

# WORD ON THE STREET

NAVIGATING COVID-19 CONVERSATIONS

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## WHAT ARE OUR NAVIGATORS HEARING?

*"Why should I bother getting the vaccine if I can still get the virus?"*



## WHAT DO THE SCIENTISTS SAY?

The COVID-19 vaccines work extremely well at protecting you and your loved ones from serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Almost every person across the country who is currently being hospitalized for COVID-19 is unvaccinated. A very small number of vaccinated people may still get COVID-19, but they will usually have no symptoms, or have very mild symptoms. These people may still be able to spread the virus to others. It's important that everyone protect themselves with vaccination, masking, and other practices like hand washing.

### **Go to the source:**

[The Possibility of COVID-19 after Vaccination: Breakthrough Infections \( CDC, September, 2021\).](#)

*What are you hearing? Share the 'word on the street' from your perspective by filling out this form.*

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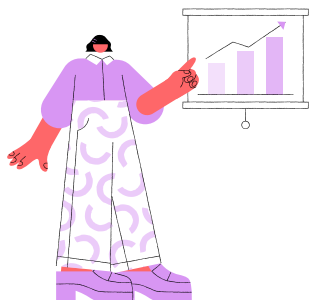
# SENSITIVE CONVERSATIONS



## Use Data When and How Appropriate

Talking about data can be helpful, but it can also be confusing and overwhelming. It's important to use numbers wisely. Pick one statistic (a fact involving numbers) that you find powerful, and that you feel is easy to understand in the moment. When you share the statistic, provide a meaningful interpretation of what this statistic tells us. Provide both the positive interpretation and the negative

Hyland-Wood, B., Gardner, J., Leask, J. et al. Toward effective government communication strategies in the era of COVID-19. *Humanit Soc Sci Commun* 8, 30 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-020-00701-w>



## HELPFUL TIP IN ACTION

### You might say:

"In New York City, almost all of our hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 are among people who are not fully vaccinated. This past year, over 97% of people who died from COVID-19 were not fully vaccinated. This shows us that the vaccines are working for those who get them - they are keeping vaccinated people alive."



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# FROM UNSURE TO VACCINATED: STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Check out this Healthline story:

"This is how Amy Koenig, 42, in Illinois feels about her change of mind [regarding the COVID-19 vaccine].

As a person who prides herself on being fit, eating healthily, and turning to natural remedies for minor illnesses, aches and pains, she didn't believe her or her family was at risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

'As teachers, administrators, and nurses headed back to school, there was a lot of information coming my way from friends and family,' Koenig told Healthline. 'A woman my age who I would consider very fit with no known medical conditions was hospitalized for a few days and was given oxygen.'

Although the woman recovered, Koenig's confidence about staying safe from the virus, especially the Delta variant, waned.

'I had childhood asthma, and while I don't suffer from it now, my lungs will always have this memory, I'm told. So if I do get sick, and it does go to my lungs, I could struggle more than someone without this 'lung memory,' she said. '[If] the Delta variant was so much more contagious and more likely to affect my kids, could I be in a situation where I was not able to properly take care of them?'

Koenig got vaccinated in August 2021."

SOURCE: *It's OK If You've Changed Your Mind and Now Want to Get a COVID-19 Shot.* Healthline, September 30, 2021. [Read more here.](#)

## WHAT WE'RE READING / LISTENING TO:

- Special Report: Top COVID-19 Vaccine Myths. NewsGuard. September 13, 2021. [Read here.](#)
- Episode #49 - Can I get infected after vaccination? World Health Organization, 13 August 2021. [Watch here.](#)
- Worried About Breakthrough Infections? Here's How to Navigate This Phase of the Pandemic. The New York Times, September 3, 2021. [Read here.](#)
- Breakthrough Infections: Coronavirus After Vaccination. John Hopkins Medicine, September 28, 2021. [Read here.](#)
- [What Are Vaccine Breakthrough Cases?](#). Minnesota Department of Health, September 9, 2021. [Watch here.](#)





## NAVIGATOR SHOUT OUT

Hello I am Theo Cuenca. I use he/him they/them pronouns. I am an intern for the Test and Trace Program at the Hetrick-Martin Institute. I'm a native New Yorker, born and bred in Brooklyn. I am first born of Yajaira and

