Insight from the Frontlines

Unvaccinated Long-Term Care Staff Share their Perspective on the Proposed Vaccine Mandate

Date: Revised November 2021 KFMC Health Improvement Partners



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Summary

This report is designed to identify common themes or perspectives of current staff (both vaccinated and unvaccinated) so policy makers and organizational leadership can appropriately address hesitancies, educational needs, and understand the potential staffing implications of the mandate and associated regulations. The perspectives were gathered from listening sessions that provided staff an opportunity to provide direct and honest feedback, to better understand what is needed to improve vaccination compliance and protect the delivery of senior care.

Overview

On August 18, 2021, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the development of an emergency regulation requiring staff vaccinations within Medicare and Medicaid-participating nursing homes. KFMC Health Improvement Partners (KFMC) was interested in learning about current unvaccinated staff's hesitations, fears, and overall perspective on the vaccine mandate. KFMC conducted a series of independent listening sessions targeting:

- Unvaccinated staff currently working in long term care facilities
- Long term care facility leadership

The sessions were conducted via Microsoft Teams. Participants were from long term care facilities across Kansas. KFMC distributed an open invitation through KFMC's contact database which includes all nursing homes in Kansas.

The five sessions were scheduled for 60-minutes and were scheduled at different times throughout the day to provide participation opportunities for all staff despite working various shifts. The sessions included a standard set of questions intended to solicit feedback from frontline workers regarding their concerns, fears, and hesitancies. The four standard questions posed were:

- 1. What is your reservation about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?
- 2. What, if anything, might change your mind about receiving the vaccine?
- 3. Knowing what you know today, if the mandate went into effect tomorrow, would you leave your position/career?
- 4. Is there anything else we haven't asked that you think is important for us to know?

Participant Characteristics

A total of 44 individuals participated in the listening sessions. To offer a safe environment for front-line staff to provide candid feedback on their hesitations, participant demographic information was not collected or required to participate. Only if participants volunteered their specific discipline, role, or age was that information collected and available. Based on the conversation, participants represented both rural and urban facilities, independent and system-affiliated facilities, and nearly every discipline of long term care, including nursing, physical therapy, social work, administration, human resources, CNAs, CMAs, dietary and housekeeping. The detailed session summaries offer additional information about each session's participants.

Major Findings

Overall, participants were hesitant to receive the vaccine for the following reasons:

- Lack of transparent data, specifically around side effects and adverse effects
- No long-term data available on the safety and efficacy of the COVID vaccines
- Fundamental belief that the decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice
- Mandate does not account for natural immunity
- Specific fertility/pregnancy related concerns
- Competing/Contradictory evidence & medical opinions

When asked specifically about what might change participant's mind about getting the vaccine, the answer was consistently: more data and more time. When we dove deeper into these topics, we learned most participants believed the current mitigating measures for unvaccinated staff were adequate and most hoped exemptions and exceptions would be allowed once the mandate goes into effect. Unvaccinated staff were accustomed to either weekly or bi-weekly testing and mask requirements in lieu of vaccination.

Finally, when asked about their intended decision to receive the vaccine as required or leave their current roles/organizations, most participants indicated they would leave their

current job and change careers. Those who felt strongly that they would have no choice but to comply fell into two categories:

- 1. Professional staff (i.e. physical therapy, nursing) who recognized this was their chosen, life-long career and leaving the healthcare field was not an immediate option, although some were seriously considering a career change.
- 2. Employees of lower socioeconomic status (e.g. lower income, education).

Lack of Transparent Data

Participants expressed hesitancy based on a perceived lack of transparent data around the expected side effects and/or adverse effects. Diving deeper in this topic, participants expressed they felt the data was "one sided" or intended to support a specific objective or priority, rather than telling the full story and letting people make informed decisions.



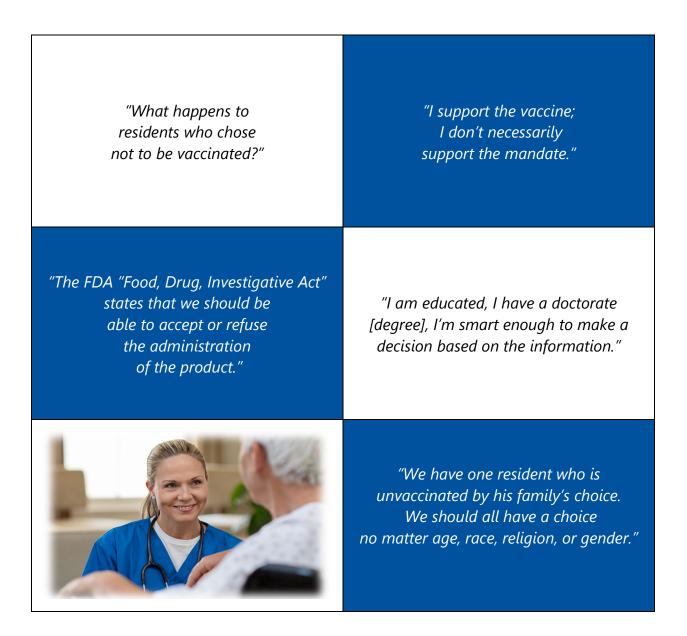
Long-term Data not Available

Participants expressed hesitancy based on the lack of long-term data to support both the safety and efficacy of the vaccines. Diving deeper into this topic, participants expressed they weren't necessarily opposed to the vaccine, just opposed to it right now, with the amount of data currently available.



Personal Choice

Participants expressed hesitancy based on the expectation of individual rights to make a choice that affects their healthcare. Diving deeper into this topic, participants expressed understanding of the risks involved with not taking the vaccine, even the potential expectation for increased mitigation strategies (i.e. continued mask wearing, frequent testing) in lieu of the vaccine.



Natural Immunity

Participants expressed hesitancy based on the lack of accounting for staff's natural immunity. Diving deeper into this topic, participants shared research comparing the protections of natural immunity to the protections provided by vaccine immunity and were concerned that there were no conversations or exceptions to account for those who have previously suppressed the virus.

"Is there a push towards Capitol Hill to consider a person's natural immunity? Or present [proof of] antibodies?" "Israel has shown that the variant was 27 times more likely to break through Pfizer protection from January to February than it was to penetrate natural immunity for the same period."

Fertility and Pregnancy Related Concerns

Participants expressed specific hesitancies related to fertility and pregnancy related concerns. Diving deeper into this topic participants shared that younger staff have reservations about the potential fertility implications for future family planning. Additionally, those staff who are currently pregnant have specific safety concerns for themselves and their babies.

