

COVID
19

VACCINATION Q&A

AS ASKED BY YOU AND ANSWERED BY BLACK & RACIALIZED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

It usually takes 10 years for vaccines to be created and tested, why did this one take only 6 months? How can people be sure that the vaccine will work or won't have negative side effects?

mRNA technology used for the vaccine has been in development for over 10 years and has been used in other medical treatments like cancer. This combined with global funding, collaborations between governments and researchers allowed for the vaccine to be created much faster.

Why are they marketing the vaccine to Black people so much? The government hasn't done anything for Black people but now all of a sudden they want to push the vaccine on us and in our communities to "save us". It sounds like they want to experiment on us instead.

This is purely a result of Black activists lobbying the government and public health to take action. There is worry that if the Black population doesn't take the vaccine while other populations do - COVID19 will continue to circulate in our communities causing more harm, hospitalizations and deaths.

Were Black people specifically used on the trials for the vaccine?

Pfizer and Moderna trials had 30-40,000 participants in them. Typically vaccines have a test population of 6000 people. The test groups for the COVID-19 vaccine included people of many different races and ethnicities. Black participants were 9.3% of the population in the study.

Do people who have had the virus need to be vaccinated?

YES. Even if you have contracted COVID-19 previously, vaccination is strongly recommended. The vaccines produce longer lasting and more durable immunity for protection.

When will the general public be able to take the vaccine?

It's projected that the vaccine will become widely available in August of 2021 as phase 3. If Black and racialized populations become priority demographics, vaccinations may begin as early as June-July as part of Phase 2.

Do we have the choice to take the vaccine or not?

It's not mandatory to take the vaccine but it is *strongly recommended*. The discrimination we face in education and the job market means we often are working in jobs where there is more exposure to numbers of people, making us more vulnerable to getting COVID-19.