

Essential Worker Health Survey Newsletter

Vol. 3 | September 24, 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**.

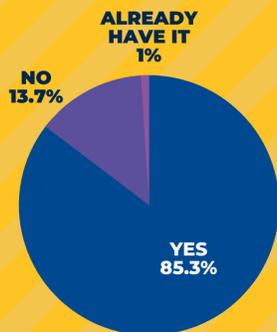
Every month, participants of this groundbreaking study will receive text messages that include **short surveys**, opportunities to provide **feedback** on workplace conditions, and access to **curated newsletters** with the opportunity to submit and have their specific **COVID or vaccine questions**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

—EWHSN

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

Key Survey Findings

Will You Be Getting a Booster Vaccination Shot if It Becomes Recommended for You and Available?



85%

85% OF THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY WOULD GET A BOOSTER IF IT BECOMES AVAILABLE

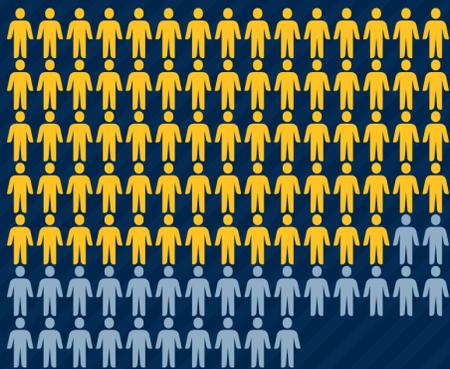
Stat #1

Key Survey Findings – Continued

Stat #2



64% of Survey Participants Think Employers Should Require Their Workers to Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19.



Percentage of Survey Participants Who Think Employers Should Require Masks.



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: I am a four-time breast cancer survivor. My latest case of cancer was in 2019. My question is if they're offering a third booster shot would I be eligible to get that shot as someone with a compromised immune system?

Dr. Alison: This week, the FDA and CDC announced that booster doses (the "third shot") of the Pfizer vaccine are approved for individuals 65 years and older and individuals 18-64 years old who are either at high risk of severe COVID or experience frequent institutional or occupational exposure to COVID.

Individuals who have received a solid organ transplant or have similar levels of immunosuppression would be eligible. Eligibility for boosters would therefore apply to people taking steroids or other drugs that suppress immunity on a long-term basis, or those with leukemia or lymphoma who have crippled immune systems. Others, such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy for solid tumors like breast cancer, actually respond well to 2 vaccine doses,

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.

with about 80% having antibody levels for up to 6 months, comparable to people without cancer.

Given this data, someone who has had breast cancer (or other solid tumors) and is no longer receiving active chemotherapy is not considered to be deeply immunocompromised. In this setting, a good response to two vaccines is expected. However, it's still important to discuss your individual situation with your doctor.

Question: How worried should we be sending our unvaccinated 6-year-old daughter to school with the delta variant spreading?

Dr. Alison: Currently, we are seeing a big surge of the highly transmissible delta variant of COVID-19 in unvaccinated people, including young children under age 11 who cannot yet be vaccinated. But, it's important to put this surge into perspective by reviewing what's known about COVID-19 infection in kids.

First, school settings have largely been shown to be relatively safe for children under 10 years old, primarily since children are less susceptible than adults to acquiring the virus. However, if you also have adolescents in your home (12 to 17 years), it's important for them to get vaccinated since their risk of infec-

tion is similar to adults.

Second, the risk of children getting COVID-19 depends a lot on the level of virus transmission in the community. For example, pediatric hospitalizations are rising most rapidly in regions of the country where vaccination rates are low and therefore, community transmission is much higher.

Finally, it's important to know that the actual risk of severe ill-

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— Dr. Alison Freifeld, MD

ness, ICU admission or death is extremely low in children according to recent data. Among approximately 650,000 COVID deaths across the United States since the beginning of the pandemic, fewer than 500 have been children under 18 (about half of them had high risk factors). Kids currently account for only about 1.8% of all COVID-19 hospitaliza-

Ask. Dr. Alison — Continued

tions in the U.S.

The best news is that we expect that Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to be approved by FDA Emergency Use Authorization for children 5 to 11 years of age (and maybe younger) in the next month or two! Getting your children vaccinated as soon as vaccine is available is key to keeping them safe and to ending the pandemic of COVID-19.

Question: How long does long haul COVID last?

Dr. Alison: As many as 1 in 3

people who are sickened by COVID-19 continue to experience symptoms from a few weeks to months after the initial acute illness. This has been referred to as “long COVID” and can include fatigue, shortness of breath, “brain fog,” sleep disorders, fevers, gastrointestinal symptoms, anxiety, and depression (that can persist for months and can range from mild to debilitating).

Doctors and researchers are actively working to understand the frequency, mechanisms, duration, and risk factors for

“long COVID,” but these investigations are in the early stages. Older patients and people with underlying health conditions are particularly affected by persistent symptoms, but physically fit young people may also develop the lingering symptoms of “long COVID.” Ongoing research is very important to answer the many questions about “long COVID.”

—EWHSN

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

**To Ask Dr. Alison your COVID or vaccine question, text
‘AskDrAlison’ to 83071
for survey participants only**

**Learn more about the Essential Worker Health Survey at:
ufcw.org/EssentialWorkerStudy**