

# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT: The Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on the Black Community

In a poll taken in October of 2020, 55% of African Americans reported distrust in the American health care system (National Geographic)



Medical mistrust has justifiably arisen within the Black community from numerous historical accounts of mistreatment, including the use of Black people as experimental subjects throughout the development of Western medicine, the United States Public Health Service Study of Untreated Syphilis in Macon County, Georgia, and the story of Henrietta Lacks.

This medical mistrust has persisted as a result of African Americans' on-going experience of discrimination in health care, including inequities in access to health insurance, health care facilities, and treatments as a result of often invisible institutional practices that make it more difficult for Black Americans to obtain adequate care.

The resulting health disparities that continuously put the Black community at a disadvantage are a direct result of structural racism and are exacerbated by mistrust rooted in historical and contemporary mistreatment.

In the face of COVID-19, existing health disparities resulted in African Americans having greater incidence of pre-existing conditions associated with more severe COVID-19 cases. Additionally, Black Americans make up a disproportionately large proportion of the essential work force, leaving them at a greater risk of COVID-19 exposure.

## Risk of COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death Compared to non-Hispanic Whites

### Infections

African Americans are **1.1 times more likely to be infected** with COVID-19.

### Hospitalizations

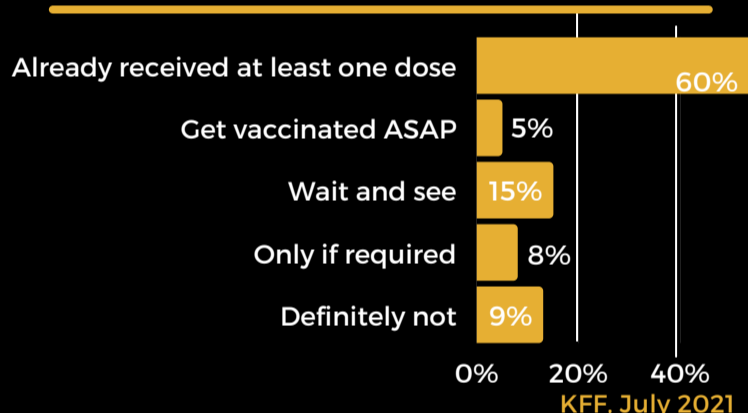
African Americans are **2.8 times more likely to be hospitalized** as a result of COVID-19 infection.

### Deaths

African Americans are **1.9 times more likely to die** from COVID-19.

CDC, April 2021

## Vaccination Status of Black Americans



## Key Things to Know About the COVID Vaccines:

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- Side effects are **normal signs your body is building protection** and usually go away in a few days.
- As of Sept. 2021, every person **12 and older** is eligible for the vaccine
- The vaccine is **FREE**, regardless of whether you have health insurance or not.
- Available regardless of immigration status. Getting vaccinated will not affect your or your family's current or future immigration status.

**Protect yourself and others in your community by getting your vaccine.**

**There are risks associated with contracting COVID-19, including long-term health effects, hospitalization, and death. For most people, the risk of a poor outcome associated with the vaccine is very low.**

**While there are side effects associated with the vaccine, they are short-lived and less impactful on daily life than contracting COVID-19.**

## Resources

### THE CONVERSATION: BETWEEN US, ABOUT US

[www.greaterthancovid.org/theconversation](http://www.greaterthancovid.org/theconversation)

Black doctors, nurses and researchers provide accessible facts and dispel misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccines in this campaign from KFF's Greater Than COVID and the Black Coalition Against COVID.



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### VACCINE LOCATOR

[www.vaccines.gov/search/](http://www.vaccines.gov/search/)

Use Vaccines.gov to find a location near you, then call or visit their website to make an appointment.



# WHERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT: The Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on the Black Community

## Resources



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### KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (KFF)

[www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/](http://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/)

This site includes a COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor Dashboard, tracks daily cases and deaths, and reports state vaccine rollout. The purpose of this site is "filling the need for trusted information on national health issues."

### COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER

[www.blackdoctor.org/covid19/](http://www.blackdoctor.org/covid19/)

In partnership with the Black Coalition Against COVID (BCAC), BlackDoctor.org has created a COVID-19 Resource Center that aims to provide information to the Black community as they navigate the pandemic.

### HEALTH EQUITY DASHBOARD

[covid19.emory.edu/](http://covid19.emory.edu/)

Complete with a Dashboard User Guide, Emory University has created a COVID-19 Health Equity Interactive Dashboard to help people understand and interpret scientific information about COVID-19.

### CDC: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

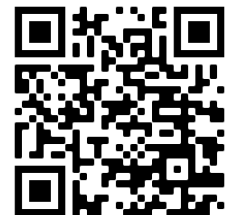
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html)

Find answers to commonly asked questions and a list of myth-busting facts about the COVID-19 vaccine, along with a list of additional informational resources.

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