"Originally, they were not recommending [the vaccine] for pregnant women, and then they changed that, and the change doesn't make sense because there really hadn't been time for the research or to adequately study the side effects."	<i>"I don't want my baby to be the research!"</i>
"They're encouraging us to register, if	"There has not been research on the
pregnant, with V-Safewe don't want to	vaccine and milk-supply, that is how we
be the research."	pass immunity to our babies."

Contradictory and Competing Medical Opinions

Participants expressed concern and hesitancy because the medical community and public health officials have provided contradictory and competing opinions. Diving deeper into this topic participants shared that it was hard to decipher what was true and what was not, as information supporting both sides of the issue was coming from the medical community directly.

"I fear being one of the people that has a reaction and dies from this vaccine. And as a result, leaving my kids and grandchildren without me."	
"The media doesn't tell us everything and people do not trust the Federal Government."	"I am pregnant and my [OB] provider recommends that I not get [the vaccine] but couldn't write an exemption without 'getting in trouble'."
"So much information and we don't know what is right and what is wrong!"	"My husband watches the news and we hear different things from different news stations."

Potential compromises were presented by participants for discussion. All participants understood the need and desire to protect the residents of long-term care facilities. Many expressed the need for accommodations to be included as part of the mandate, including:

• Religious and Medical Exemptions

• Flexibility for organizations to provide alternative accommodations to include routine testing and mask wearing for those who are not vaccinated for those who qualify for exemptions, and/or choose not to be vaccinated



"I would prefer that there were other options to consider. I am from a very small community and I don't want to leave them without access to healthcare."

Conclusion

In addition to this overview, we have prepared a summary of each of the listening sessions. Additional participant notes and unique themes that emerged during those sessions are provided within these summaries.

We are grateful for the long-term care staff that gave us their time and trusted us with their stories, their hesitations/reservations, and their fears. They were engaged in the sessions and provided feedback in various ways including verbally, through chat and through follow-up emails.

About this Project

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are developing an emergency regulation requiring staff vaccinations within the more than 15,000 Medicare and Medicaid participating nursing homes. KFMC advises healthcare organizations and state and federal government entities on how to achieve higher levels of performance and deliver better health outcomes for patients and residents. This project was intended to:

- Identify necessary resources, education or tools that can improve vaccine compliance of nursing home staff
- Identify potential inclusions that should be considered when finalizing the vaccine mandate
- Quantify the potential impact of the mandate on long-term care staffing to allow policy makers and administrators to plan appropriately to protect the residents who reside in these facilities.

Listening Session Summaries

Session 1: September 20, 2021 at 6:00pm

Attendees: Three people attended.

What is your reservation about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Lack of transparency people are still dying even though vaccinated tell both sides of the story
- Not a lot of data long-term
- Side effects heart issues in young people
- It should be a personal choice not forced on people.
- Concerned employees do not have all the information to make an informed decision.

One participant described her previous work in a COVID ICU from November 2020 until June of 2021. Her hesitancy resulted from a lack of transparency around the data and felt that no one really wanted to track the full data about the vaccine, they just wanted to push the vaccine no matter what. The nurse manager described her work in the ICU and indicated that she had seen the effects of COVID before there was a vaccine and after, and vaccinated people were still dying.

Another participant indicated she had been in her current role for five years and her reservation was due to long-term data not being available. She expressed that she was not against vaccines but believes it should be a personal choice. She stated she did not have any underlying health conditions that would otherwise put her at risk if she contracted the virus.

What, if anything, might change your mind about receiving the vaccine?

- Years of research and data a lot of previous vaccines had much more research
- Transparency of data not one-sided data

One participant expressed concern about only being able to find one-sided data. She wanted to make an informed decision. She has never had COVID, despite having worked in a COVID unit, and having been exposed to COVID. Therefore, she did not feel the vaccine was beneficial to her.

Knowing what you know today, if the mandate went into effect tomorrow, would you leave your position/career?

- Would ask for a religious exemption or go another career path.
- Hopefully weekly testing will be offered and participants would be okay with that.

• Without exemptions or exceptions (i.e. frequent testing in lieu of vaccines), participant would leave their current position.

Participants were hopeful the final implementation of the mandate would include religious/medical exemptions and/or would provide for additional mitigating strategies for those who declined to be vaccinated. All participants were supportive of continued weekly testing and mask wearing. One participant volunteered that her facility had approximately 70% of staff already vaccinated. Of the remaining 30%, 40-50% of those had vocalized their intent to leave if the mandate went into effect (approximately 12-15% of total staff).

Is there anything else we haven't asked about that you think is important for us to know? Nothing shared.

Session 2: September 21, 2021 at 10:00am

Attendees: Eight people attended.

What is your reservation about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Natural immunity
- Participant had COVID and was also fully vaccinated, not sure if would receive the booster
- Fertility concerns

What, if anything, might change your mind about receiving the vaccine?

Nothing shared.

Knowing what you know today, if the mandate went into effect tomorrow, would you leave your position/career?

- Participants would prefer to keep their job
- One participant spoke up and said she "would leave her position"
- Participant who was also an administrator stated she had not heard from staff that they would quit due to the mandate

One participant would like to keep her job if possible. She was already fully vaccinated but wasn't sure she would receive the booster shot if available, nor was she sure about the data to show that the booster and the flu shot were compatible. The administrator participant indicated that within her facility, staff didn't seem really uptight about the mandate, but they were already testing bi-weekly. She reported she had met one-on-one with unvaccinated staff in their facility and could report that most nurses were fully vaccinated. Many of the younger, unvaccinated staff expressed fertility concerns. This

administrator, while supporting the vaccine, did not support the mandate. However, she felt that if staff were going to quit, they would have already done so by now. With the staff she met one-on-one with, many were receiving misinformation and now that they had it, were unsure how to process it. Most unvaccinated staff are healthy and do not have an established relationship with primary care to guide them through this filtering process. Additionally, most vaccinated staff in their facility who had contracted the virus since being vaccinated were not severely ill.

Is there anything else we haven't asked about that you think is important for us to know?

Nothing shared.

Session 3: September 21, 2021 at 1:30pm

Attendees: Fourteen people attended.

What is your reservation about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The safety and efficacy of the vaccine are not well defined or communicated.
- Unknown effects on individuals
- Fertility concerns
- Potential precedent for future government mandates

Specific reservations from participants, and being relayed by participants from their communities, included concern that reports tended to down-play the reactions people are having, or reporting to have, related to the vaccine. There was a general concern related to fertility issues or from those who have family history of health issues and are unsure how the COVID vaccine might impact those areas of concern.

What, if anything, might change your mind about receiving the vaccine?

