

FAITH AND THE VACCINE COMMUNITY PANDEMIC AND VACCINE STORIES

Oregon - Summer 2021



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YOUTH COMMUNITY ORGANIZING IN OREGON

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"AS WE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH OUR WORK IN FAITH AND THE VACCINE, WE SAW THAT THE STORIES ABOUT WHO IS GETTING VACCINATED AND WHO ISN'T ARE COMPLEX. SYSTEMS THAT ALREADY WERE FAILING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES BEFORE THE PANDEMIC CONTINUE TO EXACERBATE INEQUALITIES. PEOPLE WHO ARE PREVENTED FROM ACCESSING THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM WILL MISTRUST IT. THE ANSWER TO THESE DISPARITIES EXISTS IN THE COLLECTIVE STORIES OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR COLLECTIVE POWER"

- Alaide Vilchis Ibarra
Executive Director,
Interfaith Movement
For Immigrant Justice



WHAT IS FAITH AND THE VACCINE

Community Pandemic and Vaccine Stories

YOUTH COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Centering BIPOC Communities

In response to noticing challenges around accessibility and trust in the vaccine rollout strategy in certain subsets of the US population, Together Lab, the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMiRJ), Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) and Warner Pacific University began to question the role of faith in relational organizing around vaccine accessibility.

Brainstorming sessions were held, emails were sent, and the "Faith and the Vaccine Cohort" was born as a collaborative and experimental initiative for the summer of 2021.

"DISASTER ANTHROPOLOGISTS UNDERSTAND THAT THE COVID PANDEMIC NOT ONLY CREATED NEW RISKS, BUT IT EXACERBATED AND MADE VISIBLE THE RISKS AND CHALLENGES THAT MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES WERE ALREADY FACING. FAITH IN THE VACCINE IS THE KIND OF PROJECT THAT IS CRITICAL AT THIS MOMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY. IT MOVES US, AS A LARGER COMMUNITY, TOWARDS LISTENING, HUMILITY, AND COMPLEXITY AND AWAY FROM QUICK FIX, BLAME, AND STEREOTYPE. WE CAN APPLY THESE LESSONS TO MANY DIFFERENT 21ST CENTURY PROBLEMS."

Elizabeth Marino, PhD
Associate Professor of
Anthropology
Social Science and
Sustainability Programs
OSU - Cascades



MEET THE COMPANIONS

"Love and sacrifice are pulling us through this pandemic and it's because of love that we seek justice."

- Joanne Mina (she /her/ hers)

Statewide Community Organizer with IMIrJ.

"Our pandemic response has to be grounded in the lived realities of the people that we serve with a focus on equity and social justice."

- Beth Poteet (she/her/hers)

Community Partnerships and Capacity Building
Multnomah County Public Health

"Our stories hold the heartbeat of what it means to be human. They also hold the clues into helping our systems be more humanizing for all of us, if we have the ears to hear."

- Dr. Cassie Trentaz, (she/her/hers), Professor and Program Lead for Ministry & Community Engagement at Warner Pacific University.

"When we lead with genuine curiosity for story, we uncover a much richer, more sustainable, and more inclusive and holistic path forward together."

- Jake Bailey (he/him/his)

Organizer with Together Lab and Leaven
Community Land and Housing

"We need to have community-led solutions be the drivers of the structural, policy change needed to address the housing crisis our communities are facing."

- Blanca Gaytan Farfan (she/her/ella)

Community Organizer in East Multnomah County

"When we seek understanding, we prosper as a community. When we alleviate human suffering, we show our love in action. Listen. Share. Connect. What would you do next?"

- Raiza Spratt (she/her/ella)

Community Organizer in Washington County

"Stories are powerful— they can reveal what we love, where we hurt, and why we hope. The Faith and the Vaccine project helped us receive the stories of others in a way that opened us up beyond ourselves— creating pathways of possibility for us to mutually cultivate the communities we want to live in."

- Rev. Ron Werner Jr. (he/him/his)

Executive Director, Together Lab

Organizer, Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice

- Janelly Carranza



MEET THE STUDENTS

"It was inspiring to work with people from different walks of life; to have witnessed their vulnerability, it's something I'll take with a heavy heart."

- Iwi Kinimaka (she/her)

Digital Media & Communications

"This was a wonderful experience getting to connect with the community and learn from an amazing crew!"

- Katherine Collaco (she/her)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

"To me, there is no better feeling than being able to use my education and talents to be able to help my community. I hope to continue to do so."

- Juan Pedro Nicanor Moreno Olmeda (he/him)

Bachelors and Masters in Business Administration

John Ashworth (he/him)

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Currently staying busy doing clinicals at The Oregon State Hospital

"I learned how to do better in my community by opening my ears and heart."

- Desire Nahimana (he/him)

Pre-nursing

"Each of the stories below is sacred as they share with us parts of their lives and vicissitudes during the pandemic."

- Jamie Bravo Salas (she/her/hers)

Criminal Justice major, Psychology and Sociology minors.

"Hearing these stories was really eye opening for me. I learned that my community cares about each other, especially our elders and children. By keeping our people alive and protected we are also keeping our traditions and stories alive for future generations to learn."

- Lynden Harry (she/her) Native American
Kinesiology major

"I was not who am I today: stronger if it wasn't for COVID-19."

- Mara Abit (she/her), Nursing Student

"It's been uplifting being a part of the solution for this Pandemic. I know the people who have gotten the vaccine are able to say the same now."

Peter Hakkoum He/Him

Education

Nancy Garcia

Joey Roman

Simone Wade



ABOUT COMMUNITY PANDEMIC AND VACCINE STORIES

Culturally Specific Community Wisdom

We are all in the storm, but not in the same boat; that's one thing clear about the pandemic. Indigenous, Black, Latinx and other communities have disproportionately felt the impact of a pandemic that landed on the heels of systemic and cultural racism. In an effort to create a counter-narrative that centers the voices of those impacted 'the community pandemic and vaccine stories' was born.

We interviewed Indigenous, Latinx and other communities on the impact of the pandemic and their thoughts about the vaccine.

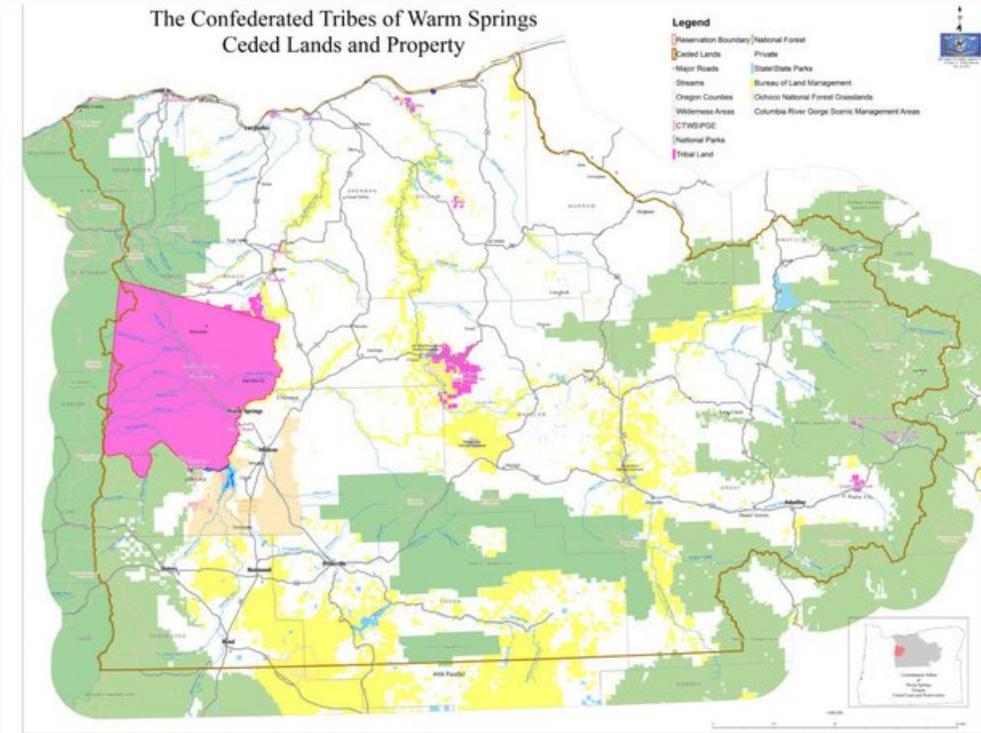
As parents, children, and grandparents from across Oregon shared and owned their stories we knew this work would require deeply listening and embodying cultural humility to witness and affirm the humanity of our neighbors and friends.

As you read through the albums featured in *Faith and the Vaccine - Community Pandemic and Vaccine Stories* you are invited to:

- Deeply Listen: With humble curiosity listen to understand.
- Embody Cultural Humility: "a lifelong commitment to self-evaluation to redressing power imbalances . . . and to developing mutually beneficial and non-paternalistic partnerships" (Tervalon & Murray-Garcia, 1998).
- Affirm the Humanity of Communities Impacted: Each of us has a story and our stories are not to be judged or scrutinized. Each brave individual featured in this work shared their stories to aid our collective healing; one thing we can all do is affirm our individual and common humanity.
- Make notes of patterns you hear in the stories and note the systems that the communities encounter. Then join us in working to shift, dismantle, and reimagine systems.

WARM SPRINGS STORY ALBUM

Created by Lynden Harry



THE WARM SPRINGS TRIBAL NATION AND THE IMPACT OF COVID

By: Lynden Harry

Hearing these stories was really eye opening for me. I learned that my community cares about each other, especially our elders and children. By keeping our people alive and protected we are also keeping our traditions and stories alive for future generations to learn.

Note: The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is a recognized sovereign nation since 1855. The land of the Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute Native American Tribes, stretches from the snowcapped summit of the Cascade Mountains to the palisaded cliffs of the Deschutes River in Central Oregon and beyond.

**"BECAUSE OF THE
PANDEMIC I LOST MY
JOB AND I HAD TO MOVE
BACK TO OREGON
BECAUSE I COULD
NO LONGER AFFORD TO
PAY FOR SCHOOL AND
RENT.**

- KALIYAH

INFORMED YOUTH

Jiana

Jiana, a nineteen year old, female Native American college student from Warm Springs, OR. Her most significant consequences of the COVID19 pandemic are that she was unable to experience the last half of her senior year in high school. She did not get to have a traditional high school graduation, attend senior prom, or play in her last high school season of softball. She was also unable to experience her first year of college in a normal setting, all of her classes were online so she was unable to socialize in this new stage of her life. Being a student athlete she had to go through various COVID restrictions to participate in her basketball season. Jiana has never had a bad experience with the healthcare system, however she was intimidated by hearing other peoples' experiences with the vaccine and COVID itself. Jiana decided to get the vaccine for safety reasons, because both of her parents work in the healthcare system, so she felt she was at a higher risk of getting COVID. The most important thing Jiana would like to tell the public health authorities is to keep people informed with any new updates and changes.



