

HOW TO SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINATION DECISIONS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Findings from *Understanding Diverse Communities and Supporting Equitable and Informed COVID-19 Vaccination Decision-Making*. Read more [here](#).

✓ ADDRESS EVOLVING INFORMATION NEEDS

Provide information on:

- Vaccine safety issues and whether vaccinated people can transmit COVID-19 to others
- Reactions with health conditions and medications
- Number of African Americans who have received the vaccine and what their experiences have been
- Actions beyond vaccination - what else people can do to stop COVID-19 spread, keep themselves and others safe, and help improve the economy by getting people back to work
- Vaccine roll-out with an eye toward equity



✓ ACKNOWLEDGE VALUES AND LIVED EXPERIENCE

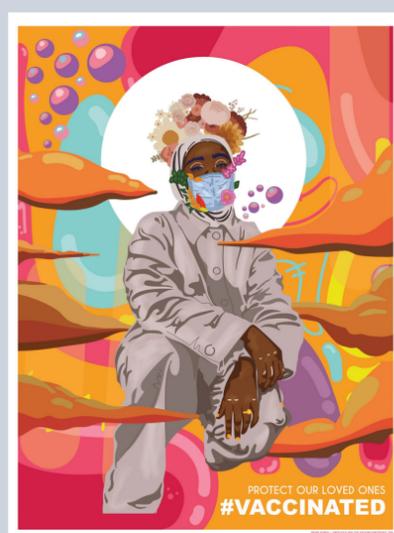
Acknowledge:

- Historical context resulting in present-day consequences - Given the intentional abuse and neglect of African Americans' health over the past 400 years, some see the vaccine as just the latest attempt to further undermine their health
- Lived experience - Regardless of status, wealth, or education level, African Americans who express that they are experiencing pain following a medical intervention are often ignored or dismissed by medical professionals. Medical professionals must demonstrate they will respond to Black Americans in pain as attentively as they do to White Americans in pain
- Distrust of government - Historically, established governmental systems have proven untrustworthy when it comes to equitable treatment of African Americans

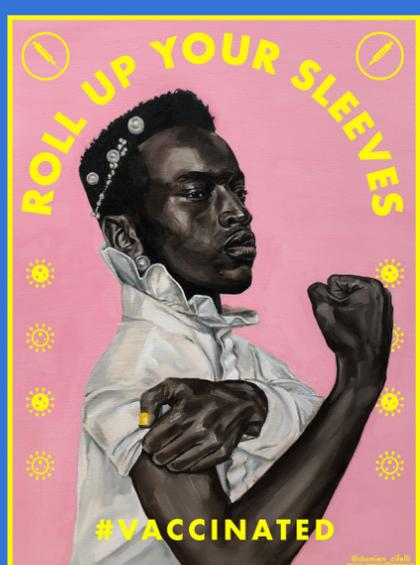


✓ SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF DECISION-MAKING

- Provide safe platforms for individuals to talk to experts and with each other:
 - Don't approach the conversations with the goal of persuading anyone to be vaccinated
 - Both those intending to and not intending to take the vaccine found satisfaction in learning more about it and discussing it with others
- Show encouragement and appreciation for positive public health behaviors and decisions beyond vaccination that contribute to decreased disease rates, hospitalizations, and death



✓ MAKE IT EASY TO GET VACCINATED



- Provide convenient vaccination locations with a focus on equity
 - Host sites in locations central to vulnerable communities to minimize the need to use public transportation
- Ensure equity in registration platforms
 - Registration options should account for different access to technology (i.e., in-person community outreach and telephone options)
- Implement safeguards against people going out of turn for vaccination
 - Share safeguards in place and to what extent this is an issue

Project Collaborators



Association of Immunization Managers



Institute for Vaccine Safety

National Indian Health Board

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