- A full ingredient list
- Better information on the safety and efficacy of the vaccines

Participants wanted to know if there is any consideration by federal law makers regarding natural immunity or the presence of antibodies. Participants also expressed concern about the perceived safety and efficacy of the vaccines. If there is available information about the chances of known side effects/adverse effects occurring (i.e. xx% of recipients experience this side effect) then that should be shared as part of the education process. Additionally, the efficacy of the vaccine needs to be better defined.

Knowing what you know today, if the mandate went into effect tomorrow, would you leave your position/career?

- Participants stated they were aware of several staff who would "walk off the floor" if the mandate goes into effect.
- One participant (a social worker) would resign as both she and her husband were concerned about fertility issues.
- Several participants verbalized they would leave their positions.

Once specific participant did share that while she was fully vaccinated, she was opposed to the mandate and if it were to go into effect, she would change careers.

Is there anything else we haven't asked about that you think is important for us to know?

- Participants wondered about the animal data that shows how animals responded to the live virus after the MRNA vaccine.
- It's odd that vaccinated are treated differently than unvaccinated when we know the vaccinated are being infected and transmitting.
- There are ways to keep residents safe without a mandate and without threatening to take funding away.
- Participants communicated that facilities cannot stop admitting residents due to staffing issues, as those residents would end up back in the hospital. Hospitals are also short-staffed and have limited beds available.
- Staff who are actively on the front lines are aware of the ramifications of their decisions and are still choosing to make the decision to not be vaccinated.
- There was reference to the Nuremberg Code and Pfizer's propensity for human experimentation in developing countries.
- One participant felt CMS was allowing the fear and irresponsibility of others to dictate policy.



Session 4: September 23, 2021 at 10:00am

Attendees: Thirteen people attended.

What is your reservation about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Pregnancy concerns
- Mandated and tied to pay
- Natural Immunity
- Happening so fast
- Fear of significant complication from the vaccine

Related to pregnancy concerns, one participant indicated her OB provider did not recommend the vaccine for her. Another participant expressed concern about the lack of data regarding pregnancy and the vaccine, citing that originally the vaccine was not recommended for pregnant women, but after a relatively short time that recommendation was changed. However, the participant was concerned that there had not been enough time passed to conduct adequate research on the potential effects and didn't want herself or her baby to be the research. Participants also cited a lack of research on vaccine and milk-supply, which is the primary way immunity is passed from mom to babies.

Participants also felt that as educated, professional staff, they should be trusted with making the decision for themselves based on the available information and known risks.

One participant indicated they had been very up-front with their facility staff and encouraged vaccines. They wanted to make sure people had all of the information and were able to choose. Facility leadership feel the mandate is devastating to morale.



"One of our residents took a severe decline. Before she died, she said it was the second vaccine that did that to her. I have never gotten that out of my mind and I never went to get my second shot."

What, if anything, might change your mind about receiving the vaccine?

• Time.

Participants felt like they just needed more time, that this was all happening very fast. Participants expressed that even if they had another year, it might be easier for them to receive the vaccine. One participant expressed that she had always been healthy, she was almost 60 years old, had never had a flu shot, and had strong immunity overall. This participant observed that she had friends who were vaccinated and still got the virus, so she felt she should not be mandated to receive the vaccine when she felt she could trust her own immunity.

Knowing what you know today, if the mandate went into effect tomorrow, would you leave your position/career?

- Several participants stated they would leave their job.
- One participant would get the vaccine over leaving the field.
- One participant would prefer other options to consider (i.e. testing.)

Many of the participants who stated they would leave their job, indicated they love what they do and the organizations they work for. They also verbalized that it would be hard to make the decision to walk away from the residents but felt they would have no choice. They would have no concern or hesitation about continuing to wear a mask or face shield and be tested frequently. This is the current process for most of the participants.

Is there anything else we haven't asked about that you think is important for us to know?

• Current organizations that require flu shots also allow exceptions and require staff to wear a mask in lieu of vaccination.

- Flu shots are not currently mandated, yet many people die of the flu.
- Participants relayed that they heard exemptions and exceptions were not being considered for this mandate because "it's healthcare".
- Healthcare organizations could consider allowing ancillary and support staff to work remote as an accommodation for those who declined vaccination.

Participants were concerned that religious and medical exemptions were not being considered as a part of this mandate. Despite the mandate affecting healthcare organizations, the same exemptions should be allowed as those religious or medical concerns are legitimate and real, even for healthcare employees. One participant reported she was pregnant, and her OB provider recommended she not get the vaccine but could not write an exemption for her without "getting in trouble".

Session 5: September 23, 2021 at 10:00am

<u>Attendees:</u> Six people attended.

What is your reservation about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Inconsistent messages
- Lack of trust in the information
- Fertility concerns
- Need time and data to know more about the vaccine
- Some loved ones have had issues after getting the vaccine
- Have heard that MRNA causes death within 3-5 years
- Unknown ingredients

Participants concurred with the concerns expressed in previous sessions, including fertility concerns in younger staff. Participants, more-so in this session than any of the previous, expressed genuine fear of vaccine side-effects. Those participants have also heard of people having very real complications. Participants expressed distrust of the vaccine since it had just come out and were fearful it would "kill them", particularly when they didn't have to go to a doctor to get it administered.

What, if anything, might change your mind about receiving the vaccine?

• Time and more data

Participants felt they just needed more time to evaluate the information as there was so much information that participants couldn't decipher what is right and what is wrong. One participant has been working in long term care for close to 15 years and is close to retirement age. She articulated that she loved her job and where she works, and she doesn't want to see the facility close.

Knowing what you know today, if the mandate went into effect tomorrow, would you leave your position/career?

- One participant commented in chat that they would leave.
- One organization stated their nurses would likely get vaccinated, but their CNAs and CMAs were about 50/50.
- One participant would change careers.

One participant stated most of the unvaccinated staff in their facility would change careers if the mandate went into effect.

One participant stated that at one time she felt confident she would get the shot if it were mandated but doesn't feel that way anymore. She is, however, worried about how she's going to make a living and pay her bills if she doesn't get the vaccine. Toward the end of our conversation, she communicated she really felt like her friend, who was also a housekeeper at the same long-term care facility, needed to participate in this conversation. She wanted to let us know that she was driving to her friend's house since her friend didn't have a phone and couldn't independently participate in our listening session. When asked the question about leaving, the housekeeping participant stated she could not afford to leave or have no income, it was a small community and other jobs were not readily available, so she would have no choice but to get the vaccine. She shared that her husband previously received the Moderna vaccine, as he felt pressured by his employer and after receiving the vaccine, they heard that there were questionable products included, and now they don't trust that they know what's actually in the vaccines.

"Based on my current situation, I can't afford to leave, I would have no choice but to get the vaccine." "I worry about how I'm going to make my living, pay my bills if I don't get the vaccine."

Is there anything else we haven't asked about that you think is important for us to know?

