We Asked

In December 2020, the Boston Public Health Commission invited residents to share their thoughts on the new COVID-19 vaccines. We hosted 10 virtual focus groups and distributed one online survey.

We asked residents:

• When a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, will you take it?
• What helped you decide to take the vaccine?
• What are your concerns about the vaccine?
• What information do you want to know when a new vaccine is available?
• Who do you trust the most for information about the COVID-19 vaccine?

You Said

Most participants live in:
Dorchester (02124 and 02125) and Mattapan

Race/Ethnicity*:

- Black (non-Latinx) 44.3%
- White (non-Latinx) 30%
- Two or more races (non-Latinx) 10%
- Latinx (of any race) 5.7%
- Asian (non-Latinx) 0%

**Where race is reported

When the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, participants said:

- Yes, I will take the vaccine 44.3%
- No, or I’m unsure about taking the vaccine 55.7%

Most responses from:
Dorchester (all zip codes) and Charlestown

Race/Ethnicity*:

- White (non-Latinx) 60%
- Black (non-Latinx) 20%
- Latinx (of any race) 5%
- Asian (non-Latinx) 5%
- Two or more races (non-Latinx) 0%
- Other ** 0%

**Includes individuals who provided another race not listed or marked ‘not sure.’

When the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, responses said:

- Yes, I will take the vaccine 82.8%
- No, or I’m unsure about taking the vaccine 17.2%
**Project Name:** Share Your Thoughts On The COVID-19 Vaccine: Summary of Community Input  
**Bureau/Service Center/Program:** Executive Office and Office of Racial Equity & Community Engagement  
**Contact Information:** healthequity@bphc.org

### You Said (cont.)

#### I am taking the vaccine:
- To protect myself,
- To protect my family,
- To protect my community,
- To protect my elders,
- To return to a sense of normal.

#### I have concerns about:
- The vaccine being developed too quickly,
- Whether the vaccine works,
- The side effects of the vaccine,
- The vaccine being stored properly before it gets to me,
- Why there is a vaccine for COVID-19, but not other health diagnoses, like cancer or HIV/AIDS.

#### I trust information from:
- Healthcare providers, medical professionals, and other health experts (Ex: Dr. Fauci, my primary care provider).
- Reputable news media (Ex: NYT, NPR, CNN, MSNBC, Boston Globe, Telemundo and Univision).
- Local and state government (Ex: Mass.gov, Boston.gov, Bphc.org, and press conferences).

#### I want to know more about:
- How the mRNA vaccine works.
- The short- and long-term side effects of the new vaccines.
- The results of the vaccine research trials.
- How the vaccine was made quickly.
- How the vaccine will be distributed.
- When the vaccine will be available to me, where I can get it, and how much it will cost me.
- Whether the vaccine is safe to take for pregnant individuals, children, and people with other health conditions.
- How the vaccine will protect me from different strains of the virus.
- What precautions I should take after getting the vaccine.
- What should I expect after taking the vaccine.
- When I will be able to get back to normal life activities.

#### I think public health/medical professionals should:
- Acknowledge the history of medical experimentation and lasting medical mistrust from Black and POC communities.
- Provide clear information on the vaccine and address misinformation in many languages.
- Translate vaccine research trial data into plain language.
- Distribute information via trusted community leaders.
- Use literature drops, phone calls, text messages, local newspapers, and television to get information to the public.
- Center personal stories of those who have taken the vaccine.
- Establish a COVID-19 vaccine hotline or independent office for residents to get information or voice concerns.
- Report out the percentage of people vaccinated (like the COVID-19 weekly reports).
- Targeted outreach to disability community with mobility challenges who may not be able to get to a vaccination site.
- Create call center to help people reserve vaccine appointment.

### We Did

We heard your responses and used it to inform the development of a communication plan that includes:

- **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQ) addressing your questions.
- Series of community information sessions to address your questions and concerns on the COVID-19 vaccines, currently available in English and Spanish with additional languages to be offered at a later date.
- COVID-19 vaccine information webpage available on www.bphc.org/covid19vaccine
- Social media campaign that highlights community members getting the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Continuing partnerships with health care partners, city agencies, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations to deliver accurate information to the community.

### Next Steps/Other

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