

# Essential Worker Health Survey Newsletter

Vol. 2 | August 26, 2021

## From strengthening workplace protections

to ensuring our members have **access to life-saving vaccinations**, the UFCW has been standing with our essential workers from day one. And as we get closer to understanding and overcoming COVID-19, it is critical that **our essential working members remain a priority**.

That is why **UFCW** has partnered with the **University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)** and **FORWARD Databank** to launch a historic, national **Essential Worker Health Survey**.

Every month, participants of this groundbreaking study will receive text messages that include **short surveys**, opportunities to provide **feedback** on workplace conditions, and access to **curated newsletters** with the opportunity to submit and have their specific **COVID or vaccine questions** answered by leading medical experts.

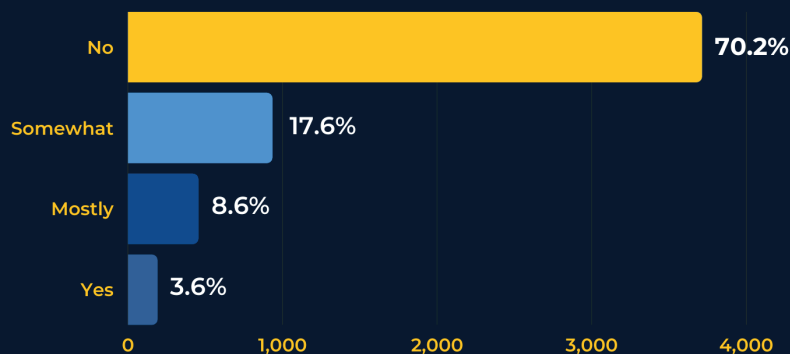
—EWHSN

*To join the study, text 'EssentialWorker' to 83071.*

## Key Survey Findings

### Do You Think the COVID-19 Pandemic Is Over?

70.2% OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS THINK THE PANDEMIC IS NOT OVER

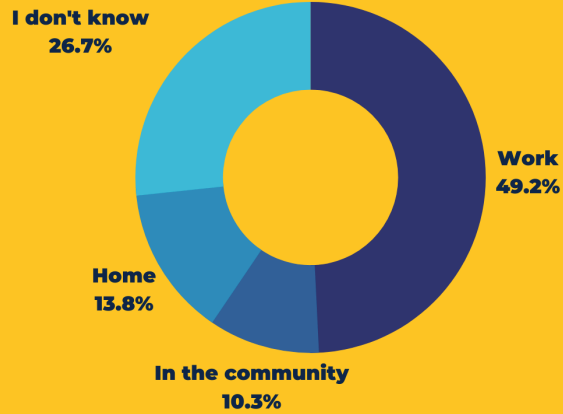


Stat #1

# Key Survey Findings - Continued

## Where Do You Think You Got Infected?

49.2% OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS THINK THEY CONTRACTED COVID-19 AT WORK

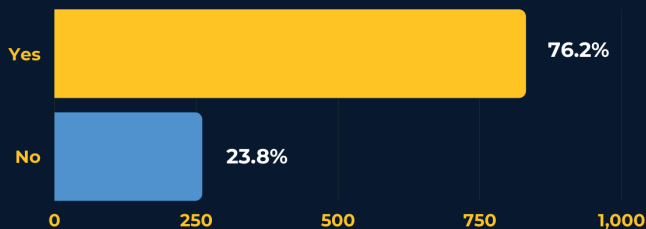


Stat #2



## Was the Vaccine Offered at Your Worksite?

76.2% OF SURVEY PARTICIPANTS SAID THE COVID-19 VACCINE WAS OFFERED AT THEIR WORKSITES



Stat #3





**Dr. Alison Freifeld, MD**

*Professor, Department of Internal Medicine for the University of Nebraska and Director, Section of Oncology Infectious Diseases for Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center*

**Question:** Why the push on a vaccine that isn't FDA approved nor has it been tested?

**Dr. Alison:** There are 3 important reasons why there is a push to get the COVID-19 vaccines tested, evaluated, and approved for broader use:

1. The SARS CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading and mutating rapidly into increasingly more contagious and severe forms.
2. Widespread COVID-19 illness leads to hospitals filling up, exhaustion of medical staff, crippling of the American economy, and disruptions in school attendance for children.
3. The current drug treatments for COVID-19 infection are not ideal and many people are still getting very sick and dying.

Over **334 million doses** of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in the United States from December 14, 2020, through July 12, 2021, with excellent results. **COVID-19 vaccines have clearly shown to prevent most serious**

# Ask. Dr. Alison

**Have questions about COVID-19 or any of the vaccines? We've reached out to one of the nation's leading infectious diseases experts to address your concerns.**

**disease and death due to SARS CoV-2 infection - including the Delta variant — in people who have been fully vaccinated.**

With this week's news of full FDA approval of the Pfizer vaccine, I expect that the Johnson & Johnson and Moderna vaccines will follow shortly.

**Question:** What are the long-term side effects of the vaccine? I've heard according to VAERS, it's also very toxic to humans. I am so confused about what I hear that it scares me to get it.

**Dr. Alison:** The good news is that with over 200 million Americans vaccinated over the last 9 months, we know that the chances of serious adverse effects are *extremely low*. The national Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) database is an early warning system to detect possible safety problems in licensed vaccines. Healthcare providers must report any adverse effects after individuals receive COVID-19 vaccines, whether or not they think they are related to the shot. The reports are thoroughly reviewed by FDA scientists who determine if they may be related to the vaccine. Again, **just because a problem is reported to VAERS does not mean it is caused by the vaccine.**

Minor pain and redness at the injection site, fatigue, muscle aches and fever are very com-

mon and typically last a few hours to days, at most. Very few side effects show up later than 2 weeks. Four serious – but *very rare* – vaccine-related side effects include severe allergic reactions, blood clots, myocarditis (heart muscle inflammation), and a neurologic condition of numbness and weakness (GBS) which sometimes leads to temporary paralysis. All serious effects are medically treatable.

Finally, there is also no evidence from VAERS that any of the COVID-19 vaccines are “toxic” to humans.

—EWHSN

**To Ask Dr. Alison your COVID or vaccine question, text**

**'AskDrAlison' to 83071**

**for survey participants only**

*The answers provided above include the best information known at the time of publishing.*