• One facility employs CNAs under the age of 18 who are agreeable to receiving the vaccine, but their parents won't consent.

• When previous discussions were had about mandating long term care staff, several people stated they would leave. Now that all of healthcare is mandating vaccination, one participating facility has seen a huge change.

Participants asked if facilities would be allowed to continue weekly testing and mask wearing for people who choose not to get vaccinated, or if that was still undecided. Participants also shared that they were aware the Pfizer CEO has not received the vaccine and Pfizer employees were not required to be vaccinated, questioning the legitimacy of the mandate when the company making the vaccine is not required to receive it.

Additional Feedback: Via phone and email

- What's happening seems like the government's attempt to either reduce the number of providers billing Medicare and Medicaid, or inadvertently, their efforts will systematically eliminate senior care entirely.
- Plan, as written, may soon leave our seniors without adequate care, working families will be unable to participate in the workforce because they are caring for aging parents, and millions of healthcare workers will be out of work when senior care facilities close due to staffing issues.
- Although COVID is a significant concern, the greatest immediate concern is the lack of available staff to work in senior care.
- The non-profit mission I serve has seen a 40% increase in Medicaid as a primary payer source over the last five years. On a very good day, Medicaid is a break-even proposition. On an average day, Medicaid only pays for 90% of our cost of care. With 70% of care now funded by Medicaid, we do not have the funds to compete against regional businesses who are able to raise prices to increase wages. To increase our wages to a level that can compete with fast food and retail entry level positions (who don't require vaccination), we would need an immediate 16% increase to our daily Medicaid rate. Unfortunately, any increase may be too late to save many homes from closure.
- While we have many talented and loving caregivers in our organizations, many have been dreadfully misinformed regarding the vaccine. Due to rampant misinformation, those who are not yet vaccinated are highly unlikely to change their minds due to the mandate.
- A recent poll in our organization showed that we would lose approximately 10%-15% of our staff. We have already lost a good portion of our staff; we will be lucky to retain enough staff to keep our doors open. Even if we do retain sufficient staff to continue operations, it will be at a vastly reduced capacity.
- Due to current staff losses, we have already stopped accepting new admissions. A sudden loss of staff following the release of the vaccine mandate will require us to

discharge 10%-20% of those who reside with us and receive care. With the Delta variant, we are seeing vaccinated individuals acquiring COVID as easily as non-vaccinated. A "Vaccinate or Test Weekly" option would easily solve this potential disaster.

- CMS remains on the path of "Cite and Fine into Compliance" even though this methodology has not worked since OBRA 1986. CMS fines only draw more funding away from resident care.
- A system similar to JCHCAO (used in hospitals) would produce the desired outcomes.
- In 20 years, I have never been more concerned for the senior care field.
 From a very young age, I knew my calling was to become a nurse. When I attended nursing school 25 years ago, it was instilled in us to follow The Florence Nightingale Pledge:

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

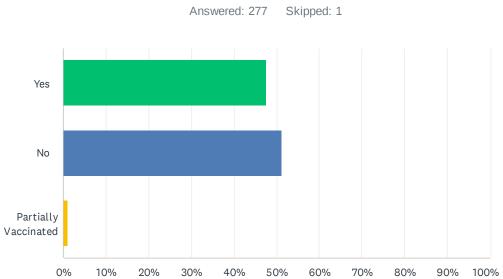
Two points stand out to me within this pledge. It is MY right to take a harmful drug whether in my personal life or in a medical setting or go against this pledge. The potential lifelong effects of the vaccine that have been reported speak volumes to me. I take the chance of losing MY right to be a nurse if I choose not to be vaccinated with a drug that is potentially harmful.

- I feel like I'm being forced to choose between a profession that I dearly love and have been devoted to for 28 years or being able to pay my bills.
- The medical professionals are tired and leaving because of this virus and the mandates. We are short staffed the way it is. We cannot find beds in surrounding states for patients who need care because they are full of COVID patients AND due to lack of staff. What will become of us when more medical professionals walk out because of the mandate? Who will care for the patients? How will the rural hospitals remain open?
- There is a vaccine for COVID, but they have been researching an AIDS vaccine for 40 plus years. How was this "safe" vaccine created so quickly? The vaccine is not completely resistant to the new variants, yet we are still required to take it, just so we can be told in a few months that we are required to take yet another injection.

- To be a nurse for the rest of my life was my dream, now someone else is placing my dream on the line. I find myself saying, "I do not want to be a nurse anymore" and that saddens me to the core. I love what I do. I love the elderly with all that I have. I love medicine. My rights to "love" are being stripped by those who believe they know what is best for me. I began working in the medical field 28 years ago, this is all that I know.
- We have one resident who is unvaccinated by his family's choice. THEIR CHOICE! How is it fair as a human that they have a choice and we don't? The residents can easily spread the virus just as we can.
- One facility administrator stayed on after the call and informed us he had three board members attending and listening to the feedback as well. The concerns/questions he and the board members had were regarding potential religious exemptions and how that would work for long term care staff.
- I am 3 years and 6 months away from retirement. I want to enjoy my life and do not want a bunch of health issues that may occur after getting the vaccine. We have a coworker who now has issues with her liver, kidneys, and blood sugar that cannot get stabilized. The doctor has asked what she did in the last 6 months and all she did was get the Pfizer vaccine. That has the unvaccinated here concerned.
- I have been getting tested once a week forever, then it was booted up to twice a week several months ago. My nose is used to it...it's a hassle but not any more than wearing the mask. However, I do it because I don't want to get the shot.... not just yet.

Survey Results

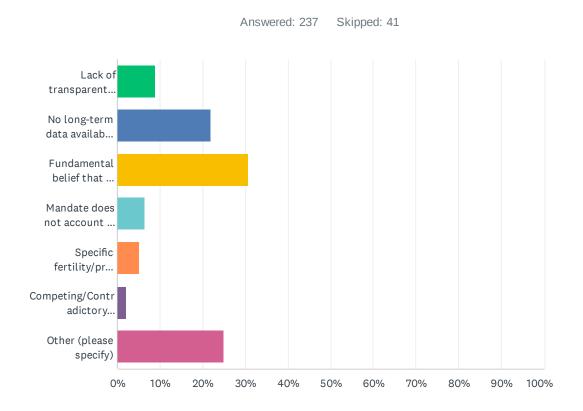
During several of our listening session calls, we heard from staff that they knew of coworkers who were interested in participating but were either unable to or were concerned about the anonymity of the process. As such, KFMC used the feedback collected during the live listening sessions to develop a web-based survey to collect aggregate feedback data from a larger portion of the long-term care provider population. The survey was accessible from 10/12/2021 through 11/02/2021 and 278 respondents completed the survey. No demographic information was collected from respondents. The Survey results and associated comments are included in their entirety.



