many factors had to be considered by the investigators when examining this topic. Such examples include the religious aspects of the Amish community, their distrust of any governmental organization as well as the deviations that had to be made so this investigation could occur. I will discuss how the precision taken by the two investigators when handling the Amish community is a good model for other outbreak investigations.

Questions:
1. This chapter discusses an investigation that is proactive in terms of an outbreak whereas all of the other chapters discussed have all been retroactive. What are the pros and cons of the two types?
2. Would you consider the protection of the majority greater than the rights of the minority?
3. In the chapter when Mr. Yoder and Dr. Dworkin met with the medical counsel they discussed the type of communication style and thinking of the Amish community. In addition to culture, religion, and communication can you think of any other things to keep in mind when conducting an outbreak investigation?
4. Is a Mother’s worry about protecting her child a bad quality or a good quality? (such as with the vaccination?)
5. Would you want to be Amish?