COVID-19 Vaccinations: Where We Are and What We’ve Learned

Presented by:
Charles McPherson, PharmD
Clinical Assistant Professor, UIC College of Pharmacy
and
Brenikki Floyd, PhD, MPH
Clinical Assistant Professor, UIC School of Public Health
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• COVID-19 Vaccine Impact
• Vaccine Hesitancy vs Deliberation
• Misinformation and Myths
• UIC COVID-19 Street Outreach Program
COVID-19 Vaccine Impact
COVID-19 Vaccine Impact

• Reduces your risk of infection
• Protects against severe illness
• As more of the population is vaccinated, the odds of getting the disease is reduced due to herd immunity
• Protects people around you, particularly people at increase risk of severe illness from COVID-19
8 out of 10 COVID-19 deaths reported in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older.
Risk increases with age, with older adults at highest risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate compared to 5–17-years old</th>
<th>0–4 years old</th>
<th>5–17 years old</th>
<th>18–29 years old</th>
<th>30–39 years old</th>
<th>40–49 years old</th>
<th>50–64 years old</th>
<th>65–74 years old</th>
<th>75–84 years old</th>
<th>85+ years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cases</strong></td>
<td>&lt;1x</td>
<td>Reference group</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>1x</td>
<td>1x</td>
<td>2x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitalization</strong></td>
<td>2x</td>
<td>Reference group</td>
<td>6x</td>
<td>10x</td>
<td>15x</td>
<td>25x</td>
<td>40x</td>
<td>65x</td>
<td>95x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Death</strong></td>
<td>1x</td>
<td>Reference group</td>
<td>10x</td>
<td>45x</td>
<td>130x</td>
<td>440x</td>
<td>1300x</td>
<td>3200x</td>
<td>8700x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Protects people with certain medical conditions

- Cancer
- Chronic lung disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Heart condition
- Down Syndrome
- HIV infection
- Liver disease
- Immuno-deficiency
- Sickle cell disease
- Dementia/Neurological conditions
- Overweight/Obese
- Diabetes (Types 1 & 2)
- Pregnancy
- Solid organ transplant
- Substance use disorder
- Stroke/cerebrovascular disease
- Smoking

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Percent of population fully vaccinated

- Chicago
- Cook County
- Illinois

Illinois Department of Public Health, 5 May 2021
Health Justice and COVID-19
Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain their full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.”

Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment.
COVID-19 Vaccinations by Race/Ethnicity - Illinois

Kaiser Family Foundation, 3 May 2021
“Vaccine hesitancy” means the reluctance or unwillingness to be vaccinated or have one’s children vaccinated against a disease, even if proven safe and effective.
Increase In COVID-19 Vaccine Enthusiasm Slows Across Racial And Ethnic Groups

Click on the buttons below to see the share of each demographic group by vaccination intentions:

- Total
- Black adults
- Hispanic adults
- White adults

- Already gotten/As soon as possible
- Wait and see
- Only if required
- Definitely not

NOTE: See topline for full question wording.
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor
Figure 2

Increase In COVID-19 Vaccine Enthusiasm Slows Across Racial And Ethnic Groups

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NOTE: See top line for full question wording
SOURCE: KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor
Vaccine hesitancy or deliberation?

Table 1: Top reasons why individuals have not tried to get a COVID-19 vaccine appointment by vaccination intention (Open-end)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As soon as possible</th>
<th>Wait and see</th>
<th>Only if required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Busy/didn't have time/schedule conflict</td>
<td>14% Want to wait until more people have gotten it</td>
<td>23% Don't want it/need it (general)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can't take time off work/conflicts with work hours</td>
<td>12% Concerned about safety and/or side effects</td>
<td>14% Concerned about safety and/or side effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just haven't gotten around to it</td>
<td>9% Vaccine is too new/not enough research</td>
<td>9% Vaccine is too new/not enough research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't have proper documentation/not sure if eligible</td>
<td>8% Don't want it/need it (general)</td>
<td>8% Already had COVID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of information about how to get the vaccine</td>
<td>7% Waiting for medical reason</td>
<td>6% Don't have proper documentation/not sure if eligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19 Vaccine Equity