"JIANA DECIDED TO GET THE VACCINE FOR SAFETY REASONS, BECAUSE BOTH OF HER PARENTS WORK IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, SO SHE FELT SHE WAS AT A HIGHER RISK OF GETTING COVID."



PROTECTING FAMILY

June

June, a fifty-one year old, Native American woman from the Warm Springs Indian reservation. June states that two of the most significant consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are losing family members and friends throughout the last year and being laid off from her job because of the COVID restrictions that were put in place (quarantine). June was not influenced by any previous experiences with the healthcare system to receive the vaccine; it was only the fear of the unknown. She felt that the vaccine could benefit her because of her age and her family. She decided to get the vaccine to protect herself and her family (her children, mother, and siblings). After receiving the vaccine she felt “okay,” and didn’t experience the side effects, only a sore arm from the injection site. She felt comfortable receiving the vaccine. June would like to let the people in charge of the public health response to keep people informed with new updates and changes. She would also like to see them work directly with community members because sometimes people in her community struggle with trusting “outsiders.”

LOSING LOVED ONES

Shawn

Shawn, a forty-nine year old, Native American male, residing in Warm Springs, OR. The most significant consequences that Shawn has experienced because of the pandemic are losing family members and having to miss work due to being in quarantine while he had COVID. He did not have any influences from the healthcare system or government institutions when it came to his choice to be vaccinated. Shawn decided to get vaccinated because the government is starting to require it for many things and airlines are requiring proof of vaccination. Shawn would like those in charge of public health to give more information in a timely manner before enforcing, (mandates, vaccines, etc.) as well as giving the option of getting the vaccination and not requiring it.



CAUTIOUS

Waymon

Waymon, a twenty-eight year old, Native American Male from Warm Springs. The most significant consequence of the pandemic for Waymon was having to be cautious when leaving the house and being in public. He did not have an influence on his decision to be vaccinated from any healthcare system however, he was skeptical about it at first but over time he was able to think about it. Waymon decided to get vaccinated after receiving more information from the director of the local Indian Health Services clinic. The day after he received the vaccine the only symptom he experienced was heavy fatigue. Waymon is not sure what he would say to those in charge of the public health response.

HOPING

Kaliyah

Kaliyah, a twenty-one year old, Native American/ African American woman, from the Warm Springs Indian reservation. The consequences Kaliyah dealt with because of the pandemic are losing her job, causing her to have to move back to Oregon because she could no longer afford to pay for school and rent. She struggled with online school and had a difficult time meeting people at school because it moved online. Kaliyah was somewhat influenced by the healthcare system due to her having prior knowledge about vaccine development and it discouraged her from getting the vaccine. She states that she felt like those in her community were “guinea pigs.” Kaliyah eventually decided to receive the vaccine because she wanted to be able to attend classes in-person for the fall '21 term and in hopes that she would no longer have to wear a mask. Kaliyah wishes that the public health response to COVID-19 was directed better from the start. She feels that former President Donald Trump did not do a good job of keeping the public safe.

COMMUNICATE MORE

JoAnn

JoAnn, a 70 year old Native American, Grandmother from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. JoAnn's most significant consequences of the pandemic were having to stay home and being unable to see friends and some family. She did not have any influence on getting the vaccine from previous experiences with the healthcare system. She had a hard time deciding on the vaccine because of all of the news and reports of the effects both good and bad. JoAnn decided to get vaccinated because of her age and she didn't want to risk getting COVID. After receiving her vaccine she felt reassured that it will help fight against COVID. JoAnn would like those in charge of the public health response to communicate more with the community about safety issues (protocols, mandates, etc.) and also to provide information on what to expect in the future.

MOURNING

Tiffany

Tiffany, a fifty year old Native American Woman from Warm Springs, OR. The consequences Tiffany had to face due to the pandemic were working day in and day out, unable to get time off last year. Also having to mourn the death of two of her close relatives. Tiffany says that a pro of the pandemic was not being around people as much as normal. Tiffany has dealt with negative experiences regarding the healthcare system and government institutions that have influenced her decision. In the past Tiffany states that she has had healthcare professionals lie to her, as does the government. She feels that the medical fields have gotten better, however to her they are still untrustworthy. Tiffany decided to get the vaccine because she had to in order to keep her job. She did not feel okay morally afterwards. After receiving the vaccine the symptoms that Tiffany had were heavy fatigue and an incredibly bad headache for two days. Tiffany doesn't know what she would tell those in charge of the Public Health response, she feels that her voice wouldn't matter or be heard.



BETTER PLANNING

(Name Unknown)

Unknown, fifty-one year old, Native American Woman from the Warm Springs Reservation. The consequences that this woman had to face due to the pandemic were what she described as her time. The Indian Health Services clinic was preparing for the shut down and the workers had to organize their areas and be prepared for ordering PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) supplies for employees and patients that had COVID-19. A previous experience with the healthcare system did have an influence on her decision to get the vaccine. She talks about how a few years ago when she received her flu shot she had an allergic reaction to something that was in the vaccine. She decided on getting the vaccine because she works in a healthcare facility where she interacts with all ages. She also wanted to protect her family and siblings from the virus. She would like those in the Public Health response to plan accordingly for supplies and to understand that her community is in a rural area not a city and it takes much longer for their facility to receive supplies.



LOSS AND RESILIENCE

Name Unknown

Unknown, a sixty-three year old, Native American Woman, from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. The consequences this person had to face due to the pandemic were losing her mother to COVID-19 in 2021 and also contracting COVID-19 herself at the same time as her mother. She said it was difficult and that it was a sickness she had never experienced. She did not have any previous experiences with the healthcare system to influence her decision about the vaccine. She said she was ready for the COVID shot and so was her mother. When asked by her doctor if she wanted to be vaccinated she said yes without hesitation. She would like those in the Public health response to keep providing communities with information regarding COVID and to remind people that even in small groups of 6 or less, that without protection COVID is still very contagious.



MOURNING AND CONCERNED

Name Unknown

Unknown, a sixty year old, Native American female from the Warm Springs Indian reservation. The consequences this person had to face due to the pandemic were losing friends and family to COVID as well as being concerned about being around other people, especially when shopping for food and necessary household items. She was shocked to see so many shelves empty in stores and struggled to get basic sanitary products as well as other products for her family because people were panic buying. She did not have an influence from previous experiences with healthcare systems and says that she grew up knowing that vaccinations were vital to protect against diseases. She decided to get vaccinated because she heard how serious the virus was and saw people in her community dying because of COVID. After receiving the vaccine she said she felt safer. She would like to thank those in charge of the public health response for informing the community; explaining how the vaccine works to help prevent COVID. She would also like to thank them for answering questions and asking the community for their opinion.

LOSS OF LOVED ONES

Name Unknown

Unknown, a forty-three year old, Native American female, from Warm Springs.

The consequences of the pandemic that this person faced were losing a family member to COVID-19 and not being able to be with them in their last moments. She did not have any issues or influences based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. She decided to get vaccinated because she has elders in her family and wanted to protect them as they already have other health conditions. She did not have any problems with the vaccine. She would like those in charge of the public health response to get new information out to as many people as they can.

DOING OUR PART

Diego

Diego, a fourteen year old, Native American/Mexican/Korean, Male from Warm Springs. The only consequence that Diego had to face due to the pandemic was getting a COVID shot. He did not have any influence on his decision to get vaccinated based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. Diego said that he had to get the vaccine because his parents wanted him to be vaccinated. He did not have any symptoms or side effects after receiving the vaccine. Diego doesn't know what he would say to those in charge of the Public Health response.

COVID WILL END

Charlene

Charlene, a fifteen year old, Native American/Mexican/African American

Female, from Warm Springs. Charlene's only consequence due to the pandemic was getting the COVID-19 vaccine. She did not have any influence on her decision to get vaccinated based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. Charlene decided to get vaccinated because she was informed that the number of COVID cases in her community were rising. She felt good after receiving the vaccine and she also felt safe. Charlene wants those in charge of the public health response to enforce the vaccine shots and make them a requirement so that COVID will end.

FOR MY GRANDMOTHER

Matthew

Matthew decided to get vaccinated because he has had loved ones pass away and his grandmother is scared about contracting COVID.

Matthew, a fourteen year old, Native American, male, from Warm Springs. The consequences of the pandemic that Matthew had to face included dealing with the loss of his grandfather. He also struggled with adjusting to wearing a mask and doing temperature checks every time he went into a building. Matthew did not have any influence on his decision to be vaccinated based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. Matthew decided to get vaccinated because he has had loved ones pass away and his grandmother is scared about contracting COVID. Matthew said that he did feel worried and had second thoughts because he felt like the vaccine was still in the testing stages. Matthew would like to tell those in charge of the public health response to keep up what they are doing.





CARING FOR OUR HEALTH

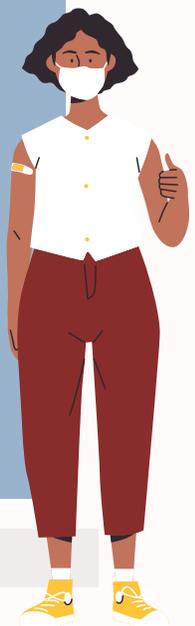
Rebecca

Rebecca, a fourteen year old, Native American, female, from Warm Springs. The consequences of the pandemic that Rebecca had to face were having to stay home and do online school, and being unable to play sports or hangout with her friends. She did not have any influence on her decision to get vaccinated based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. Rebecca wanted to get the vaccine for her own health. She said that she felt okay after receiving the vaccine as well as feeling safer with it. Rebecca would like to tell those in charge of the public health response that she is thankful for the Indian Health Services clinic that she has in her community because they provide basic healthcare needs that many families need.

BECAUSE OF DELTA

Hekili

Hekili, a seventeen year old, Native American, Male, from Warm Springs. The most significant consequence of the pandemic that Hekili faced was losing some of his close relatives. He did not have any influence on his decision to get vaccinated based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. Hekili says that the only restriction for him receiving the vaccine was the government's influence on it. He decided to receive the vaccine because of the Delta Variant and also for traveling purposes. Hekili would like to tell those in charge of the Public Health Response to promote taking extra precautions.



MEDICAL SCIENCE & HESITANCY

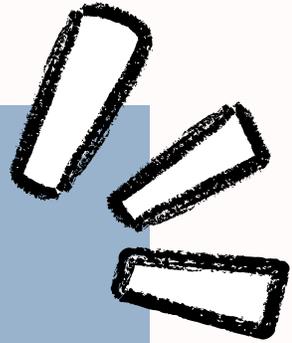
Arelyya

Arelyya, a sixteen year old, female, Native American, from Warm Springs. The consequence of the pandemic that Arelyya had to face was that she didn't get the vaccine shot. She did have some influence on her decision to get vaccinated based on her experience with medical science; that being whenever she got the flu shot she would always get sick. The scenario where Arelyya gets the vaccine would be if the school or work place required them to continue going to school/working. Arelyya would like to tell those in charge of the public health response to not force the COVID vaccine on people and allow them to choose.

