

WORD ON THE STREET

NAVIGATING COVID-19 CONVERSATIONS

In the News: We know that many people have questions about the latest COVID-19 variant, called "Omicron". Scientists and public health officials are working quickly to understand this variant. The best protection against COVID-19 is still vaccination. To learn more about the new variant, click [here](#).

KIDS & THE VACCINE: WHAT ARE OUR NAVIGATORS HEARING?

"I've been told that COVID-19 isn't that bad for kids. So, why do I have to get my child vaccinated?"



When children get vaccinated against COVID-19, it prevents infection and the possibility of serious illness. It also prevents spread of the virus, which can cause school closures, and which can make others very sick.

You cannot predict how COVID-19 will affect your child. Though most children will have mild symptoms, it is still important to protect them from the possibility of serious illness and complications.

Thousands of children between the ages of 5-11 have been hospitalized with COVID-19. Black, Native American, and Hispanic children are three times more likely to be hospitalized than white children. The average age of children who develop multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) is 9 years old. This condition often requires a child be admitted to the ICU.

How is this vaccination different than the COVID-19 vaccine for adults?

Yes, it is a smaller dose. Children are given about one-third the dose adults receive. The lower dose reduces the chance of side effects. It still, however, offers powerful protection against COVID-19.

CONVERSATIONS WITH PARENTS

Made to Save, a program from the Public Health Communications Collaborative, surveyed parents of children ages 5-11. They wanted to know: *what messages are important for you to hear when making the choice to vaccinate your child?* Below are some highlights:



Focus your messages on:

Health: Parents want to keep their children safe and healthy. COVID-19 is one of the top 10 causes of death among kids. Let parents know that vaccination is the best way to protect their child's health.

Community: Parents care about the communities their children are a part of. Talk about how the vaccination will protect their child - as well as that child's friends and family. It will also keeps their community open and active - schools, activities, museums, etc.

Fun: Parents are ready for their kids to be kids again - and do things that make them happy like play with other friends.

Learn more about what messages parents want to hear, how people across different identities respond to these messages, and parents' intentions to vaccinate [at this link](#).

Source: Public Health Communications Collaborative. (2021). Talking to Parents about the COVID-19 Vaccines for Children. Made to Save. Retrieved November 29, 2021, from <https://madetosave.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Parents-5-11-Messaging-Tip-Sheet.pdf>.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD: PERSPECTIVES FROM A PEDIATRICIAN & MOM

"I am often asked about the possibility of long-term side effects on children from the vaccine.

I'm a mom and a worrier, so I understand where this fear comes from.

But as a pediatrician and vaccine expert, I know even rare side effects are only expected about 6 to 8 weeks after vaccination and have to do with the body's immune response, which doesn't cause any long-term effects. What keeps me up at night is the small, but real risk of MIS-C and other serious outcomes from COVID for children. The vaccine helps protect against these risks."



Dr. Kristin Oliver, Mount Sinai Hospital

WHAT WE'RE READING & LISTENING TO:



- *COVID-19 Vaccine for Ages 5-11: FAQs for Parents*, Children's Health. [Read here.](#)
- *Getting Your Child Ready for the COVID-19 Vaccine*, The American Academy of Pediatrics. November 2, 2021. [Read here.](#)
- *Some parents want to wait to vaccinate their kids. Here's why doctors say do it now.* November 3, 2021. NPR. [Listen or read here.](#)
- *Health Department-Reported Cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) in the United States.* CDC COVID data tracker. [Read here.](#)
- *The real risk of heart inflammation to kids is from COVID-19, not the vaccine.* November 21, 2021. National Geographic. [Read here.](#)

What are you hearing? Share the 'word on the street' from your perspective by filling out [this form.](#)



NAVIGATOR SHOUT OUT



Mamnunul (Mamnun) Haq currently works in public health as a Program Associate at NYU's Grossman School of Medicine where he provides research support for various projects. He has received extensive research and clinical training in diabetes and chronic health complications and embodies the skills needed to carry out research and health intervention activities with study participants. He is also a certified IPA/Navigator by the New York State of Health Benefit Exchange. Before joining NYU, he was a NYC yellow cab driver for over 20 years. Mamnun is dedicated in his fight for labor and workers' rights and co-founded the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA), the largest taxi drivers union in the United States. From its inception to present day, He has helped organize over 22,000 taxi cab drivers through community outreach, media campaigns, and political and legal advocacy and continues to serve as a member of the organizing committee. He is also the National Vice President of the Alliance of South Asian American Labor (ASAAL) - an organization composed of labor organizers and advocates who are dedicated to empowering workers' from all fields.