- Age minimums for COVID vaccination
- Appointment scheduling
- Online-only sign-ups
- Poor internet access
- Language barriers
- Proof-of-eligibility requirements
- Location of vaccination sites
- Transportation
- Other planning and access issues
• an overabundance of information—some accurate and some not—that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it
COVID-19: Misinformation vs Disinformation

- (Mis)information: a lack of a full understanding of the virus
- Disinformation: deliberately spreading false or misleading information in an effort to influence public opinion or deceive
  - Biased information
  - Manipulated narrative/facts
  - Propaganda
  - Fake news
COVID-19 Vaccine Myths

Myth: The COVID-19 vaccine can cause sterilization.

Fact: There's no evidence to support sterilization as a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine.

For more information visit healthoregon.org/coronavirus or call 211.
#4 COVID-19 VACCINE MYTHS

**MYTH:** The side effects of the vaccine are worse than the side effects of getting COVID.

**FACT:** While COVID-19 can be mild, it can also be very severe or even fatal. The COVID-19 vaccine can cause pain at the injection site, headache, and muscle aches. These side effects appear to be more severe than with most vaccines but resolve in a day or two.

For more information visit: healthoregon.org/coronavirus

#7 COVID-19 VACCINE MYTHS

**MYTH:** mRNA vaccines can alter your DNA.

**FACT:** Messenger RNA injected into your body will not interact with or affect your cell's DNA. Messenger RNA vaccines work by teaching cells in the body how to make a protein that triggers an immune response, according to the CDC.

For more information visit: healthoregon.org/coronavirus
**MYTH**

I HAVE ALLERGIES TO EGGS, NUTS AND/OR BEE STINGS SO I SHOULDN'T GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE.

You can get the vaccine even if you have severe allergies. All people wait 15-30 minutes after getting the vaccine to observe for reactions. You can't get the vaccine if you have had a severe allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine or the ingredients of the COVID-19 vaccine. These ingredients include polyethylene glycol or polysorbate.

**FACT**

**MYTH**

I WON'T NEED TO WEAR A MASK OR SOCIALLY DISTANCE AFTER I GET VACCINATED FOR COVID-19.

It may take time for everyone who wants a COVID-19 vaccination to get one. You still need to do all the other things to prevent COVID-19 infection. Keep your mask on. Continue to stay distanced from people. Keep washing your hands.

**FACT**
MYTH
THERE ARE SEVERE SIDE EFFECTS TO THE COVID-19 VACCINES.

FACT
There are very mild side effects that go away quickly. They include headaches, chills, fatigue or muscle pain. These side effects last for a day or two. These side effects show your immune system is responding to the vaccine.

MYTH
I ALREADY HAD COVID-19 AND I RECOVERED, I DON’T NEED TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE.

FACT
There is a chance you can get re-infected with COVID-19. Even if you already had a COVID-19 infection. After getting COVID-19, the body does get immune to it, but it is not clear how long that lasts. So, the vaccine is still needed.
WHAT ARE SOME MYTHS YOU’VE HEARD ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE?
UIC COVID-19 Street Outreach Program
• Street Outreach Supervisors – 4
• Street Outreach Specialists – 10
• Primary Goal: to provide temporary employment relief to individuals whose employment has been impacted by the pandemic

• Secondary Goal: to enhance community members’ health and well-being through direct outreach and the provision of the information and protection needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection among individuals in vulnerable communities in Chicago

• Partnership with North American Job Center at Truman College

• Funded by Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
• Deliverance Temple of the Apostolic Faith
• Inspiration Kitchen
• CORE Chicago
• UI Health/Mile Square and Protect Chicago Plus
  • Englewood Vaccination High Impact Collaboration
  • Humboldt Park
I am the cure!
Mark of the beast
God got me
Zombie
Not FDA approved?
It is critical that we ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and accurate information in a timely manner.
THANK YOU!

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH