

WORD ON THE STREET

NAVIGATING COVID-19 CONVERSATIONS

WHAT ARE OUR NAVIGATORS HEARING?

"Will the vaccine cause my child to have heart problems?"



WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE SAY?

All of the COVID-19 vaccines have been closely studied in clinical trials, which included tens of thousands of people. They were found to be safe in both adults and teens. The vaccines have now been given to billions of people worldwide, and continue to be monitored for safety.

There have been some rare reported cases of inflammation of the heart muscle ("myocarditis") and the lining outside the heart ("pericarditis"). It is usually found in young people, and mostly in males. These cases are typically mild and go away quickly.

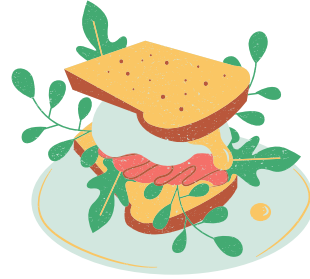
With the extremely contagious Delta variant going around, we are seeing more kids becoming infected with COVID-19. Some of these kids end up in the ICU, some develop long-COVID, and many will infect family members and friends. The benefits of getting vaccinated against COVID-19 far outweigh the very small risks.

Adolescents should get vaccinated.

Learn more: [What You Need to Know About Heart Inflammation and the COVID-19 Vaccines. Mount Sinai Today, July 17, 2021.](#)

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

HELPFUL TIPS FOR RESPONDING



Make a TRUTH SANDWICH in three easy steps:

- Start with the truth. The first statement gets the advantage.
- Indicate the misinformation or area of concern cited. Avoid amplifying the misleading statement, if possible.
- Return to the truth. Always repeat truths more than misinformation.

Source & More Information: [The Truth Sandwich: A Better Way to Mythbust, Communicate Health](#)




TRUTH SANDWICH IN ACTION

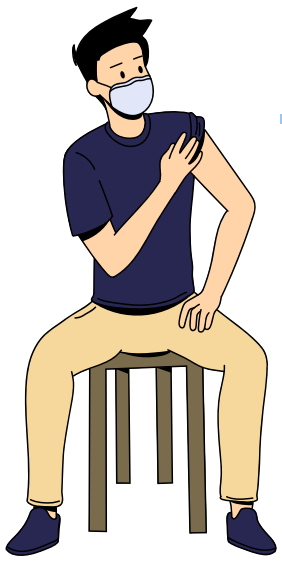
You might say: The COVID-19 vaccine is safe for children ages 12 to 15, just as it is for people 16 and older. [TRUTH]

You may have doubts as many have heard that the Covid-19 vaccine will put children at a high risk of dangerous heart problems. [THE MISINFORMATION]

While there have been reported cases of heart problems following the vaccine in the U.S., considering the hundreds of millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses that have been administered, these reports are very rare. In fact, people are much more likely to get myocarditis from COVID than they are from the vaccine. Plus, almost all cases are mild and resolve quickly making the known benefits of vaccination far outweigh any potential risks. [TRUTH]

As teens and children return back to school, it is especially important that they get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible—it will protect them, and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. [BONUS TRUTH]





FROM UNSURE TO VACCINATED: STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Do you know someone who had their doubts or questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, but later decided to get the vaccine? If they are comfortable sharing their story, we would love to hear it and learn from it.

Contact us today so we can highlight them in an upcoming newsletter by filling out [this form](#).

WHAT WE'RE READING / LISTENING TO:

- Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce: #SpreadtheWord, Teen Testimonials. [Listen here](#).
- American Academy of Pediatrics urges families to make COVID vaccines part of their back-to-school checklist. *NY1, September 7, 2021. [Read here](#).*
- Children and Covid: Your Questions, Answered. *The Daily Podcast, August 23, 2021. [Listen here](#).*
- Parents are hesitant to vaccinate children, but pediatricians might be key. *CNN, July 26, 2021. [Read here](#).*
- NYC mandates vaccinations for public school teachers, staff. *Associated Press, August 23, 2021. [Read here](#).*
- Covid-19 Vaccine: What Parents Need to Know. *Johns Hopkins Medicine, August 19, 2021. [Read here](#).*





NAVIGATOR SHOUT OUT

Hello and welcome to our newsletter! My name is Roger Abrams, and I am a Community Health Worker with NYU Langone's Department of Population Health.

What is a CHW, you may ask? A CHW helps improve your overall health by giving you the tools such as knowledge of nutrition, food labeling, making healthier choices and alternatives, adding activity to your busy lifestyle, and other services as needed.

My experience working in the Human Service field for over 18 years has helped me develop a deep passion for nutrition, health, and the ability to maintain a positive lifestyle. Working in the rehabilitation field has taught me how to connect with patients on a one-on-one basis. My goal is to build a strong relationship with patients so they can achieve their goals and live a healthier lifestyle.

We as Community Health Workers look forward to working with the members of our community to improve their health. Improving your health, means: **better health, better living, and a better YOU.**

ROGER ABRAMS
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THANK YOU!

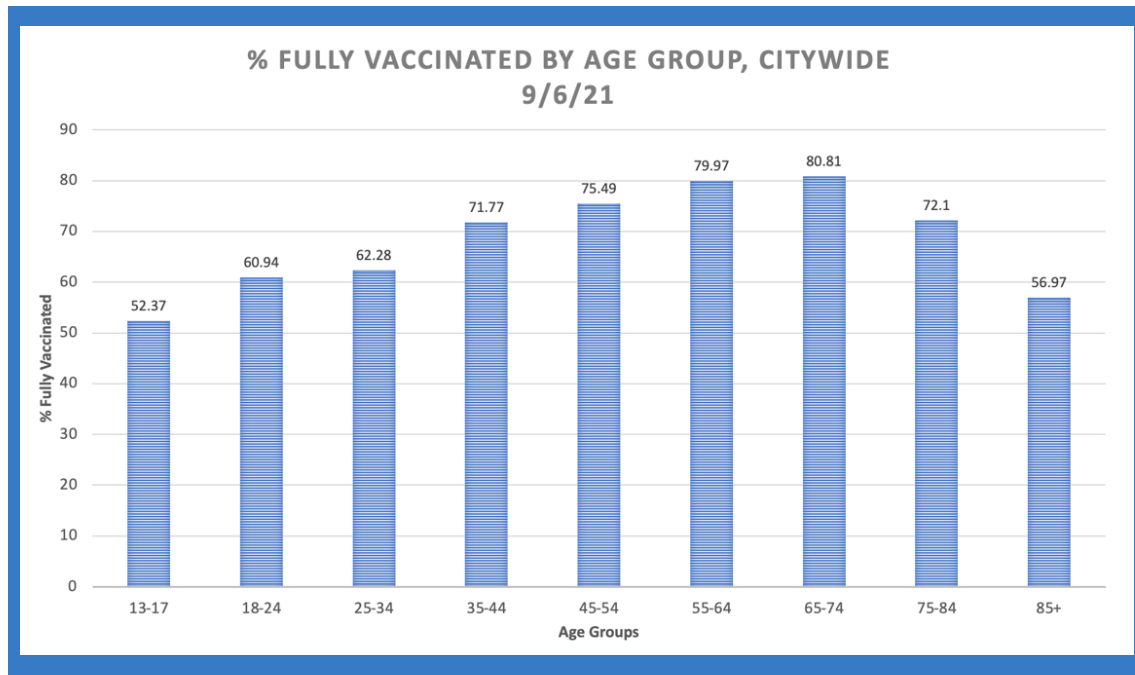


Our navigators and community healthcare workers are working hard every day to make a big impact on NYC's public health.

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

DATA SNAPSHOT

Below, you'll see data from the NYC Department of Health on vaccination rates among young people. We share this data with you to show that young people are getting vaccinated at low rates, and to encourage you to have conversations with parents, guardians, and young people themselves about the vaccine.



Source: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting. (coverage-by-boro-age, 9/6/21). New York, NY: Citywide Immunization Registry. Web. 7 Sep 2021. <<https://github.com/nychealth/covid-vaccine-data/blob/main/people/coverage-by-demo-allages.csv>>