NOT COMFORTABLE

Unknown

Unknown, sixteen year old, female, Native American, from Warm Springs. The consequences this person had to face due to the pandemic involved having to do online school and having to wear a mask everywhere she goes. She does have a negative influence on her decision to be vaccinated because she does not feel comfortable with people that work at the Indian Health Services clinic and the medicines that are given. She can't imagine a scenario in which she would have to get the COVID vaccine. She believes that she would only get vaccinated after there is a lot more research done on the vaccine. She would like to tell those that are in charge of the public health response her reasons for not getting the vaccine shot.



STAYING HOME

Roman

Roman, a sixteen year old, Native American Male, from Warm Springs, OR. The only consequence Roman faced because of the pandemic was having to stay home all day. Roman did not have an influence on his decision around vaccination based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. Roman doesn't know if there is a scenario where he would get vaccinated and says that he's not really against getting the vaccine. He doesn't know what he would say to those in charge of the Public Health response.



BOREDOM

Louie

Louie, a fourteen year old, Native American/Hispanic, male, from Warm Springs, OR. The consequences he faced due to the pandemic were having to stay home, gaining weight because of it, and boredom. Louie did not have any influence about vaccination based on previous experiences with the healthcare system. Louie can't imagine a scenario where he would be vaccinated and says that he doesn't really think about COVID. He is unsure about what he would say to those in charge of the public health response.

"LOUIE CAN'T IMAGINE A SCENARIO WHERE HE WOULD BE VACCINATED AND SAYS THAT HE DOESN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT COVID. "

MULTICULTURAL PORTLAND STORY ALBUM

Created by John Ashworth

UNITY ACROSS DIVERSITY

By: John Ashworth He/Him
Nursing Student



Collecting the communities' vaccine stories for this project was not only fulfilling but eye-opening too. As a student nurse, I was fortunate to be involved with mass vaccination, which has occurred throughout our communities since the early months of 2021. However, I was afforded the opportunity to sit and speak to our community groups with this project. It wasn't until this point where I saw how the COVID-19 vaccines had impacted our neighbors. I primarily interviewed groups who were immigrants or first-generation Americans. The majority were Hispanic hailing from Mexico and Guatemala, and the others were immigrants from Taiwan, Cuba, and local Portland residents.

The most significant takeaway from the interviews was financial - many of our community members interviewed struggle financially beyond a global pandemic. They were concerned about missing work after receiving a vaccine solely due to the reported and, in most cases, exaggerated side effects. Others wanted to get it so they could get right back to work; this included some who did not wish to receive the vaccine but would only take it if it meant they couldn't travel or go to work. I also found that selflessness was the other prominent reason people wanted to get the vaccine. They didn't want to be infected and get sick from the virus, and more significantly, they didn't want to infect others in the community, friends, family, and children. A reason I find to be very noble and something that isn't talked about enough in the world. We are led to believe that many don't care when actually they are just a loud minority.

Overall most everyone I interviewed wanted the politics taken out of the day-to-day of the pandemic. However, misinformation is a common concern. I found the group I interviewed would agree with community member Fausto when he asked for "transparency with the information given to the public—facts, not politics. Throughout the few months we have worked on this project, I am happy to say that I have witnessed many change their minds and opinions on receiving the vaccine. I have also seen how the pandemic affected marginalized and financially insecure groups significantly more than others. I like to think (and hope) that these tragic eighteen-plus months of the pandemic may help other open their eyes and work to improve the wellbeing of many in our communities that need help more than others.

CLARITY

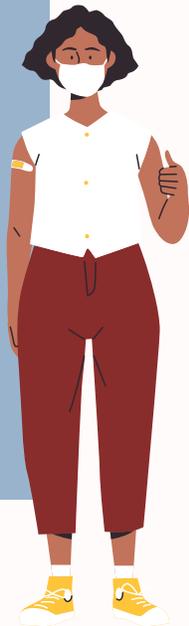
Jacqueline She/Her

Jacqueline's most significant events during the pandemic were how "fear" overcame the masses, and the lockdowns affected her income. She is refusing the vaccine because it is not yet FDA approved and it is "experimental." However, she would get the vaccine if it became mandatory to be inoculated for travel, planes, trains, etc. Jacqueline would like to tell public health officials that the media are sending mixed messages and Governors of different states contradict one another, so she doesn't get a clear message from anyone.

EMOTIONS

Evan He/Him

Long-time Portland resident Evan chose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine mainly because he "previously worked within a Public Health Department in a major city..." His experience there left him with an understanding of how important getting the vaccine is not only to "protect" himself but to protect the "greater community." He was more worried about catching COVID than the vaccine's side effects, and fortunately, Evan felt fine after receiving both shots, with a sore arm being the only side effect. If he were afforded the opportunity to speak to public health officials, he would advise them to "speak to the public's emotions rather than solely using facts."



CHILDCARE

Jennifer She/Her

Jennifer's most considerable consequences from the pandemic and lockdown were removing her child from daycare for 14 months, not traveling, and seeing her family (parents and brother), sans Zoom in Taiwan or New York. Jennifer had no hesitation towards the vaccine; she was "100% ready" to get it. Jennifer wanted to do whatever she could to protect herself, her family, and her community from infection. The side effects she received after her vaccination was not all negative. Even after the fatigue and chills, she "felt a small sense of relief after becoming fully vaccinated." A true positive during these foreboding days. She also wanted to inform government leaders "That there need to be stricter rules in place to prevent the spread of infection—mask mandates, vaccine requirements. This should not be voluntary."

REST

Dominga She/Her

Guatemalan immigrant Dominga chose the vaccine out of the fear of getting sick and not having any health insurance if the latter happened. However, she mentioned distrust in healthcare systems due to an "incident" with her sister a few years ago. She felt sick after the second vaccine and wished she could have stayed off work for a day or two after but couldn't due to financial restrictions. She would like to thank the public health officials for the vaccine but wished it was made available earlier to kitchen workers.

WORK LOST

Eduardo & Juan

Brothers Eduardo and Juan both refused the vaccine at first but felt relieved after receiving it. However, they were both concerned about getting sick after the vaccination and missing work. They both lost their jobs during the pandemic and were not eligible for the government stimulus and unemployment insurance, so keeping the jobs they currently have is extremely important. Missing time due to illness was unacceptable to both of them. One of the brothers had side effects for over a week after the second shot. His glands in his armpit became so swollen he couldn't rest his arm to his side for several days. He feels much better now and is grateful that the vaccine was given at no cost with little questioning.

ISOLATION

Fausto He/Him

Fausto found the social isolation and anxiety from lockdown became significant health issues for him. He is part of a large Mexican family who is not used to being separated; this separation is why he had no hesitation in becoming inoculated against Sars COVID-19. Fausto said he wants to protect himself and others around him. After the vaccine, he had flu-like symptoms for a few days. He also asks for transparency with the information given to the public—facts, not politics.



LATINX PORTLAND METRO STORY ALBUM

Created by Juan Pedro Nicanor Moreno Olmeda



SACRIFICE AND FIGHT

By: Juan Pedro Nicanor Moreno Olmeda

During the pandemic many people have said that “we are in the same boat,” but in reality it is more like we are in the same ocean in different boats. Some of us are on yachts, some on strong ships, many of us are on wooden boats, while others are barely clinging on to floaters, and unfortunately some are drowning. The following stories will help us realize that this is the reality we are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Durante la pandemia mucha gente ha dicho que “estamos en el mismo barco” pero en realidad es más como si estuviéramos en el mismo mar en barcos diferentes. Algunos están en yates, unos en barcos fuertes, muchos de nosotros en barcos de madera, mientras que otros apenas pueden sostenerse sobre sus flotadores, y lamentablemente algunos se están ahogando. Las historias siguientes nos ayudarán a realizar que esto es la realidad durante la pandemia de COVID-19.

As we look for common trends, it is evident that many members of the Latino and immigrant community have a hard time taking time off in fear that they may not be able to make ends meet. In the future I hope to see some sort of legislation change that allows immigrants to have an economic safety net to fall back whenever they may not be able to work for a prolonged period of time.

THANK YOU

Juan Carlos

Una de las consecuencias más importantes de COVID ha tomado en mi vida, ha sido que la pandemia nos ha dejado sin trabajo, con tres y todo el tiempo estábamos encerrados sin poder salir. Era algo que nunca pensábamos que iba pasar. Cuando no estaba vacunado algo que me ayudó el decidido tomar este paso pues ver cuánta gente ha mordido por el COVID. Después de vacunarme me siento bien pues ya he recibido las dos dosis. Si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables la respuesta de salud pública al COVID les diría gracias por darnos la oportunidad de vacunarnos como inmigrantes. De esta manera estamos menos preocupados y podemos buscar trabajo para aliviarnos y a nuestras familias

One of the most important consequences of COVID in my life, has been that the pandemic has left us without work, with three and all the time we were locked up without being able to leave (the home). It was something we never thought would happen. When I was not vaccinated, something that helped me decided to take this step was to see how many people have been bitten by COVID. After getting vaccinated I feel fine because I have already received both doses. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible [for] the public health response to COVID, I would say thank you for giving us the opportunity to vaccinate ourselves as immigrants. In this way we are less worried and can look for work to relieve ourselves and our families



CONTACT WITH LOVED ONES

Anahí

Una de las consecuencias que COVID ha sido que no podíamos salir y no podíamos estar en contacto con las personas que amamos. Afortunadamente nunca he tenido una experiencia mala que haya tenido en el pasado con el sistema de salud o con la gente médica que ha influido mi decisión de vacunarme. Después de vacunarme me sentí bien y creo que los responsables la respuesta de salud pública al COVID deberían ser un mejor trabajo en promover más la vacuna.

One of the consequences of COVID has been that we have not been able to go out and be in contact with the people we love. Fortunately, I have never had a bad experience in the past with the healthcare system or with medical people that has influenced my decision to get vaccinated. After getting vaccinated I felt good and I think that those who are responsible for the public health response to COVID should do a better job of promoting the vaccine.

"IF I HAD A DIRECT LINE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE RESPONSIBLE [FOR] THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID I WOULD SAY THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITY TO VACCINATE OURSELVES AS IMMIGRANTS."

- Juan Carlos

RENT CONCERNS

Maria

Durante la pandemia una de las consecuencias que he enfrentado ha sido que he estado preocupada y a veces dudando si puedo pagar la renta y los viles. Lo que me hizo decidir vacunarme fue que quiero evitar ser hospitalizada. A los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID, sigan promoviendo la vacuna para ayudar a más personas por favor.

During the pandemic one of the consequences that I have faced in my life has been that I have been worried about whether or not I can pay the rent and other bills. What made me decide to get vaccinated was that I want to avoid being hospitalized. To those responsible for the public health response to COVID, please continue to promote the vaccine to help more people.



