The MEDBOX team publishes issue briefs on different topics around COVID-19. We would be pleased to receive feedback on this issue brief or topics you would like to see covered in future issues. Registered MEDBOX users can see the latest documents in the ‘My News’ section by selecting their personal preferences under ‘My Profile’.

Vaccination Hesitancy

For over one year, the news is dominated by various issues around Covid-19. One of the main topics is vaccinations. How long will the process take? How will it roll out? What are the side effects?

In this brief, we will look at the aspect of vaccination hesitancy. Several studies have been done about interest in getting the vaccine. Ipsos and World Economic Forum have looked at the willingness of the population in 16 countries from all over the world and also at the changes overtime in their ‘Global attitudes : COVID-19 vaccines’ study.

There is a significant difference in the willingness to be vaccinated between respondents in different countries. The study was done in January of 2021. Over 80% of the surveyed population in the United Kingdom (89%), Brazil (88%), China (85), Mexico (85%) were willing to be vaccinated. The lowest level of willingness was seen in Russia (42%) and France (57%). Compared with an earlier study in December 2020, the researcher found an increasing number of people interested in getting a vaccination in all 16 countries. In Spain and Italy, the percentage went from 52% in December 2020 to 80% in January 2021.

- “I am worried about the side effects” is the main overall reason for not willing to be vaccinated
- “I am worried that a vaccine is moving through clinical trials too fast” is the second reason that people would not take a COVID-19 vaccine. This reason was the main reason in Brazil (51%). Sixty-six % of the interviewed people in Japan were afraid of the side effects, while 14% thought that it went too fast through clinical trials
- “I do not think that it will be effective” is given as the reason 45% of the people in China and South Korea and was highest in the United Kingdom with 12%
- “The risk to me of getting COVID-19 is low” has been named as another reason
- “I am against vaccination in general” was highest in the United States (11%) and lowest in Spain (2%)

The Centre for Disease Control Africa published a similar study on the situation in Africa in March 2021. In all the surveyed countries, respondents considered the COVID-19 vaccines as less safe than other vaccines. The highest proportion of people willing to take a COVID-19 vaccine was in Ethiopia (94%). The lowest response was in DRC, with just 59% of the respondents were ready to be vaccinated against the coronavirus.

In this brief, we will highlight some of the publications that can be found in the MEDBOX COVID-19 Toolbox in the sections Vaccination & Strategy, including Vaccine Hesitancy & Myths, Communication Materials and Videos.

How do Vaccines work?

Questions and answers on COVID-19 vaccine
_African Union; Africa CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2020)_

How do vaccines work? Fact sheet


Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines
_Centers for Disease Control CDC (2021)_


Vaccines 101: How vaccines work
_Nature Video (2020)_

As the world waits for a potential COVID-19 vaccine, we delve into how vaccines actually work. What are the different types of vaccine? How do they trigger and train the immune system, and what is the role of herd immunity?


How mRNA Vaccines Work - Simply Explained
_Simply Explained, Dec. 2020_

mRNA vaccines have the potential to end the COVID-19 pandemic. How do they work? Are they safe? And how could they’ve been developed so quickly?


WHO Science in 5 Info Episode #16 - COVID-19 - How do vaccines work?
_World Health Organization (Dec. 2020) Video_

How do vaccines work to protect us? What are the vaccine technologies in the pipeline and how do we ensure safe vaccines?


There are four types of COVID-19 vaccines: here's how they work
_GAVI Alliance (2021) Video_

The fight against COVID-19 has seen vaccine development move at record speed, with more than 170 different vaccines in trials. But how are they different from each other and how will they protect us against the disease?

[https://youtu.be/lfjIVlCvyc](https://youtu.be/lfjIVlCvyc)

You can find more videos in our [Vaccination & Strategy/Video Section](https://medbox.org/document/vaccination-strategy-video-section).
Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines
World Health Organization (2021)

This article is part of a series of explainers on vaccine development and distribution. Learn more about vaccines – from how they work and how they’re made to ensuring safety and equitable access – in WHO’s Vaccines Explained series. Countries around the world are rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, and a key topic of interest is their safety. Vaccine safety is one of WHO’s highest priorities, and we’re working closely with national authorities to develop and implement standards to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.


Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?
Lockerd, Maragakis, L.; and G.D. Kelen, (2021); John Hopkins University

The arrival of safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines is a major development in the coronavirus pandemic. An effective COVID-19 vaccine will help protect people who come in contact with the virus from becoming sick. As more people are vaccinated, families and communities will be able to gradually return to a more normal routine.


COVID-19 vaccines - will they be safe?
World Health Organization (2020) Video

Why we can trust the safety of COVID-19 vaccines trials? Dr Kate O’Brien explains.


How do we know that vaccines are safe?
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Nov. 2020, Video

This video explores the safety measures in place throughout the entire vaccine development process, from the four clinical trial phases and through to the use of vaccines in the community.

https://youtu.be/owFT2e8h7lw

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety, Side Effects, and Risks, Explained
Stanford Center for Health Education (2021) Video

Dr. Seema Yasmin answers 3 common questions about COVID-19 vaccine safety, side effects, and risks: The COVID-19 vaccines are new so what do we know about short- and long-term side effects? What’s the deal with allergic reactions to the COVID vaccines? Has anyone died because of COVID vaccines?

https://youtu.be/6MoRTw8rsxk

7 Ways Scientists Safely Developed COVID-19 Vaccines in Record Time
Stanford Center for Health Education (2021) Video

How were COVID-19 vaccines developed so fast? Dr. Seema Yasmin explains how the vaccines were made in record time and why you can trust the process.

https://youtu.be/Yi9AQp6Tjyg
Manufacturing, safety and quality control of vaccines
World Health Organization WHO (2020)

This document is part three in a series of explainers on vaccine development and distribution. Part one focused on how vaccines work to protect our bodies from disease-carrying germs. Part two focused on the ingredients in a vaccine and the three clinical trial phases. This document outlines the next part of the vaccine journey: the steps from completing the clinical trial phases through to distribution.


Side Effects

Possible Side Effects after getting a COVID-19 Vaccine
Centers for Disease Control CDC (2021)

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects.


Side Effects of COVID-19 Vaccines
World Health Organization WHO (2021)

This article is part of a series of explainers on vaccine development and distribution. Learn more about vaccines – from how they work and how they’re made to ensuring safety and equitable access – in WHO’s Vaccines Explained series. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, and getting vaccinated will help protect you against developing severe COVID-19 disease and dying from COVID-19. You may experience some mild side effects after getting vaccinated, which are signs that your body is building protection.


WHO in Science Episode #30 Vaccines-when and why?
World Health Organization WHO (2021), Video

If you have been wondering when you would receive your vaccine? Why you should get vaccinated and are concerned about what you are hearing about side effects, this episode of Science with 5 with WHO’s Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan is for you.


Myths & Misinformation

COVID-19 Vaccines: Myth Versus Fact
Kelen, D.G.; and L.Lockerd Maragakis, John Hopkins University (2021)

The authors review some common myths circulating about the vaccine and clear up confusion with reliable facts.

WHO in Science Episode #24 - Vaccine myths vs science
World Health Organization WHO (2021) Video

WHO's Dr Katherine O'Brien busts some vaccine myths related to infertility, DNA and composition of vaccines.


Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC (2021)

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. Learn more about finding credible vaccine information.


Addressing Rumors or Myths and Role in Vaccine Safety Events
UN Children's Fund UNICEF (2020)

The immunization program has been going well until a rumor begins that one child in a community far from the capital has become sick after receiving a vaccine. The rumor is becoming stronger every day and is picking up coverage on local radio. Concerned that the rumor might make caregivers concerned about bringing their children for vaccination, a few frontline workers (FLWs) go to the house of the children who fell sick.

https://medbox.org/document/addressing-rumors-or-myths-and-role-in-vaccine-safety-events

Rumors, trust and vaccines
Larson, H.; TEDMED April (2020) Video

Heidi Larson, Vaccine Trust Anthropologist, studies rumors. With today's technology, information is at our fingertips; at the same time, misinformation spreads like wildfire. While working across the globe on global Polio eradication, Heidi noticed the consequential impact of vaccine distrust and medical rumors. In response, she created the Vaccine Confidence Project, an interdisciplinary, global initiative that studies rumor dissemination across countries, communities, and social networks to better understand medical misinformation. While vaccines are surrounded by “political and social turbulence,” Heidi argues that the problem is not misinformation, but rather the lack of relationships around trusted health information.

https://youtu.be/iZpGjzEwlOA

Church leaders speak on COVID-19 vaccine conspiracies
South African Council of Churches (2021)

8 Febr. 2021. The South African Council of Churches is holding a media briefing to speak on the myths on the coronavirus vaccines in light of the conspiracy theories making the rounds. Conspiracy theories about the coronavirus vaccine have been doing the rounds for a while now.

Online Courses

Corona Crash Course Unit 5: Vaccine
Jesuit Worldwide Learning (2020)

In this unit we will learn about vaccines and what is the progress made for developing a vaccine for COVID-19 Jesuit Worldwide Learning invites you to learn facts and test your knowledge on the ongoing pandemic caused by Coronavirus (COVID 19) through a fun-interactive crash course! Access is free! You have only to sign up.

https://medbox.org/document/corona-crash-course-unit-5-vaccine

Corona Crash Course Unit 7: Vaccine hesitancy
Jesuit Worldwide Learning (2021)

Coming soon, please check the website https://sis.jwl.global/apply/corona

Video Playlists

COVID-19 Vaccine Playlist YouTube
World Health Organization WHO

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9S6xGsoqIBXHSDMCp8CjOmhULEQnJ_7J

WHO Science in 5 Video Series
World Health Organization WHO

There are many interesting videos to discover in “Science in 5”


Background Information

IPSOS (2021)


Global Attitudes on a COVID-19 Vaccine Conducted January 28 -31, 2021
IPSOS (2021)

COVID 19 Vaccine Perceptions: A 15 country study
African Union; Africa CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; World Health Organization WHO, et al. (2021)

Initial public health responses to control the pandemic focused on promoting protective behaviors among the general population, including frequent hand washing, physical distancing and the use of face masks in public spaces. However, many saw these only as interim measures to reduce the spread of the virus and hopes for a return to a sense of normalcy rested on the development of a safe and effective vaccine.


COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy worldwide: a systematic review of vaccine acceptance rates
Sallam, M. (2021)

Vaccines 2021, 9(2), 160; https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9020160


How to stop vaccine hesitancy
Vaughan, A. (2020)

New Scientist 2020 Nov. 21; 248 (3309): 12-13

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7833418/

A High Rate of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Arabs: Results of a Large-scale Survey
Qunaibi, E.A.; et al. (2021)

https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.09.21252764v1.full.pdf

Vaccine hesitancy
Osmosis (March 2021) Video

Vaccine hesitancy has become a significant health concern, and is defined by the World Health Organization as “a delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccination services.” Vaccine hesitancy is a complex issue, and its causes are unique to each individual.

https://youtu.be/yZwVOD-ITx4
Resource Platforms

COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance
Compass (2021)

Social and behavior change (SBC) professionals have often been tasked to find ways to influence knowledge, attitudes, and practices, about vaccines. Now that the COVID-19 vaccines are becoming available worldwide, renewed emphasis and urgency for SBC efforts arise. To that end, WHO has offered three factors that play a role in vaccine hesitancy, the first two of which can be addressed by SBC.


Communication Hub Vaccine hesitancy
Vital Strategies (2021)

https://covid19riskcomms.org/search/results?q=vaccine+hesitancy