Q1 Are you currently fully vaccinated?

Answered: 277

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.65%	132
No	51.26%	142
Partially Vaccinated	1.08%	3
TOTAL		277



Q2 What is your reservation about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

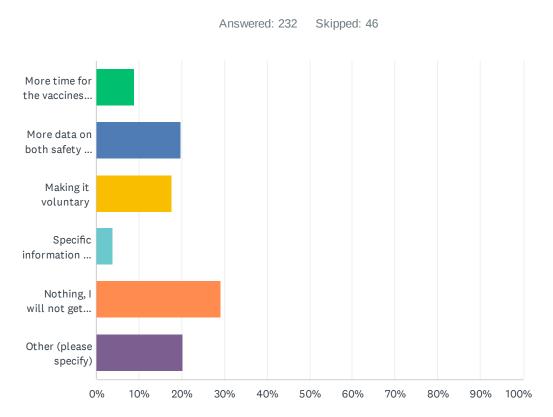
ANSWER	CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lack of tra	ansparent data, specifically around side effects and adverse effects	8.86%	21
No long-te	rm data available on the safety and efficacy of the COVID vaccines	21.94%	52
Fundamen	tal belief that the decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice	30.80%	73
Mandate d	loes not account for natural immunity	6.33%	15
Specific fe	ertility/pregnancy related concedrns	5.06%	12
Competing	/Contradictory evidence & medical opinions	2.11%	5
Other (plea	ase specify)	24.89%	59
TOTAL			237
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE	
1	all of the above	10/23/2021 8:57 F	PM
2	l got it	10/23/2021 5:28 F	PM
3	Federal government has no right to mandate anything that is clearly an issue of personal choice	10/21/2021 7:21 F	PM
4	Had cancer and dr wants me to wait	10/21/2021 10:15	AM
5	B, C, D,F	10/21/2021 9:57 A	١M
6	I am vaccinated but I don't think this is the best time to be firing nurses over a stupid shot. We have never fired anyone over not getting a vaccine so why start now? If you guys do this it will	10/21/2021 8:20 4	M

make the already shortage of healthcare workers even less!!! I am vaccinated but that doesn't mean I'm going to put others down for their choice to not get it!!!!! That's the beauty of where we live choice and I'm not about taking choice away from people, respect their decisions. Besides natural immunity is probably better then vaccine immunity. I say that because I had it before I got the shot.

7	I work in health care and feel I need to protect musclf	10/10/2021 2:20 DM
7	I work in health care and feel I need to protect myself	10/19/2021 3:38 PM
8	none	10/19/2021 10:19 AM
9	I have no reservations	10/18/2021 4:21 PM
10	Already have vaccine	10/18/2021 11:25 AM
11	All of the above	10/18/2021 9:25 AM
12	I have none. I am fully vaccinated	10/18/2021 2:43 AM
13	I have none, I am fully vaccinated	10/18/2021 2:41 AM
14	I'm fully vaccinated	10/18/2021 2:38 AM
15	Person choice, natural immunity, adverse reactions to vaccine	10/17/2021 2:35 PM
16	I don't think we should be forced into anything we don't want.	10/17/2021 10:52 AM
17	I am not against the vaccine BUT I AM AGAINST IT BEING MANDATEDWE SHOULD ALL HAVE THE CHOICE	10/16/2021 11:52 PM
18	I have no reservation on getting a booster.	10/16/2021 11:25 PM
19	Not getting not enough information on the vaccine	10/16/2021 6:32 PM
20	Med side affects	10/16/2021 3:19 PM
21	Don't have any	10/16/2021 9:32 AM
22	I do not have any reservations	10/16/2021 7:41 AM
23	I already have it	10/16/2021 6:01 AM
24	I'm okay with it	10/16/2021 5:34 AM
25	I believe in the vaccine. I received it along with getting my booster a few weeks ago. I am have a weak immmune system due to a rare condition.	10/16/2021 12:00 AM
26	I am vaccinated	10/15/2021 10:58 PM
27	No reservations	10/15/2021 10:57 PM
28	All of the above	10/15/2021 10:00 PM
29	Fully vaccinated	10/15/2021 9:35 PM
30	I had heart problems with first and second vaccination	10/15/2021 9:04 PM
31	No concern	10/15/2021 9:01 PM
32	Pregnant and concerned about long term side effects	10/15/2021 9:01 PM
33	i am fully vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:57 PM
34	All of the above.	10/15/2021 8:52 PM
35	Already vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:44 PM
36	All of the above pretty much. Mandate would be absolute idiotic chaos, & way too many unknowns and lies surrounding the vaccine	10/15/2021 8:42 PM
37	N/a	10/15/2021 8:40 PM
38	I am diabetic and asthmatic and health problems cause problems with vaccination	10/15/2021 8:30 PM
39	Not letting people have a choice and forcing people to receive	10/15/2021 6:24 PM

40	All of the above	10/15/2021 4:06 PM
41	All of the above	10/15/2021 3:44 PM
42	All of the above. Not enough data. I'm a human not a Guinea pig. And it should be MY CHOICE as it is MY BODY	10/15/2021 2:30 PM
43	All of the above	10/15/2021 12:21 PM
44	All these are concerns of mine, what's the long term affect, why are you mandating when in the beginning we had over used PPE and sometimes nothing at all. We were exposed to it at the very beginning, CDC weren't worried about us front line workers then. Why now? Vaccines are to expose our bodies to get familiar with the virus what better than natural immunity. Also residents have the right not to receive vaccine why are we not?	10/15/2021 9:32 AM
45	All of the above	10/15/2021 8:53 AM
46	All of the above!	10/15/2021 8:37 AM
47	N/A-I am fully vaccinated and everyone should be, as we need to have the best interests of others in mind	10/15/2021 8:19 AM
48	No hesitations about receiving the vaccine.	10/15/2021 8:17 AM
49	none	10/14/2021 11:00 PM
50	History of anaphylaxis and mandate doesn't account for natural immunity	10/14/2021 10:32 PM
51	All of the above and much more	10/14/2021 8:13 PM
52	Federal Government will keep borders open and not worry about vaccination status of illegal immigrants, but require healthcare workers to receive it. I do not agree and will not comply.	10/14/2021 4:21 PM
53	All of the above	10/14/2021 4:16 PM
54	I got really sick from my other doses	10/14/2021 11:17 AM
55	The side effects I have from original vaccine	10/14/2021 11:16 AM
56	NA - I'm vaccinated.	10/14/2021 10:59 AM
57	Got vaccine	10/14/2021 8:42 AM
58	Na	10/14/2021 8:06 AM
59	ALL the above	10/14/2021 7:58 AM

Q3 What, if anything, might change your mind about receiving the vaccine?