LESS WORK - LESS INCOME

Osiris

Una consecuencia de la pandemia que he tenido en mi vida es que mi trabajo me quitó muchas horas. Así que hemos estado batallando con todos los pagos y nuestras deudas. Afortunadamente nunca he tenido un problema con el sistema de salud. Lo que hizo decidir vacunarme contra el coronavirus fue el miedo a enfermarme o enfermar a mis hijos.

One consequence of the pandemic that I have faced is that my work cut many hours from my schedule. So we've been struggling with all our bills and other debts. Fortunately, I have never had a problem with the healthcare system. What made me decide to get vaccinated against the coronavirus was the fear of getting sick or my kids sick.





FIGHTING FOR ALL

Gregorio

Una consecuencia que COVID ha causado en mi vida ha sido la pérdida de convivencia de amigos y familiares y la pérdida de algunos amigos. Yo decidí vacunarme contra el coronavirus para poder convivir con todos las personas que quiero de nuevo. Si Tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID, les diría que sigan luchando por todos en general.

"I decided to get vaccinated against the coronavirus to be able to interact with all the people I love once again" - Gregorio

A consequence that COVID has caused in my life has been the loss of coexistence of friends and family and the loss of some friends. I decided to get vaccinated against the coronavirus to be able to interact with all the people I love once again. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would tell them to keep fighting for everyone in general.



APPOINTMENT NEEDED

José

Una consecuencia que la pandemia ha causado en mi vida ha sido que he perdido mi trabajo. Una razón porque no me he vacunado ha sido porque no he tenido el tiempo. Necesitaría ayuda o que me hagan una cita para que yo pueda venir a vacunarme.

One consequence of the pandemic has been that I have lost my job. One reason why I have not been vaccinated has been because I have not had the time. I would need help or an appointment made for me so that I can get vaccinated.



CARING FOR FRIENDS

Unknown

Pues gracias a Dios toda mi familia ha estado muy bien y con salud, pero si tengo muchos amigos que fueron afectados y ver eso me ha afectado emocionalmente. Nunca he tenido ninguna experiencia negativa con el sistema de salud. Decidí vacunarme para protegerme a mí a mi familia y a todas las personas a mi alrededor. si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables a las respuestas de la salud pública les diría gracias por su tiempo y entrega.

Well, thank God my whole family has been very well and healthy during this time, but I do have many friends who were affected and seeing that has affected me emotionally. I have never had any negative experiences with the healthcare system. I decided to get vaccinated to protect my family and everyone around me. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for public health responses, I would say thank you for your time and dedication.



HOME FIRE

Antonia

Estoy muy agradecida porque durante la pandemia hemos sido muy afortunados. Todos hemos estado bien y con salud, pero ahora si estamos batallando un poco porque se nos quemó nuestra casa en un incendio. Aunque hayamos perdido nuestra casa, no hemos perdido nuestra esperanza o fe en que todo regresara a la normalidad. Decidí vacunarme para tener una cosa menos para preocuparme, después de vacunarme, me sentí bien y no hubo ni un problema.

I am very grateful because during the pandemic we have been fortunate enough to be well and healthy, but now we are struggling a bit because our house burned down in a fire. Although we have lost our home, we have not lost our hope or faith that everything will return to normal. I decided to get vaccinated to have one less thing to worry about, after getting vaccinated I felt fine and there was no problems.

PROTECT OTHERS

Jacinta

Una de las consecuencias más importantes que la pandemia ha tenido en mi vida ha sido que me quedé sin trabajo y no he podido pagar los bills. Me he podido vacunar sin problemas o síntomas secundarios, solo dolor de brazo y cabeza. Decidí vacunarme por mi salud, la salud de otros y mi familia. Si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública el COVID, les diría que algo diferente que podrían hacer es tener más cuidado en el público como en las tiendas. Ellos necesitan recursos para poder proteger a los demás, que no dejen de limpiar y desinfectar.

One of the most important consequences that the pandemic has had in my life has been that I lost my job and I have not been able to pay the bills. I have been able to get vaccinated without problems or secondary symptoms, only slight arm and head pain. I decided to get vaccinated for my health, the health of others and my family. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would tell them that something different they could do is to be more careful in public areas like in stores. Stores need resources to be able to protect others, they need to stay on top of cleaning and disinfecting.

CONSTANT FEAR

Higinio

Desafortunadamente una de las consecuencias que la pandemia de COVID ha tenido en mi vida ha sido el miedo constante. Cuando estaba pensando en recibir la vacuna, lo quería hacer lo más pronto posible. Después de vacunarme me sentí muy bien y muchas gracias por todo y por apoyarnos.

Unfortunately one of the consequences that the COVID pandemic has had on my life has been constant fear. When I was thinking about getting the vaccine, I wanted to get it done as soon as possible. After getting vaccinated I felt very good and thank you very much for everything and for supporting us.

NEGATIVE THOUGHTS

Teresa

Una de las consecuencias que la pandemia ha causado en mi vida es que he tenido muchos malos pensamientos sobre lo que nos podría pasar a mí y a mis nietas o a toda mi familia. Pero gracias a Dios, nos dio salud a mi esposo, a mí y a mis nietas. Cómo nunca he tenido una experiencia negativa con el sistema de salud, he estado esperando la vacuna para estar protegidos de esta mala enfermedad. Después de vacunarme solo sentí algunas molestias como en mi brazo, pero nada grave. Espero que pronto haya una medicina milagrosa para poder curar a los que están enfermos

One of the consequences that the pandemic has caused in my life has been that I have had many bad thoughts about what could happen to me and my granddaughters or my whole family. But thank God, He gave health to my husband, me, and my granddaughters. Since I have never had a negative experience with the health system, I have been waiting for the vaccine to be protected from this bad disease. After getting vaccinated I only felt some discomfort like in my arm, but nothing serious. I hope that soon there will be a miracle medicine to be able to heal those who are sick



FEAR

Esperanza

Una de las consecuencias más importantes de la pandemia que haya afectado mi vida ha sido el miedo constante de que tantas personas se murieran. Nunca he tenido una experiencia negativa con el sistema de salud. Yo solo esperaba para qué dijeran cuándo nos podíamos vacunar porque yo trabajo con mucha gente y no me quería enfermar. Yo decidí vacunarme por el miedo de la enfermedad y de contagiarme o a mi familia. Cuando me vacuné, no sentí nada más que un poco de dolor en el brazo. Si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID, les diría que ofrezcan más ayuda para las personas que fueron afectadas por la pandemia psicológica y mentalmente o de cualquier forma.

One of the most important consequences of the pandemic that has affected my life has been the constant fear that so many people will die. I have never had a negative experience with the healthcare system. I was just waiting for them to say when we could get vaccinated because I work with a lot of people and I didn't want to get sick. I decided to get vaccinated out of fear of the disease and of infecting myself or my family. When I got vaccinated, I didn't feel anything but a little pain in my arm. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would tell them to offer more help for people who were affected by the pandemic psychologically, mentally or in any way.

LOCKED UP AT HOME

Carlos

Una de las consecuencias más importantes que la pandemia ha causado en mi vida ha sido que no he podido trabajar y que hemos estado encerrados. Jamás he tenido una experiencia mala con el sistema de salud. Decidí vacunarme por tener la seguridad de no contagiarme y después de vacunarme me sentí bien.

One of the most important consequences that the pandemic has caused in my life has been that I have not been able to work and that we have been locked up. I have never had a bad experience with the healthcare system. I decided to get vaccinated to be sure not to get infected and after getting vaccinated I felt fine.

RISK

Efraín

La pandemia me ha afectado a mí con el trabajo y también con no poder salir sin saber que estamos corriendo el riesgo de contagiarnos. Decidí vacunarme para no contagiarme o arriesgar que se contagiar a mi familia.

The pandemic has affected me with my job and also with not being able to go out without knowing that we are running the risk of becoming infected. I decided to get vaccinated to avoid getting infected or risk getting my family infected.

KIDS' WELLNESS

Lizette

Unas consecuencias de la pandemia que han afectado mi vida han sido que no hemos podido trabajar por algunos días y mis niños también fueron afectados emocionalmente por no poder ir a la escuela y ver a sus amigos o participar en las actividades que normalmente estarían haciendo. Afortunadamente, No tuve síntomas secundarios Después de vacunarme. Yo decidí vacunarme por el bienestar de mis hijas y de mi familia.

Some consequences of the pandemic that have affected my life have been that we have not been able to work for a few days and my children were also emotionally affected by not being able to go to school and see their friends or participate in the activities that they would normally be doing. Fortunately, I had no secondary symptoms after getting vaccinated. I decided to get vaccinated for the welfare of my daughters and my family.

SACRIFICE

Maria

Durante la pandemia de COVID-19 Nos hemos enfrentado con bastantes consecuencias. ha sido un año de miedo y de mucho sacrificio para la familia. Yo decidí vacunarme por qué tenía mucha ansiedad de que me enfermará. Quería recibir la vacuna lo más pronto posible. Después de vacunarme me sentí mucho más tranquila sabiendo que estaba protegida contra el Coronavirus

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have faced quite a few consequences. It has been a year of fear and a lot of sacrifice for the family. I decided to get vaccinated because I was very anxious that I would get sick. I wanted to get the vaccine as soon as possible. After getting vaccinated I felt much calmer knowing that I was protected against the Coronavirus

INSTABILITY

Guadalupe

Unas de las consecuencias mas importantes de la pandemia que han afectado mi vida han sido varias, como el estrés y la inestabilidad de los trabajos durante estos tiempos. Yo decidí vacunarme para estar sanos y seguros y para proteger a los demás. Después de vacunarme me siento mucho mejor, pero con algunos achaques. Si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud publica al COVID, les preguntaría cuando habrá opciones para los niños menores de 12 años.

Some of the most important consequences of the pandemic that have affected my life have been several, such as stress and job instability during these times. I decided to get vaccinated to be healthy and safe and to protect others. After getting vaccinated I feel much better, but with some ailments. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would ask them when there will be options for children under 12 years of age.

SADNESS

Alix

Durante la pandemia habido mucho miedo, mucha tristeza, no hubo trabajo y no podíamos salir sin estar pesando que nos podemos contagiar. Decidí vacunarme para protegerme y a mi familia, por todos los miembros de Oregon y los otros estados. Si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID, les diría muchas gracias porque ahora estoy bien y bendecirlos.

During the pandemic there was a lot of fear, a lot of sadness, I couldn't work and we couldn't go out without thinking that we could get infected. I decided to get vaccinated to protect myself and my family, for all members of Oregon and the other states. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would say thank you very much because I am fine now and bless you.

SEPARATION

Maria

Dos de las consecuencias más importantes que la pandemia de COVID ha causado han sido la separación de familia y el encierro. Nunca he tenido una experiencia mala con el sistema de salud, con la ciencia médica o con instituciones gubernamentales que hayan influido mi decisión. Yo decidí vacunarme contra el coronavirus por la salud y seguridad de mí y mi familia. Si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables la respuesta de salud pública al COVID les diría que piensen en la población y que brinden más herramientas de ayuda.

Two of the most important consequences that the COVID pandemic has caused have been family separation and confinement. I have never had a bad experience with the healthcare system, with medical science or with government institutions that influenced my decision. I decided to get vaccinated against the coronavirus for the health and safety of myself and my family. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would tell them to think about the population and to provide more help tools.



HEALTHY DISTANCE

Plutarca

Afortunadamente en mi familia casi no tuvimos que batallar con las consecuencias de la pandemia de COVID. Estuvimos cuidándonos por manteniendo una distancia sana. Decidí vacunarme porque tengo diabetes y tenía miedo de que mi condición me haría más vulnerable a infectarme. También tuve mucha ansiedad por ver como este virus ha atacado al mundo entero. Ahora estoy muy contenta por haber recibido la vacuna y sana hasta este momento. Si tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID, les diría pues muchas gracias por hacer el gran sacrificio de producir y proveer las vacunas.

Fortunately in my family we hardly had to deal with the consequences of the COVID pandemic. We were taking care of each other by keeping a healthy distance. I decided to get vaccinated because I have diabetes and was afraid that my condition would make me more vulnerable to getting infected. I also had a lot of anxiety to see how this virus has attacked the whole world. Now I am very happy to have received the vaccine and it is healthy until now. If I had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would say thank you very much for making the great sacrifice of producing and providing the vaccines.

LACK OF WORK

Francisco

Unas de las consecuencias que la pandemia ha tenido en mi vida ha sido la inestabilidad y la falta del trabajo. Decidí vacunarme porque he estado esperando poder estar protegido y para cuidar mi salud, la de mi familia, y la salud de mi comunidad. Gracias por todo.

One of the consequences that the pandemic has had on my life has been instability and lack of work. I decided to get vaccinated because I have been waiting to be protected and to take care of my health, that of my family, and the health of my community. Thanks for everything.

EXPOSED

Nathali

Durante la pandemia de COVID, he enfrentado bastantes consecuencias como la perdida de mi trabajo, menos horas en el trabajo, y he sido expuesta al COVID dos veces. Decidí vacunarme para estar segura y sana para mis hijas. Después de vacunarme me sentí bien y segura. Si les pudiera decir algo a los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID, les diría que por favor haya más información y mejor comunicación con la gente que no habla inglés.

During the COVID pandemic, I have faced quite a few consequences such as being asked for my job, fewer hours at work, and I have been exposed to COVID twice. I decided to get vaccinated to be safe and healthy for my daughters. After getting vaccinated I felt good and safe. If I could say something to those responsible for the public health response to COVID, I would tell them to please have more information and better communication with people who do not speak English.

PORTLAND LATINX STORY ALBUM

By Nancy Garcia



AMOR ES RESISTENCIA

By: Nancy Garcia

Some of the 9.7% of individuals who identify as latinos living in the city of Portland Oregon shared how the pandemic has come with a lot of stress, loss of employment, and fear of getting sick or losing loved ones. Many agree that getting vaccinated could help protect the community.

“DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A VACCINE SO EARLY WAS THE BEST FOR ME, US, AND EVERYONE”.

- Marycriss

MINDFUL OF ALL

Erendina

Para Erendina, que es parte de la comunidad en la ciudad de Portland Oregon, una de las consecuencias más importantes de la pandemia de COVID-19 en su vida ha sido la pérdida de trabajo, y la de no poder convivir. Con la salud de su familia al igual que la de ella en mente, Erendira decidió vacunarse contra el coronavirus. Erendira espera que los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública tengan la salud de todas las comunidades en mente al tomar decisiones.

For Erendira, who lives in Portland Oregon, one of the biggest impacts in her life has been the loss of employment during the pandemic, and not being able to be close to others. Thinking about her and her family's health, Erendira made the decision to get vaccinated. Erendira hopes that community covid response teams are able to make decisions moving forward, being mindful of all the different communities involved.

IT'S IMPORTANT

Luis

Luis radica en la ciudad de Portland Oregon, y comparte que ha sido muy difícil vivir con la pandemia, ha tenido que hacer cambios en su vida. Por ejemplo en las visitas al médico, por las diferentes maneras de conectarse, y navegar por nuevos espacios virtuales. Luis pensó en lo importante que sería la vacuna contra el coronavirus al momento de vacunarse.

Luis lives in the City of Portland, and shares that it has been difficult to undergo the pandemic, and has had to make changes in his life to adjust. For example when it comes to doctors appointments, and navigating connecting virtually during these times. Luis had in mind how important it would be in the fight against covid, to get vaccinated, at the time of his decision.

THE WHOLE FAMILY

Juana

Juana es parte del 9.7% por ciento de latinos en la ciudad de Portland Oregon, y comparte que la pandemia de COVID-19 ha sido muy estresante en su vida. A pesar de la incertidumbre acerca de la vacuna, Juana tomó la decisión de vacunarse y de vacunar a toda su familia. Después de haber recibido la vacuna, Juana se sintió más segura. Juana espera que los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID-19 sigan invitando a las personas a vacunarse, y que ayuden a brindar más información.

Juna is a part of the 9.7% of individuals who identify as latinos living in the city of Portland Oregon, and shares how the pandemic has come with a lot of stress in her life. Although she was initially hesitant about the vaccine, she made the decision to get her, as well her family vaccinated, and felt safer after her vaccination. Juna's hope for those responsible for the Covid-19 response to continue to invite people to get vaccinated, and also provide more information about the vaccine.

LOSING THE JOB BUT NOT THE BILLS

Yuri

Yuri reporta que unas de las consecuencias más importantes de la pandemia de COVID-19 en su vida a sido “la perdida de mi empleo y acumulación de biles”. Yuri comparte que aún no se encuentra vacunada por razones de decisión personal. Yuri opina que se vacunara cuando ella decida o al menos que le impida viajar. Para los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID-19, lo más importante para Yuri es que los inmigrantes reciben ayuda ya que esta comunidad se encuentra en necesidad.

Yuri reports that one of the most significant consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic for her has been the loss of employment, as well as the accumulation of bills. Yuri shares that she is currently not vaccinated, due to personal reasons. Yuir mentions she will get vaccinated when she is ready, or if required to fly. To those responsible for the Covid-19 response teams out there, Yuri hopes that they have immigrant communities in mind, because of the need there is in this community.



DIFFICULT DECISION

Mercedes

Mercedes comparte que la consecuencia más importante en su vida a causa de la pandemia de COVID-19 ha sido la pérdida de su trabajo. Para Mercedes fue difícil tomar la decisión de vacunarse por temor a lo que podría ocasionar la vacuna. Después de haber recibido la vacuna, Mercedes se encuentra bien.

Mercedes shares that she has been significantly impacted by Covid-19 due to loss of employment. Mercedes shares that it was difficult to make the decision of getting vaccinated because of fear of the side effects she would experience, however after recovering the vaccine, Mercedes feels good about her decision.



PROTECTION

Paula

Al momento de tomar la decisión de recibir o no la vacuna de COVID-19, Paula comparte que se le hacía difícil tomar la decisión de vacunarse por miedo a que esta le ocasionará daños en su cuerpo. Sin embargo Paula se vacuno y dice sentirse más segura de la posibilidad de combatir la pandemia. Paula tomó la decisión de vacunarse contra el coronavirus para prevenir la enfermedad en su familia, y proteger a su esposo ya que se encuentra con el sistema inmunológico comprometido.

At the moment of making her decision of whether or not she and her family should obtain the vaccine, Paula thought about what this might cause her body, however she made the decision thinking about how significant this would be in the fight against Covid-19. Her decision also involved thinking about how getting vaccines would help protect her husband, who's immune system is compromised.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Yruina

Para Yruina, el perder su trabajo ha sido sin duda la consecuencia más importante de la pandemia de COVID-19 en su vida. Al principio Yruina tenía dudas acerca de la vacuna pero dice que la decisión de vacunarse fue una decisión personal, y que ahora se siente bien. Si Yruina tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al COVID, les diría que tengan la salud de los niños en cuenta al tomar decisiones.

Without doubt, the loss of employment has remains the biggest consequence when it comes to undergoing the Covid-19 pandemic for Yrunia. At the beginning Yrunia was hesitant to obtain the vaccine, however did as a personal decision, and says she feels good about obtaining the vaccine. If Yrunia could address those responsible for Covid-19 response to public health, she would encourage them to keep in mind the health of children, when making important decisions.

PROTECTING FAMILY

Sarita

Una de las consecuencias más importantes de la pandemia en la vida de Sarita ha sido la falta de trabajo. A pesar de haberse enfermado en el pasado cuando se puso la vacuna en su país, Sarita decidió vacunarse para proteger a los demás y a las personas de su familia.

Sarita mentions that one of the biggest consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the lack of employment. Sarita was vaccinated outside of the country, and although she experienced some symptoms, she wanted to protect her family, and all members of her extended family.

LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT

Deysa

Para Deysa una o dos consecuencias más importantes de la pandemia de Covid-19 en su vida fue la pérdida de trabajo y el estrés. Cuando estaba pensando en recibir o no la vacuna de Covid-19, Deysa pensó en los efectos negativos que podría causar la vacuna, pero lo que influyó su decisión final fue el pensar en proteger a su familia, y ayudar a combatir la pandemia. Si Deysa tuviera una línea directa de comunicación con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19, lo más importante sería que huevería sitios locales para que más miembros de diferentes comunidades puedan vacunarse.

For Deysa who lives in Portland, a few of the biggest outcomes of Cov-19 in her life have been the loss of employment as well as the stress involved. When considering the Covid-19 vaccine, Deysa thought about the negative effects that she had heard, however what influenced her decision in the end was the thought of protecting her family, and how important the vaccine is to the fight against covid. If Deysa has a direct line of communication with Covid-19 response teams she would suggest having multiple locations for the different communities, to increase the amount of people who obtain a Covid-19 vaccine.

RENT DUE

Jose

Para Jose, una de las consecuencias más grandes de la pandemia ha sido la preocupación de pagar renta durante estos tiempos. Cuando estaba pensando en recibir o no la vacuna de Covid-19, una de las cosas que influyó su decisión fue la ciencia detrás de la vacuna. Lo que hizo decidir vacunarse contra el coronavirus fue su familia, y amigos. Si Jose tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19 les daría gracias por crear la vacuna.

Jose shares that during the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the biggest consequences he experienced was the concern about paying rent during this time. When deciding whether or not to obtain the Covid-19 vaccine, Jose says that one of the things that influenced his decision the most was the science behind it all. What made him decide to obtain the vaccine however was his family and friends. If Jose had a direct line of communication with Covid-19 response to public health teams, he would thank them for creating the Covid-19 vaccine.

WELL & VACCINATED

Abdias

Abdias vive en Wood Village y menciona que no ha experimentado consecuencias a causa de la pandemia de Cov-19, y dice estar bien. Después de recibir la vacuna de Cov-19, Abdias dice que experimentó dolor de cabeza, y fiebre.

