

How a Boston African slave played in how vaccines are
surrounding vaccines has long

important in New England and other

Though proven effective in other countries, variolation was not without risks. Some people who underwent variolation still developed severe symptoms and even died from smallpox. However, the number of deaths were far less than in those who contracted the disease from another person naturally.

In fact, one Boston doctor who was also a slave owner took Onesimus' knowledge and Mather's encouragement of it to heart. Zabdiel Boylston used variolation on his son and his slaves. The result? Of those Boylston inoculated, one in 40 died of smallpox, whi