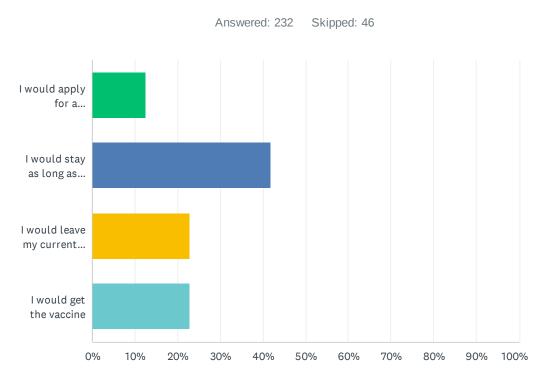
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More time for the vaccines to be on the market	9.05%	21
More data on both safety and efficacy	19.83%	46
Making it voluntary	17.67%	41
Specific information and research (more data) on the safety related to fertility and pregnancy	3.88%	9
Nothing, I will not get the vaccine	29.31%	68
Other (please specify)	20.26%	47
TOTAL		232

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	got it	11/1/2021 5:54 PM
2	all of the above	10/23/2021 8:57 PM
3	already have it	10/23/2021 5:28 PM
4	Possibly the Nova Vax protein vaccine with more information	10/21/2021 9:57 AM
5	I got my vaccine but that doesn't mean you should make others get it. You guys are getting rid of a lot of good nurses and healthcare people that will probably never come back to this field of work because of this stupid mandate.	10/21/2021 8:20 AM

6	none	10/19/2021 3:38 PM
7	planning on getting when available	10/19/2021 10:19 AM
8	Vaccinated	10/18/2021 11:25 AM
9	None, I am fully vaccinated	10/18/2021 2:43 AM
10	None	10/18/2021 2:41 AM
11	I'm fully vaccinated	10/18/2021 2:38 AM
12	Adverse reactions to be less dangerous and no long term affects from obtaining the vaccine	10/17/2021 2:35 PM
13	I want it on my terms not in the governments terms	10/17/2021 10:52 AM
14	To me, it's like getting a flu shot. It will not hurt, if anything it will help.	10/16/2021 11:25 PM
15	Already vaccinated	10/16/2021 9:32 AM
16	N/A	10/16/2021 7:41 AM
17	I already have it	10/16/2021 6:01 AM
18	I have mine	10/16/2021 5:34 AM
19	I believe in the vaccine	10/16/2021 12:00 AM
20	I am vaccinated	10/15/2021 10:58 PM
21	Will get	10/15/2021 10:57 PM
22	All of the above	10/15/2021 10:00 PM
23	Fully Vaccinated	10/15/2021 9:35 PM
24	I'm vaccinated	10/15/2021 9:01 PM
25	I am vaccinated	10/15/2021 9:00 PM
26	i am fully vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:57 PM
27	All of the above and I still may want to CHOOSE not to get it.	10/15/2021 8:52 PM
28	I'm vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:48 PM
29	Already got it :)	10/15/2021 8:47 PM
30	Already vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:44 PM
31	N/a	10/15/2021 8:40 PM
32	I am vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:32 PM
33	Already vaccinated, but more information is needed about the boosters for me to agree	10/15/2021 8:19 PM
34	if i were to fill comfortable at anytime i will get it	10/15/2021 8:09 PM
35	Natural immunity	10/15/2021 10:25 AM
36	All of the above (besides nothing). I am not against vaccines, but something should not be forced on me.	10/15/2021 8:53 AM
37	N/A-Fully vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:19 AM
38	already have it	10/14/2021 11:00 PM
39	More information on natural immunity	10/14/2021 10:32 PM
40	As more and more evidence is coming out that more people are dying from vaccines than from covid nothing can make me take it	10/14/2021 8:13 PM
41	Addressing all the concerns in previous question	10/14/2021 4:16 PM
42	A vaccine that is both safe and effectively prevents the spread of covid or provides immunity.	10/14/2021 1:00 PM
	vaccination must be a choice, not forced	27

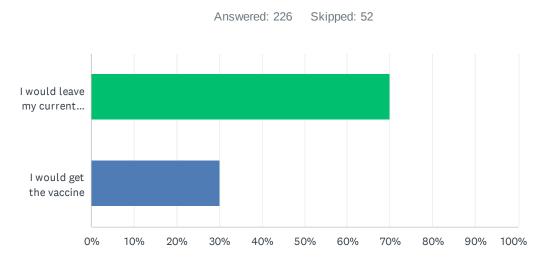
43	NA, I'm vaccinated.	10/14/2021 10:59 AM
44	This has become such a political nightmare, no one trusts the data. Why does the data contradict itselfbecause we are doing things NOT based on Science.	10/14/2021 10:13 AM
45	Got vaccine	10/14/2021 8:42 AM
46	I am vaccinated	10/14/2021 8:11 AM
47	Na	10/14/2021 8:06 AM

Q4 Knowing what you know today, if the mandate went into effect tomorrow, would you leave your position/career?



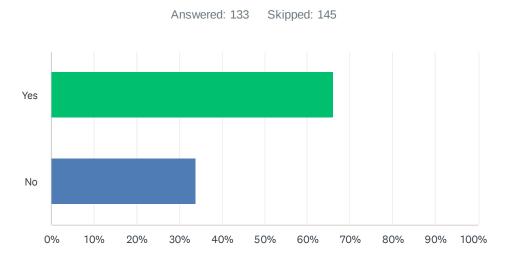
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I would apply for a religious/medical exemption	12.50%	29
I would stay as long as there were accommodations for non-vaccinated (i.e. routine testing, masking)	41.81%	97
I would leave my current position/profession	22.84%	53
I would get the vaccine	22.84%	53
TOTAL		232

Q5 If exemptions or accommodations are not available or your request is denied



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I would leave my current position/profession	69.91%	158
I would get the vaccine	30.09%	68
TOTAL		226

Q6 As a fully vaccinated employee will you receive any required booster doses in the future?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.17%	88
No	33.83%	45
TOTAL		133

Q7 Is there anything else we haven't asked that you think is important for us to know?