Mamnun has received numerous recognitions and awards from NYC elected officials, political clubs, Bangladeshi sports clubs, business organizations, and community organizations for his work. He earned a BA degree in Liberal Arts from Chittagong University, Bangladesh. He currently lives in Kensington Brooklyn with his wife and three children.



THANK YOU

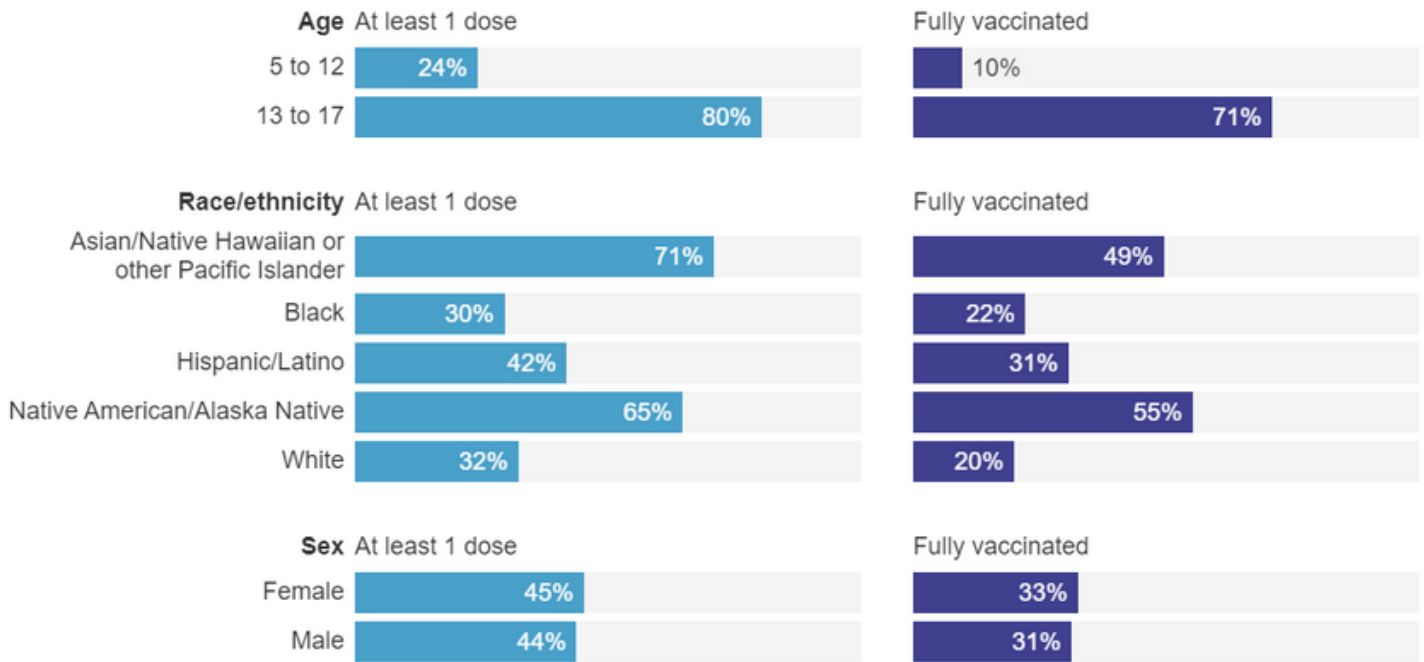
Our navigators and community healthcare workers are working hard every day to make a big impact on NYC's public health.

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

NYC DATA SNAPSHOT

NYC Vaccination Rates for Children 5-17 by: Age, Race/Ethnicity & Sex Assigned at Birth

NYC children 5 to 17 vaccinated



In late October, the Pfizer vaccine for COVID-19 became available to children 5-11. The City's health department is tracking vaccination rates by age. To date, 10% of children aged 5-12 are fully vaccinated, we will continue to look at this data as we work towards improving vaccination rates for everyone across NYC.

Retrieved from NYC Department of Mental Health's Vaccine Database ([found here](#)) on 11/29/21.