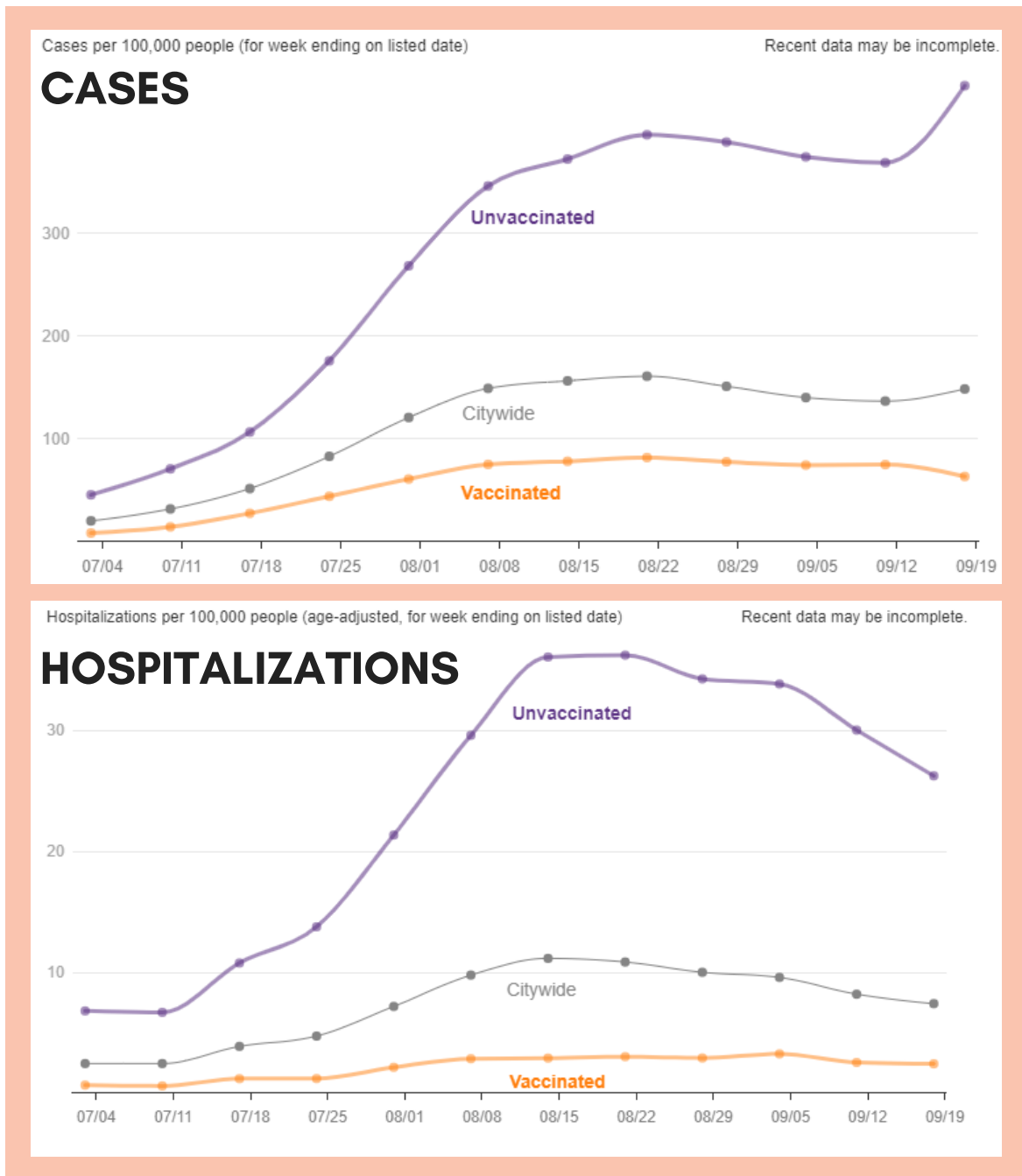
Cristian Cuenca, second oldest of six. I was assigned female at birth and like any other first generation Latina, I was raised with a heavy hand and very high expectations of my duties of my household that my mother had given to me and my sister and to strive for nothing but academic perfection. And unbeknownst to me at the time all of that made me the person I am now. A person that walks towards a situation to help solve them or at the very least to be a small part in the solution. When I applied to this internship I spoke of how I wanted to be a cog in the grand machine of helping New York return to the New York that I loved before Covid-19. And as time goes on I've realized that, that dream is not a possibility. Instead, we should move to making a New York that is more accommodating and accessible to all New Yorkers, and not just to a select few. It will be hard and we may make mistakes along the way but hey I was just a little kid when the September 11th attacks happened and grew up seeing how we came together to move forward. I believe we can do the same now.



Our navigators and community healthcare workers are working hard every day to make a big impact on NYC's public health.

**We want to highlight you!** To share your bio and photo, or to nominate a colleague, complete [this form!](#)

# NYC DATA SNAPSHOT



For updated data: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page#daily>

The data in these graphs comes from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The top graph shows us the rates of infection in NYC by vaccination status. The bottom graph shows us the rates of hospitalization by vaccination status.

Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2021). Covid-19: Data. COVID-19: Latest Data - NYC Health. Retrieved October 6, 2021, from <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page#daily>.