Answered: 127 Skipped: 151

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	11/2/2021 3:50 PM
2	nope	11/1/2021 5:55 PM
3	No	10/27/2021 11:03 PM
4	LETS GO BRANDON	10/25/2021 6:44 PM
5	No let's go Brandon	10/25/2021 6:44 PM
6	no	10/23/2021 8:59 PM
7	I got the vaccine and I think people should get it but I don't think it should be forced or you'll lose your job type thing. Everywhere is already hurting for medical staff right now so I don't think it's smart to fire people for not getting it. It should be their choice.	10/23/2021 5:30 PM
8	No	10/22/2021 8:56 AM
9	No	10/22/2021 8:01 AM
10	No	10/21/2021 11:18 PM
11	No	10/21/2021 5:26 PM
12	No	10/21/2021 10:51 AM
13	Vaccinations should always be a choiceWe all worked in healthcare facilities prior to the vaccines	10/21/2021 10:17 AM
14	I think it should be a choice	10/21/2021 10:15 AM
15	No	10/21/2021 10:12 AM
16	No	10/21/2021 10:06 AM
17	distrust for the govt. agencies and politization of vaccine and madates, alternatives to the vaccine that is not effective, herd immunity > effectiveness	10/21/2021 9:59 AM
18	No	10/21/2021 9:47 AM
19	No.	10/21/2021 8:38 AM
20	I'm not anti vax just need more info scout it	10/21/2021 8:31 AM
21	No	10/21/2021 8:27 AM
22	Don't fire good nurses/healthcare workers because of this mandate. It's pure foolishness.	10/21/2021 8:21 AM
23	No	10/21/2021 2:17 AM
24	There is not enough long term research to know what will happen even 5 years down the line. This should never have been making us feel cornered.	10/19/2021 9:02 PM
25	none	10/19/2021 3:39 PM
26	this shouldnt be a vaccine we are MADE to get to be able to keep our jobs. It is our body and our choice. We dont make choices for u so u shouldnt be able to for us. Why u guys are just trying to kill off everybody	10/19/2021 8:43 AM
27	I took the vaccine and the booster, each time I take it I get sicker. With the booster I was in bed for 2 days. I will not take another booster.	10/18/2021 5:22 PM

28	As a fully vaccinated staff member, I am fully in favor of the mandate. I would NEVER send my parents to a facility that did not have a mandate in place	10/18/2021 4:22 PM
29	I think all staff in Nursing homes need to be vaccinated period. Let's make it happen!!	10/18/2021 11:26 AM
30	My body, my choicethat's what it should be!	10/18/2021 10:38 AM
31	Can the blood of vaccinated be used for convalescent plasma? Can a vaccinated persons still be an organ donor? If this gene therapy is already needing boosters why is it being pushed for people to get i? This original jab was for the legacy virus not the delta so how does it make sense to force it? It seems more like an exercise of communism control not about saving lives. Why aren't antivirals being used? Why are hospitals being incentivized to have covid patients and deaths?	10/18/2021 9:30 AM
32	I don't like how the questions were asked on this survey. I have a least two reasons for not wanting to get the vaccine. I think it needs more time in research like so many other vaccines. I also think I (should) have the right to choose what I do with/to my body. It is scary to blindly follow the masses. I am a Christian, but unfortunately there doesn't seem to be a good religious exemption here, except a Christian would want to decide what to do with their own body and avoid worldly concerns.	10/18/2021 8:41 AM
33	I felt I had no choice but to get the vaccine recently. I felt demonized by siding with the unvaccinated because I believe what I choose to do with my body is my choice. I don't watch the news much, but it was refreshing to watch it recently and see that the media is speaking up about the mandates. I was getting the impression that people were getting silenced for speaking out because they are concerned about long-term affects and how fast the research has gone on this.	10/18/2021 8:34 AM
34	no	10/18/2021 1:43 AM
35	No	10/17/2021 6:44 PM
36	Natural immunity should be in place, why vaccinate a person that already has developed chicken pox, same with covid. If we already have the immunity shouldn't it be respected?	10/17/2021 2:37 PM
37	No	10/17/2021 1:24 PM
38	No	10/17/2021 8:16 AM
39	I have had the initial 2 vaccines & I don't need a booster.	10/17/2021 7:57 AM
40	No	10/17/2021 1:17 AM
41	VACCINES SHOULD NOT BE MANDATORY TO KEEP YOUR JOB, THIS SHOULD BE A FREEDOM WE ALL HAVE	10/16/2021 11:53 PM
42	No	10/16/2021 11:26 PM
43	No	10/16/2021 6:32 PM
44	Dr told me not to get it may cause me to be out of work for long time do to side affects	10/16/2021 3:20 PM
45	No	10/16/2021 3:16 PM
46	No	10/16/2021 9:32 AM
47	Your questions are not applicable to those who support the vaccine so it was hard to answer some of them.	10/16/2021 7:42 AM
48	No	10/16/2021 6:17 AM
49	No	10/16/2021 6:02 AM
50	No	10/16/2021 6:00 AM
51	No	10/16/2021 5:34 AM
52	no	10/16/2021 2:34 AM
53	My body my choice	10/16/2021 1:16 AM
54	No	10/16/2021 12:01 AM

55 I fully believe in getting vaccines and it being of personal choice. I support people that have gotten it but I don't want it and don't plan on getting it for me or anyone in my family. There is too much secrecy around the ingredients and long term side effects. 10/15/2021 11:45 PM

	too much secrecy around the ingredients and long term side effects.	
56	No	10/15/2021 10:58 PM
57	I hope we don't have to get it. I don't want to quit my job.	10/15/2021 10:44 PM
58	No	10/15/2021 10:22 PM
59	No	10/15/2021 10:05 PM
60	No	10/15/2021 10:03 PM
61	No	10/15/2021 9:42 PM
62	I am not uneducated about the vaccine, I just don't think the pharmaceutical companies or government really have the answers or know what is really true about the vaccine. They are just taking an educated guess and I don't trust the government to decide for me what is right for me. We have a right to choose without discrimination.	10/15/2021 9:09 PM
63	No	10/15/2021 9:05 PM
64	No	10/15/2021 9:04 PM
65	I'm vaccinated / I will leave nursing if it comes down to being the only floor staff. That's how it will effect my future in nursing	10/15/2021 9:02 PM
66	Na	10/15/2021 9:01 PM
67	No	10/15/2021 9:00 PM
68	No	10/15/2021 8:50 PM
69	No	10/15/2021 8:49 PM
'0	No	10/15/2021 8:48 PM
'1	No	10/15/2021 8:48 PM
72	No	10/15/2021 8:48 PM
73	No	10/15/2021 8:46 PM
74	Getting a vaccine is a personal choice. There should never be a circumstance where someone is forced to put anything in their body they do not want	10/15/2021 8:46 PM
75	No	10/15/2021 8:45 PM
76	No	10/15/2021 8:45 PM
77	No	10/15/2021 8:44 PM
78	The wold is already short staffed nothing good will come from mandating something majority of us have no intentions to get	10/15/2021 8:44 PM
79	I'm vaccinated	10/15/2021 8:41 PM
30	N/a	10/15/2021 8:35 PM
31	No	10/15/2021 8:34 PM
32	Why is this vaccination mandated but flu shot isn't? How can you legally make us get the vaccine or fire us	10/15/2021 8:33 PM
33	No	10/15/2021 8:28 PM
34	No	10/15/2021 8:25 PM
	My body, MY choice!	10/15/2021 8:15 PM
35	wy body, wr choice:	10/10/2021 0.101 10
35 36	My body my choice	10/15/2021 8:14 PM