Abdias lives in Wood Village and mentions that there has not been any major consequences that have come from experiencing life throughout the pandemic, and mentions he is well. When obtaining the Covid-19 vaccine, Abdias mentions he experienced side effects like headache, and fever.

SACRIFICE

Jessica

Jessica vive en la ciudad de Portland, Oregon, y reporta que una de las consecuencias más grandes a causa de la pandemia ha sido la pérdida de trabajo y la ansiedad. Después de haber obtenido la vacuna contra el coronavirus, Jessica reporta sentirse bien. Si Jessica tuviese una línea directa de comunicación con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19, les diría que apoya a que más personas se vacunen.

During the recent time Jessica, who lives in Portland, experienced the loss of employment, and anxiety as the biggest consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. After receiving the vaccine, Jessica reports feeling well. If Jessica had a direct line of communication with Covid-19 public health response teams, she would support the encouragement of getting more people vaccinated.

ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Isabel

Isabel comparte que lo que le ayudó a tomar su decisión de vacunarse contra el coronavirus fue el pensar en su salud, y la de su familia. Si Isabel tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19, les diría que sigan apoyando a que más personas se vacunen.

Isabel shares that one thing that helped her make her decision of whether or not to obtain the Covid-19 vaccine was the thought of the importance of not only her own health, but that of others. If Isabel had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response against Covid-19, Isabel would tell them to encourage others to get vaccinated.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Marycriss

Marycriss cuenta que una de las consecuencias de la pandemia ha sido ver como la pandemia ha afectado a sus hijos, desesperados por no poder salir en mucho tiempo. Pero menciona que la pandemia ha servido para pasar tiempo juntos en familia, y cuidarnos más. Marycriss dice que no estaba muy segura de su decisión sobre recibir o no la vacuna de Covid-19, pero que decidió vacunarse por lo más importante que son sus hijos y mama. Si Marycriss tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19, des daría las gracias por implementar una vacuna lo más pronto posible, "fue lo mejor por mí, por usted, y por todos".

Marycriss felt that one of the biggest consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic in her life was the effect it has had on her children, growing at times anxious not being able to go out. However she also notes that this time has also brought her family together, and brought awareness to taking care of our health. The pandemic has allowed Marycriss to value her family and life more. Marycriss was unsure of whether or not to get the vaccine, however her decision was greatly influenced thinking of the importance of her children and mother in her life. If Marycriss had a direct line of contact with Covid-19 public health response teams, she would say "Thank you!". She would add, "Developing and implementing a vaccine so early was the best for me, us, and everyone."

LOST OF EMPLOYMENT

Elizabeth

Para Elizabeth la pandemia de Covid-19, el efecto personalmente por la pérdida de su trabajo y tener que permanecer en casa. Elizabeth tomó la decisión de vacunarse para proteger tanto a los demás como a sí misma. Si Elizabeth tuviera una línea de comunicación directa con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19 les diría que se motiven más a vacunarse.

For Elizabeth the Covid-19 pandemic has personally affected her in terms of losing her job, and having to stay home. Elizabeth made the decision to get vaccinated to help protect others and herself against the spread of Covid-19. If Elizabeth had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response for the Covid-19 pandemic, Elizabeth would want them to help encourage others to become vaccinated.

FEAR

Maria Guadalupe

Maria recuerda el miedo que implicaba salir afuera de su casa durante la pandemia de Covid-19, y el cuidado que deberían tener. Maria dice que pudo obtener la vacuna en cuanto fue segura para administrar. Lo que hizo decidir vacunarse contra el coronavirus para Maria fue por la protección contra el virus, y para protegerse a ella, y a su familia.

Maria recalls the fear that implied leaving her home, with the possibility of getting infected, and being cautious at all times. Maria shares that she got the vaccine, as soon as it was safe, for the protection against Covid-19 and to protect family members, and herself.

MORE INFORMATION

Mari

Para Mari una de las consecuencias más grandes de la pandemia ha sido contagiarse del virus y no poder trabajar, a la misma vez preocuparse por no contagiar a su familia. Después de escuchar sobre los efectos de una vacuna contra el Covid-19, Mari tomó la decisión de hablar con su doctor antes de vacunarse. Después de haber recibido la vacuna, Mari siente que la vacuna puede ayudar a reducir la posibilidad de volverse a contagiar del coronavirus. Consciente de que la vacuna no garantiza que vuelva a contagiar, Mari espera que los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19, puedan brindar más información acerca de cómo sacaron la vacuna tan rápido.

One of the biggest consequences of Covid-19 for Mari, was getting Covid-19, and having to stop working, and worrying about protecting Mari's family's health. After hearing some of the possible effects of the Covid-19, Mari decided to speak to her doctor before getting vaccinated. Mari thought about how the vaccine could help minimize the possibility of another infection, however is aware that it will not guarantee another infection. If Mari had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public health response for Covid-19, she would ask for more information to be provided about how the Covid-19 vaccine came out so quickly.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Justin

Justin comparte que si tuviera una línea directa de comunicación con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19, le daría las gracias por la vacuna y por su apoyo a la comunidad.

Justin shares that there was a direct line of communication available for those responsible for the public health response to Covid-19, would be to thank them for the development of the vaccine, and for their support to the community.

WELLBEING OF ALL

Isabel M

Isabel comparte que después de recibir la vacuna contra el coronavirus, experimentó síntomas de dolor en su brazo y síntomas de el inicio de una gripe. Isabel ya recibido su segunda dosis de la vacuna, y tomó la decisión de vacunarse por su familia, y por su comunidad. Si Isabel tuviera una línea directa de comunicación con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19 les diría que sigamos viviendo bien.

Isabel shares that after obtaining her Covid-19 vaccine, she experienced some side effects such as pain in her arm, and cold-like symptoms. Isabel has obtained her second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and something that helped her make the decision was her family and her community. If Isabel had a direct line of communication with those responsible for the Covid-19 public health response, she would encourage the well being of all.

FOR MY MOTHER AND COMMUNITY

Erik

Erik comparte que una de las cosas más difíciles durante la pandemia ha sido el trabajo, y el estar al tanto de lo que ocurre con el Covid-19, y mantenerse ocupado durante la pandemia. Erik acaba de recibir la vacuna, y comparte que una de las razones para vacunarse fue para proteger a su mamá que tiene cáncer, y por el bien de la comunidad.

Erik shares that one of the most challenging things during the Covid-19 pandemic has been work and keeping up with the pandemic, and staying busy. One of the biggest reasons behind Erik's decision to get vaccinated has to be the delicate state of his mother's health, and protecting her immune system was the most important reason behind getting vaccinated. Erik also thought about how getting vaccinated could help protect the community.

FEELING GOOD AFTER VACCINATION

Blanca

Blanca se encuentra vacunada y aunque no ha experimentado consecuencias a causa de la pandemia, Blanca reporta sentirse bien después de haberse vacunado.

Blanca is currently vaccinated, and although she has not experienced consequences from the Covid-19 pandemic, Blanca reports feeling good after her vaccination.

BATTLING CANCER

Margarita

Margarita comparte que no ha tenido serias consecuencias durante la pandemia con el Covid-19, a pesar de enfrentar el cáncer. La razón más grande por la cual Margarita decidió vacunarse fue el querer proteger a su familiar. Si Margarita tuviera una línea directa de comunicación con los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19, les daría las gracias por su tiempo y dedicación para buscar cura a las nuevas enfermedades.

Margarita shares that she has not had any serious consequences from Covid-19, although she is undergoing cancer treatment. Margarita shares that the reason behind getting vaccinated was to help protect her family, and ensure their wellbeing. If Margarita has a direct line of communication with those responsible for the public response to Covid-19, she would like to thank them for their dedicated time to help find the cure to these new illnesses.

PRECAUTION

Flora

Flora comparte que una de las consecuencias más importantes de la pandemia de Covid-19 en su vida ha sido el permanecer en casa, sin poder hacer muchas de las cosas que antes hacían. Flora video precaución para los responsables de la respuesta de salud pública al Covid-19.

Flora shares that one of the consequences during the Covid-19 pandemic in her life has been the inability to do the activities that she used to pre-pandemic. Flora asks for lots of precaution from those responsible for the public health response to Covid-19.



MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY LATINX STORY ALBUM

By Jamie Bravo Salas



SOMOS CAPACES

By: Jamie Bravo Salas

During this pandemic many families lost their jobs, were separated from their families, lost family members, and risked their lives by having to work during the worst waves of COVID-19.

Note: Each of the stories below is sacred as they share with us parts of their lives and vicissitudes during the pandemic.

**"LIFE'S NOT
ABOUT
WAITING FOR
THE STORM
TO PASS. IT'S
ABOUT
LEARNING TO
DANCE IN THE
RAIN"**

- VIVIAN GREENE

EDUCACION

Ashley

Vivimos en un país en el que se hablan diferentes lenguajes, pero donde aún no existe información que represente la diversidad de ellos. En estos tiempos de pandemia, hemos notado que la comunidad latinx son unos de los más afectados por eso hago notar la necesidad de que haya más información en español. De igual manera, doy voz para que haya educación en español que nos enseñe e informe sobre las vacunas que se nos ofrecen, su contenido y sus efectos. Así nuestra comunidad podrá tomar una decisión consciente y libre. Sin olvidar que existe gran necesidad de recursos médicos para muchas comunidades.

We live in a country where different languages are spoken, but where there is still no information representing its diversity. In these times of pandemic, we have noticed that the Latinx community is one of the most affected, which is why I point out the need for more information in Spanish. In the same way, I give voice so that there is education in Spanish that teaches and informs us about the vaccines that are offered to us, their content and their effects. Therefore, our community will be able to make a conscious and free decision on whether to get it or not. My hope from the health system is that they do not forget the need for basic medical resources for many communities.



UNCERTAINTY

Ramon

Esta pandemia ha sido devastadora y sin dudarlo ha afectado a la comunidad latina en gran manera. También yo he sido afectado por ella, perdí a dos primos y varios amigos y sin duda, muchas cosas han cambiado. Relativamente pensé en recibir o no la vacuna de Covid, y aunque he tenido experiencias no muy favorables con las diferentes instituciones de gobierno y salud, yo ya estaba decidido de recibir la vacuna para protegerme. Por ahora solo quiero decirle a los responsables de salud pública que sigan altamente atentos a los cambios que siga trayendo esta pandemia.

This pandemic has been devastating and has undoubtedly affected the Latino community in a tremendous way. Like many others, I have been affected by it; I lost two cousins and several friends. Sadly, I can say that many things in our lives are no longer the same. Relatively, I thought about receiving the Covid vaccine or not, and even though there are some unfavorable experiences with the government and health institutions, I had already made the decision of getting the vaccine to protect myself. For now, I just want to tell those responsible people for public health to remain highly attentive to the changes that this pandemic continues to bring.

BRAVERY

Anonymous

Muchos de nosotros tenemos un cierto temor a la vacuna porque sentimos que hay un alto riesgo en ella, no solo por la novedad y rapidez con la que fue creada, sino también por la falta de confianza en el sistema político. Su invención es bastante nueva, ha sido creada por compañías farmacéuticas, además de que fue desarrollada bajo un gobierno político corrupto que aumenta nuestra desconfianza. A pesar de que en muchos de nosotros hay temor a la vacuna, yo tomé la decisión de vacunarme al enterarme de las altas estadísticas de muerte en mi comunidad: Marion county en Woodburn. Siempre ha existido en mi el miedo a contraer el virus ya que he mirado como mucha gente de la comunidad se ha infectado, e incluso un familiar, pero tuve necesidad de trabajar en un restaurante ya que hay pocas oportunidades de trabajo desde casa. Aunque muchos de nosotros necesitamos seguir trabajando, siempre tratamos de cuidarnos por nuestra salud y la de los demás.

Many of us have a certain fear of the vaccine because we feel that there is a high risk in it, not only because of the novelty and speed with which it was created, but also because of the lack of trust we have in the political system. Its invention is quite new; it has been created by pharmaceutical companies, and it was developed under a corrupt political government that increases our mistrust. Despite the fear of the vaccine in many of us, I made the decision to get vaccinated when I saw the high death statistics in my community: Marion County in Woodburn. The fear of getting the virus has always existed in me since I have seen how many people in the community have been infected, including a family member. Personally, I had to expose myself by working out in a restaurant since there are only a few "work from home" job opportunities. Even if there is a need from many of us to keep working outside, we always try to take care of ourselves.



DECISION

Maria

Mi padre estuvo en cuarentena debido a su contagio de COVID-19, así que tuvo que dejar de trabajar por tres meses y por la misma razón dejamos de verlo varios días. Sin duda alguna, que mi padre halla contraído el virus, influyó mi decisión de vacunarme. Aunque la vacuna me ocasionó cansancio y dolor en el brazo, tuve una experiencia tolerable y dentro de todo me sentí muy bien. Quiero agradecer al personal de salud pública por su trabajo y dedicación a nuestra comunidad: muchas gracias.

My father was in quarantine due to his COVID-19 infection; he had to stop working for three months, and we stopped seeing him for several days for this reason. Without a doubt, the fact that my dad has contracted the virus influenced my decision to get vaccinated. The vaccine made my arm sore and made me feel tired, but my experience with it was tolerable overall. After a few days, I felt very good again. I want to leave by thanking the public health staff for their work and dedication to our community: thank you so much!

FAMILY

Paulina

Estar alrededor y en contacto con mi familia tiene un gran valor para mí, pero desde que esta pandemia comenzó, tuvimos que alejarnos por nuestra propio bien y salud. Sin duda alguna, el alejamiento entre nosotros influyó para que tomara la decisión de vacunarme, teniendo mejor comunicación con ellos. Ahora que tengo la vacuna me siento más confiada de estar con mi familia. Indudablemente crear una nueva vacuna contrae un proceso que puede ser largo, pero quiero reconocer el trabajo de los que trabajan en la ciencia médica al poder conseguir la vacuna de covid con disponibilidad para todos.

Being around my family is very significant for me, however since the pandemic began, we had to stop being around each other for our own good and health. The separation between us influenced me to make the decision to get vaccinated, and now I feel more confident being around my family. Definitely, creating a new vaccine involves a process that is often long, and so I want to acknowledge those working in the medical field for making available the Covid vaccine to everyone.

LOST

Sajuana

Perdí a un ser querido y no pude estar en su funeral;

Mi familia no tuvo la oportunidad de verlo y la pandemia aún sigue presente.

Esta pandemia ha separado y destruido familias y aún sigue presente.

Creó un encierro para los niños, al no poder acudir a la escuela y aún sigue presente.

Por esto y por más no dude en vacunarme- lo hice para proteger a mi familia, a mi misma y a mi comunidad.

Mi petición es que se continúe haciendo estudios sobre la vacuna y así logren informar de una forma clara y correcta a la comunidad

I lost a loved one and couldn't be at his funeral;

My family did not have the opportunity to see him, and the pandemic is still here.

This pandemic has separated and destroyed families and is still here.

It has created confinement for our children by not being able to attend school, and is still here.

For this and more, I did not hesitate to get vaccinated; I did it to protect my family, myself and my community.

I demand that studies on the vaccine continue to be carried out, and thus be able to inform the community in a clear and honest way.

INCLUSION

Daisy

La pandemia ha agregado más estrés a nuestras vidas diarias, y nos ha sido un obstáculo para ver a nuestros seres queridos. Cuando la vacuna salió a luz, yo estaba dudosa ya que salió un poco rápido, pero había un deseo en mi de proteger a mi familia y a mi equipo de trabajo. Ahora que estoy vacunada me siento más segura, personalmente los malestares secundarios no fueron tan fuertes; por esto los invito a ponerse la vacuna para así protegernos unos a otros. Al sector salud les digo que tenemos que prepararnos más para los tiempos difíciles sin olvidarnos de la comunidad BIPOC.

The pandemic has added more stress to our daily lives, and it has been an obstacle for us to see our loved ones. When the vaccine came to light, I was doubtful about it as it came out quickly but made my decision on getting vaccinated to protect my family and work team. Now that I am vaccinated, I feel safer and can say that the side effects, for me, were not so strong. Being the reason to invite you to get vaccinated, so we can protect each other. I want to end by saying to the health organization that there is a need to prepare more for difficult times, having in mind the BIPOC community

SUMMER 2021 | FAITH AND THE VACCINE

DIVERSE YOUTH STORIES

By Peter Hakkoum



YOUTH OF COLOR SPEAK UP

By: Peter Hakkoum

Individual accountability like being a part of the solution, wearing a mask, being proactive, and looking at the vaccine as an opportunity to do our part to help with the spread of COVID will not work without accountability from decision makers.

“if people in charge of handling the pandemic actually handled it well and everyone got vaccinated, we would not be here today. COVID would be long gone.”

**"I DON'T GET HOW THIS
VACCINE IS ANY
DIFFERENT THAN OTHERS
THAT WERE MANDATORY
WHEN YOU GET
ADMITTED TO SCHOOL"**

- Alex

YOUTH OF COLOR SPEAK UP

By: Peter Hakkoum

The first person I took the time to have a conversation with about the COVID-19 vaccine is one of my very good friends Alex. Alex is a 23 year-old Japanese-American male who got vaccinated about 3 months ago. Alex was strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic just like everyone else has been. He lost his job and was living off unemployment for a little before he found a job at a local coffee shop. He was also enrolled in online school, which has had a huge mental impact on him as well. He had no motivation to do most of the school work assigned because of quarantine and the wildfires (at the time). The reason Alex wanted to get vaccinated was to speed up the process of ending the pandemic by being a part of the solution and being proactive. He did not have any doubts about the vaccine—although his family certainly did. However, that did not influence his decision to get vaccinated. Alex experienced symptoms of the Flu after his second shot that lasted for about two days. He also believes that the vaccine should be mandated across the United States just like the Measles shot is. “I don’t get how this vaccine is any different than others that were mandatory when you get admitted to school,” said Alex.

The second person I interviewed for this project is my cousin, Catia. She is 27 years old; she was born here in the United states and grew up with Syrian immigrant parents. Me and Catia have experienced the same consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both her parents and my parents were opposed to the vaccines at first. That delayed our decision to get vaccinated by a little bit since both our parents identify with the Republican party. Catia wanted to get vaccinated because she saw an opportunity to do her part to help with the spread of COVID. She’s been working from home ever since the pandemic started and she states that “if people in charge of handling the pandemic actually handled it well and everyone got vaccinated, we would not be here today. COVID would be long gone.”

Lupe is one of my best friends whom I interviewed recently. She is a 20 year old Latinx student. As a student, the pandemic has affected her progress in school and at work. She is studying to become a teacher and works at a preschool. Having to do things differently was really difficult for her and for the kids in her classes. Her main concern with the vaccine was the time frame that it emerged in and has had some doubts about it. She finally decided to get vaccinated after her family encouraged her to. She was not able to see most of her friends during the pandemic and the vaccine helped her be able to see them and spend time with them again. She thinks that the vaccine should be advocated for more because so many people are refusing to get it which has not been helpful for the country as a whole.



NURSING STUDENTS STORY ALBUM

By Katherine Collaco



IN THE WORDS OF NURSING STUDENTS

By: Katherine Collaco

The isolation that came with not being able to be with friends or family, and the fear of losing loved ones who became sick over the pandemic was in the minds and hearts of many.

Pandemics are not political, therefore should not have been made so.

"I GOT THE VACCINE FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY, A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IS A BETTER COMMUNITY."

- S.

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

S.

S. is a male nursing student at Warner Pacific University in his 30s. He states that the 2 biggest impacts of COVID-19 on his life were 1. Loss of family time and 2. Loss of employment. He states that he was not hesitant at all to get the vaccine. S. states that he is a person of science/data believer and all of the public information on the vaccine convinced him. He felt like it was his duty as a member of society to protect others and himself. "I got the vaccine for the good of the community, a healthy community is a better community."

WORRY FOR LOVED ONES

Gabrielle

Gabrielle B. is a 24 year old female nursing student at Warner Pacific University. She stated that the biggest impacts of the pandemic in her life were not being able to be with her friends or family, fear of losing loved ones who became sick over the pandemic. Gabrielle stated that she had no hesitancy when it came to getting the vaccine and that she actually felt proud to be vaccinated. Being a student nurse, she was able to get her vaccine early and all she could think about at the time was how lucky she was and couldn't wait for her family to have the same opportunity.



NOT POLITICAL

Devan

Devan S. is a 31 year old male, nursing student at Warner Pacific University. Devan stated that the biggest impact of COVID-19 was "A deterioration of his mental health dealing with the lack of socialization with friends and family, as well as new rifts because of the politicizing of COVID." Devan got the vaccine because he is a healthcare worker and wanted to feel safe. He also did not want to accidentally pass the illness to someone else and potentially kill them. He felt like this was one thing he could do to help the community get back to normal. One big take away from Devan is that he believes that this pandemic is not political, therefore should not have been made so.

ANONYMOUS STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

By Desire Nahimana



LIFE DURING A PANDEMIC

By: Desire Nahimana

"Nobody should be forced to get it [COVID vaccine], each person has their own opinions and beliefs, and everyone should have an equal opportunity to get it"
- anonymous

"I got the vaccine to be safer for myself and to others. I got COVID in the past and didn't want to get it again. I wanted to get more protection."
- anonymous

"My program mandated it; therefore I had no choice "
-anonymous

"I DECIDED TO GET VACCINATED NOW BECAUSE OF THE DELTA VARIANT AND I WANTED TO PROTECT MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER AT HOME FROM IT. I ALSO WANTED TO PROTECT THOSE AROUND ME FROM THE VIRUS."

