

# COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence: Gathering Information to Assist with Decision-Making

Questions &  
Comments  
from Migratory  
& Seasonal  
Agricultural  
Workers



## **When it comes to COVID information, migratory and seasonal agricultural workers said they trust medical providers.**

As a provider, you are busy. You are also respected, trusted and valued! When asked who they trust to obtain information about COVID-19 and the vaccines, migratory and seasonal agricultural workers (MSAWs) identified medical providers and the facilities they work in one of their top sources. This document shares questions and comments identified by MSAWs to help you support conversations with them, and others who likely have similar questions. Please note that answers to these questions are not provided as decisions may vary based on individual circumstances. We encourage people to talk with their provider to learn what might be best for them.

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## **Create Space for Questions**

Migratory and Seasonal Agricultural Workers (MSAWs) have questions but may need to be invited and encouraged to ask them.

## **Review Current Resources**

Information about COVID-19 and the vaccines is often complex, at a high reading level, and usually available only in English. These materials are not useable resources for populations who may have lower literacy in any language and possibly less experience with the medical field.

## **Be a Partner in Shared Decision Making**

Some farmworkers may come across as hesitant, resistant or questioning. This is likely an indication that they want to be informed and need more information to make a good decision based on their health, work and life situation. Having their questions addressed can strengthen their trust and help them move to a place of confidence with their decision. One idea is to mention the COVID vaccination at the beginning of the appointment and then circle back to it near the end to see if they have questions that you could answer.

## Questions & Comments

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### **About the Vaccine**

- The information sheet about the vaccines is confusing.
- What are possible long-term effects? Can it cause other symptoms or diseases?
- Does the vaccine prevent COVID or does it simply lessen the symptoms if you get COVID?
- If it does not prevent COVID but can cause symptoms, why get it?
- How does the vaccine work? What is it made of? Is it a “live” virus? Can it give you COVID-19?
- Does the vaccine change my DNA in some way? If yes, does that matter or cause a problem?

### **Vaccine Options**

- I want to know more about the vaccine options and the reactions with each.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine had an issue with blood clots. What does it mean for vaccines overall when such a well-known brand has this issue?
- I am thinking of waiting until the vaccine is available as a pill.

### **Possible Reactions**

- What reactions should I expect? What are the worst reactions? The smallest reactions? What is “normal”?
- How quickly do reactions start? How long do they last? Do some reactions not start right away and come later?
- What should I do if I have reaction(s) to the vaccine?

### **When is it best to wait to get the vaccine?**

- I had COVID. Do I still need to be vaccinated?
- I had COVID. Do I need to wait a certain amount of time after having COVID before being vaccinated?
- I was told to wait to be vaccinated due to another health treatment that I am receiving.
- Can the vaccine harm a breastfeeding infant if the mom gets vaccinated?

### **Second Doses and Beyond**

- I received the first dose and had a reaction. Now, I am scared to get the second dose.
- Will we need booster shots?
- If a booster is needed, will it be another shot, or a pill, or a patch?
- I heard there is another COVID virus coming. Will I need another shot for it?
- Will the vaccines work against the COVID variations/mutations? How effective are they?

### **Impact on Other Illnesses**

- What are possible effects if I have other illnesses like diabetes or heart disease?
- Will it cause a faster heartbeat or irregular heartbeat? Will it affect blood sugar levels?
- What are the effects of the vaccine on the organs?

### **Vaccinations for Children**

- Are kids under 12 going to be able to get the vaccine?
- How effective is the vaccine for children 12+? Is the dosage adjusted since they are smaller? Is it still two shots?
- Does the parent need to be present when the child is vaccinated?

### **Vaccination Logistics**

- Should I eat or fast before being vaccinated? Does it matter?
- How much will it cost to be vaccinated?
- What happens if I move before the second dose is administered?
- Will getting the vaccine affect immigration status?
- Do I have to show documentation to get vaccinated? Are there eligibility requirements [besides age]?
- If I lose my vaccination card, how can I replace it? If I don't remember the place where I received the vaccination, is there some other place that has the records?
- Will the government require people to get vaccinated?
- Is it/will it be required to cross the border?
- Will employers require employees to get it?
- Why do I need to wait for 15 minutes after being vaccinated?

### **After the Vaccination**

- Do I still need to wear a mask and social distance after getting the vaccine?
- How do you know if someone who is not wearing a mask has been vaccinated?

## **Motivators & Facilitators**

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- I want to keep my family safe and be able to keep working to provide for them.
- I decided to get the vaccine after someone I trusted (e.g., spouse/partner) got it and was ok.
- I got the vaccine with other people I know.
- It is a privilege to get the vaccine at no cost. There are people who want to get the vaccine and cannot.

## Factors Affecting Vaccination Decision-Making

- I am not saying no to the vaccine, just not yes quite yet.
- We hear of different things that can happen and become more unsure [about whether to get the vaccine.]
- I had previous reactions to the flu vaccine. This makes me uncertain about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Compared to vaccines for other illnesses, this vaccine was developed and approved quickly.
- I am concerned how potential reactions may affect my ability to work.
- God decides who gets sick/stays well and decides how long one will live.
- I am trying to balance:
  - Being nervous about getting the vaccine and a feeling of responsibility to get it.
  - My concerns about getting the vaccine versus my concerns about not getting it.
  - Seeing doctors and nurses get the vaccine with knowing some of them had reactions (some severe.)
- The decision to be vaccinated is an individual one, even within families. I cannot make someone else do it.
- I heard or read that:
  - People have died from the vaccine.
  - If you had COVID-19 and get the vaccine, will it revive the virus.
  - It can negatively affect fertility.
  - It can cause a disease over time.
  - There is a chip in the vaccine.
  - It was meant to kill some people.
  - If you get the vaccine, you will die in 6 months.

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## Methods

The content for this document is based on three primary sources.

First, we conducted focus groups with MSAWs in two states. We held six groups with a relatively stable membership between August 2020 and May 2021 in one state. Attendance ranged between five and nine workers depending on the meeting and time of season. Then, we held 11 groups in a second state over a three-day period in May 2021. Each of these groups had different participants and, due to human subjects restrictions imposed at the time approval was granted, attendance ranged between one and three farmworkers per group.

The second source was from authors' experiences working with farmworkers over the past year.

The final source was from a survey we conducted with migratory and seasonal agricultural workers (MSAWs) between September 2020 and March 2021. Administered in two states, it had 89 respondents, and contained two open-ended questions that asked "What other questions or topics do you think we should ask farmworkers about coronavirus?" and "Is there anything else you would like to tell us?" These questions elicited a few questions regarding the vaccines.

**Data for this brief came from focus groups with MSAWs in two states, from the authors' experiences working with farmworkers over the past year, and from a survey of MSAWs.**



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### For More Information

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