88	Everyone has different opinions.	10/15/2021 8:10 PM
89	I believe that it should be a person's choice to be vacanated,and not forced. I got vacanated just for the simple fact I have over all good health,and I work around the elderly. If people choose not be get vacanated. They should do weekly or 2x a week testing.	10/15/2021 8:10 PM
90	No	10/15/2021 8:07 PM
91	Don't force a vaccine on someone	10/15/2021 6:24 PM
92	No	10/15/2021 5:59 PM
93	I want to know what percentage of the deaths are actually from the virus itself, how may of those are the elderly population, how many were receiving some type of govenment assistance for disability/illness or ones conscidered "non productive members of society?"	10/15/2021 4:14 PM
94	If it went into effect most nursing homes would shut down	10/15/2021 3:45 PM
95	This is merely about control by the government. I AM NOT A SHEEP. MY BODY MY CHOICE WHAT GOES IN IT. If that makes me unemployed SO BE IT	10/15/2021 2:31 PM
96	I will wear a mask if mandated for the rest of my career but I won't get the vaccine.	10/15/2021 1:58 PM
97	Healthcare has proved that unvaccinated staff CAN provide high quality and safe care. We are already short staffed. Forcing unvaccinated employees to quit will do more harm than good.	10/15/2021 12:59 PM
98	I have seen people who are getting the vaccine get sicker than without it	10/15/2021 12:50 PM
99	NA	10/15/2021 12:22 PM
100	No	10/15/2021 11:30 AM
101	No	10/15/2021 11:17 AM
102	No	10/15/2021 11:10 AM
103	No	10/15/2021 10:38 AM
104	We should have a choice on what goes into our bodies.	10/15/2021 10:37 AM
105	The residents are vaccinated and I have had covid. I think we are covered and I also think it is not the governments place to be in my medical bussiness.	10/15/2021 10:27 AM
106	Why is it okay for un-vaccinated children to be able to go to school with vaccinated children (other vaccines not covid related)	10/15/2021 9:34 AM
107	Healthcare workers have unalienable rights that are natural rights and are inherent to us by virtue of being a human. Thus means they (our unalienable rights) cannot be surrendered to government under any circumstances. The rights of Life, Liberty & the pursuit of Happiness shall not be infringed upon under the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution. This is interpreted to mean we have rights over our own bodily autonomy and integrity as well as self determination over our own bodies. The physical intrusion of requiring participation in the use of medical devices and programs: surgical face masks, N-95 masks, social distancing, restricted travel, mandatory temperature checks, O2 saturation checks, weekly/biweekly covid testing against our will, and now the mandate of the vaccine is a human rights violation under the United States Constitution. These are all violations of our Constitutional rights.	10/15/2021 9:08 AM
108	GET VACCINATED ALREADY!!!!	10/15/2021 8:17 AM
109	I do also feel that the vaccine should be a personal choice like the flu vaccine.	10/15/2021 7:21 AM
110	That our constitutional rights are there for we the people my have a say so in our lives.	10/15/2021 6:37 AM
111	no	10/14/2021 11:05 PM
112	no	10/14/2021 11:01 PM
113	no	10/14/2021 11:01 PM
114	No vaccine should be mandated when it isn't 100% effective for everyone	10/14/2021 10:34 PM
115	I have received the first two vaccinations of Pfizerand will not be receiving the booster shot.	10/14/2021 10:04 PM 35

I regret even getting the vaccine after still contracting COVID-19. It is in my opinion that NOBODY should be forced to vaccinate themselves or their children against COVID-19. If there was a mandate that all three rounds of vaccination would be required by law, I would immediately quit my job.

116	Why is freedom of speech being attacked at the same time all over the world?????	10/14/2021 8:15 PM
117	we do our best to protect our elderly from infection, I do not believe people should be able to sue the facility or its workers if COVID infects one of our residents	10/14/2021 3:44 PM
118	I think it should be a persons choice not somebody's to tell me I have to get the vaccine.I do not get any flu shots or anything and believe I should not have to choose between my job or a jab	10/14/2021 2:28 PM
119	N/A	10/14/2021 2:23 PM
120	There should be freedom to chose.	10/14/2021 2:12 PM
121	The vaccine is not a cure; even if you are vaccinated you will catch it again. it is viral and will be just like the Flu	10/14/2021 12:21 PM
122	There needs to be more conversation about side effects.	10/14/2021 11:16 AM
123	When are we going to address the Staffing Crisis? This has been a major issue before the pandemic. Now 18 months later, we have systematically made it worse. Now we are at a crisis level and still debating vaccination status. Why do we keep finding new ways to put roadblocks in our own way?	10/14/2021 10:15 AM
124	It's more than just one thing, I wish the survey would allow more than one answer. I was hesitant because I had covid and had natural immunity, so I did not believe the risk of a new vaccine was worth it. Then, after a while I began to consider getting it, but was concerned about health effects, especially since I planned to have children soon. The mandate made me more hesitant, because I don't want to be forced. Then, I got pregnant and there is not enough information about the effects on pregnancy and I have had a previous miscarriage due to medical intervention.	10/14/2021 9:51 AM
125	Fear of losing good staff because of the mandate	10/14/2021 8:33 AM
126	no	10/14/2021 8:11 AM
127	An- I'm vaccinated	10/14/2021 8:06 AM

Additional Findings

Overall, the findings from the survey were consistent with the findings from the in-person listening sessions. Specific take-aways include:

- 51.26% of survey participants reported they were not vaccinated.
- 30.80% of survey participants who are unvaccinated indicate their hesitation is due to a fundamental belief that the decision to be vaccinated is a personal choice.
- 29.3% of survey participants who are unvaccinated indicate that nothing will change their mind about receiving the vaccine, they will not get the vaccine.
- 69.91% of survey participants reported that without exemptions or accommodations, they would leave their current position/profession.

Resources

COVID-19 Vaccines for Long-term Care Facility Residents | CDC

COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence | CDC

Invest in Trust: A Guide for Building COVID-19 Vaccine Trust and Increasing Vaccination Rates Among CNAs (ahrq.gov)

OARS + Model for Motivational Interviewing | HQIN

COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet

<u>Shareable Content - Public Health Communication Collaborative</u> (publichealthcollaborative.org)

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR): COVID-19 Reports