- Miles Brown

FAITH IN THE MIDST OF PANDEMIC

By Mara Abit



FAITH IN THE MIDST

By: Mara Abit

When COVID-19 occurred, I was working in a nursing home. The facility didn't know what transpired but eventually led to circumstances that staff and residents didn't return. The OHA shut down the facility due to several issues found. It was a dark and challenging time. I usually don't cry because of a job, but I found myself crying for lives lost, lost comrades, and lost memories this time. I try not to look back at those times, but as I ponder from that experience, I thank God for strength, perseverance, and faithfulness. I was not who I am today: stronger if it wasn't for COVID-19.

I got vaccinated because I saw and took care of people who struggled and suffered from the effects of the virus. People wanted to breathe on their own but couldn't due to airway blockage. I do not want to experience the same thing.

**"I WAS NOT
WHO AM I
TODAY:
STRONGER IF IT
WASN'T FOR
COVID-19"**

- Mara Abit

I WANT TO TRAVEL

Noel

I realize I had to get vaccinated in order for me to go visit my country. It's been several years since I went back. Since they (the government) are talking about COVID passport, I might as well get it. Not because the government is pushing the passport but I want to travel.

I DON'T WANT MY DAUGHTER TO BLAME ME

Yvonne

My daughter had been asking me to get the vaccine. I've been ignoring her because I am not ready for the vaccine to be inside my body. As I ponder about this situation. I was thinking the what if's such as what if I get the virus. I don't want my family to get infected especially my daughter. I don't want her to blame me for getting sick. I decided to get the vaccine to ease her mind. .

PROTECTING MY LOVED ONES

Anonymous female

I got the vaccine because I want to protect my family. I have several kids living with me. They all go to school. I want to set an example to them. I want myself protected. Hopefully, they will come to terms and understanding of getting the vaccine, too.



STORIES FROM WARNER PACIFIC

By Joey Roman



CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE VACCINE

By: Joey Roman

The first person I interviewed was a Warner Pacific track athlete. This individual is 19 years old and is a first-generation student. He expressed that he always wanted to get the vaccine but didn't know where to get his vaccine. He lives in Hermiston, Oregon and found it extremely hard to find places to get his vaccine. I told him that Warner Pacific is having a vaccine event and it is completely free. Later that day he told me that he got vaccinated at Warner. I am glad that I was able to help a friend get vaccinated. He told me that he wants to be a nurse and cares about his community. The reason he chose to get vaccinated was that he wants to keep his friends safe and his community. The main issue with him getting vaccinated was finding a location that was offering them. He was stoked about getting vaccinated and wants to continue promoting the vaccine amongst students.

The second person I interviewed was a regular commuter student at Warner Pacific. This individual is 21 years old. When the vaccine was first being distributed to the elders in Oregon, she was able to get vaccinated because her mom works in a retirement home. She was super excited to get vaccinated even though she was scared of the shot hurting her arm. She got her vaccine because she misses how things used to be. She was one of the lucky ones to be able to get vaccinated before a lot of adults were able to get their vaccine. She let me know that she believes everyone should get their vaccine because it will move the world closer to being COVID-19 free.

BUILDING TRUST STORY ALBUM

By Simone Wade



TRUST TAKES TIME

By: Simone Wade

The first person I interviewed was my boyfriend, Misha. He is a 26 year old Liberian male. To preface his story, he is not a big fan of medical treatment in general. It's not because he has a specific reason not to, he just feels he is healthy and doesn't "need" to be seen by a medical professional. He literally has not been seen by a healthcare professional in over six years. This is rather disturbing to me as his nurse girlfriend lol!

When the vaccine first came out we both laughed at how we would never take it. At the time there was a lot of misinformation going around; at one point I heard that the vaccine would only be offered to Black American's first. This didn't help his already paranoid predisposition ahaha. As time passed, more and more information surfaced showcasing the vaccines' safety and efficacy, my boyfriend's opinion still remained unchanged. He currently feels that unless his job makes it a requirement he will not do it.

While I want him to be safe, I don't feel the need to continuously persuade him into doing something with his own body that he has not come to terms with naturally on his own. I think he will eventually get the vaccine, but it will be when he is ready, and I respect that.

BUILDING TRUST TOGETHER

Joyce

The second interview I conducted was on my mother, Joyce. She is a 59 year old African American female. My mom is where I get a lot of my paranoia from LOL. When the vaccine first came out she was very clear that she would not be taking it, and had no plans on taking it for several years. Her number one fear of the vaccine was over the time it took for it to be developed. She also watches the news a lot and was overwhelmed with the stories being shared (ex. Woman becomes paralyzed from the neck down after receiving Pfizer vaccine, Person dies the day after getting vaccinated, etc).

I myself took a very long time coming to terms with the vaccine, and every time I would come close to getting it I would call my mom for reassurance. Eventually it came to the point where we both wanted to get the vaccine in order to keep ourselves and others safe, but fear of adverse side effects were debilitating. Eventually I got the vaccine (not in the way I wanted, too traumatic of a story to share here), and I think this pushed my mom into getting it as well as she got her first dose of Pfizer about a week after. She states she is happy about her decision and is looking forward to the protection it will offer her.

STILL CONCERNED

Anonymous

For my third interview I spoke with one of my patients who wishes to remain anonymous.

The patient was being seen at the hospital for the complications they were suffering weeks after conquering COVID19. The patient now suffers from chronic unexplained leg pain, leaving them wheelchair bound. I asked them if they would consider getting a vaccine in the future, to which they stated they would not. The patient felt that if their body was this shot from having the illness, it would not be able to endure the side effects of the vaccine. They also stated they were unwilling to give the vaccine to their teenage children, and would rather let them naturally fight the complications should they become infected.

KEY FINDINGS

Renaissance of Relationships



The pandemic response created an awakening in partnerships between government agencies, private entities and non-profit organizations. It was a relationship renaissance of sorts.

Through these relationships, it revealed the divide in how the pandemic was experienced and what solutions needed to be prioritized. For some people, it took all their gumption to overcome misinformation, lack of access, and social pressures, before they decided to get vaccinated. For others, they trusted science, the healthcare system, and sought the vaccine as soon as it was available.

The lived realities of people during COVID-19 illustrates a noticeable discrepancy between people working from home, versus people from vulnerable communities who were disproportionately affected. Communities such as the Warm Springs community, and the Latinx community, more acutely grieved the loss of life, and the economic hardship that exacerbated their already difficult conditions.

Among the top significant consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on participating communities so far are loss of loved ones, financial loss, and isolation that has impacted the mental wellbeing of the community but it has also caused cultural and social loss. Consequences worsen by not having access to culturally relevant mental health services.

"It took all my gumption to be vaccinated today" said an African American woman in her mid 50s at a vaccine clinic in Washington County. Her faith leader had encouraged people to NOT get vaccinated.

KEY FINDINGS

FINANCIAL IMPACT IS SIGNIFICANT

When asked about the most significant impact the pandemic had on participant's lives, financial hardship was at the top of the list. The hardship from missing work as an hourly employee, workers getting sick with COVID-19 sometimes causing expensive medical bills, bills piling up, lack of benefits such as health insurance or paid time off, young people considering dropping their college aspirations to help family with rent money, and juggling children at home causing some parents to have to reduce their work hours, these are some of the examples mentioned by participants.

Also the impact that anxiety and fear had on mental health. The relentless stress of the unknown and rapidly changing circumstances that was not always communicated to communities disconnected from decision making circles. It was hard to plan, it was mostly about living day to day and dealing with what was in front of you.

Some of the top reasons why people got the coronavirus vaccine were to protect themselves, protect loved ones and protect the community. People were particularly concern about protecting children and vulnerable populations. Work mandates or travel requirements also played a role on people getting the vaccine. Though for some people being force to get vaccinated felt morally wrong, or made some people feel they had no agency to chose what was best for them or their families.

When thinking about getting the vaccine, distrust for agencies delivering the vaccine or producing the scientific evidence, not having paid sick days benefits, and lack of transportation, all played a role on folks delaying or not getting the vaccine. Language barriers delayed access to available vaccine clinics, and international influences from media and family members abroad affected people's views of the vaccine. All these factors delayed some from getting the vaccine and made others right-out resistant to the idea of getting inoculated.

The need to have reliable sources of information and be able to discern which sources to trust was also named by participants.

Discrimination has impacted communities' decisions to get the vaccine, For some, it is the fear of being labeled public charge, while communities like Warm Springs ask to not be forgotten. We also see positive collaborations between public health and community based organizations to address these issues in some areas while much more needs to be done in others.

CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION



Redressing power imbalances and developing mutually beneficial and non-paternalistic partnerships requires that we create a culture that shares power and gives community members the agency to be the authors of their own recovery. *Faith and the Vaccine -Community Pandemic and Vaccine Stories* aims to direct us in that direction.

Students of color and those that seek to be in allyship have listened deeply to diverse communities.

People shared having gratitude for vaccines that were eventually available near or within trusted organizations in their community. We would encourage the outreach and continued support of organizations that already have relationships of trust within communities of color so they can continue to have the resources to respond to the need.

People shared their gratitude for financial relief funds, especially in counties that supported immigrant communities who would not otherwise qualify for most government programs. Financial incentives for getting the vaccine and financial incentives through employment opportunities have been effective for getting people vaccinated.

Another recurring theme was gratitude for having community support, including having communities of faith to lean on. Communities of faith played an influential role in the vaccine rollout both positively and negatively. We urge government agencies to seek to connect and build relationships of trust through liaisons, giving extra effort to connect with communities of color.

Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world. ~Bell Hooks

THANK YOU!

Elizabeth Marino, Ph.D & Christopher Wolsko, Ph.D.

Oregon State University Professors Marino and Wolsko in their work with hesitant communities in Deschutes county served as inspiration and guidance to listen to impacted communities and amplify the solutions communities would like to see for themselves.

Check out their work:

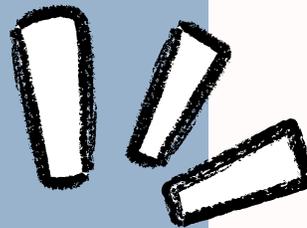
Developing Effective and Trustworthy COVID Vaccine Messaging in Deschutes County
Project Report
June 7, 2021

GRACIAS!

Capaces Leadership Institute

Congratulations Capces on celebrating their 10th Anniversary! IMIrJ had the opportunity to join the celebration through a Day of Wellness dedicated to the staff of sister organizations and close allies from the Mid-Valley. Staff that have served in the frontlines of the struggle especially these last 15 months shared their experiences to be part of our collective healing.

Thank you Capaces team for your unconditional support for our leaders, organizations, networks, and movement. We are Capaces!



THANK YOU!

Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC)

We want to thank our partners at the Interfaith Youth Core who supported this project and saw the role diverse faith communities and college students could play in public health.

We would also like to thank our partners at the Presbytery of the Cascades, Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Warner Pacific University for their support.



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