

Please Get Vaccinated!

VACCNEWS

COVID IS NOT OVER!

BLACK AND LATINO DOCTORS AND THE BLACK CHURCH CONTINUE TO URGE AND EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY THAT COVID-19 IS STILL A MAJOR THREAT TO THE HEALTH OF BOTH COMMUNITIES

GET THE LATEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE FLU AND COVID-19 VACCINES



Rev. Anthony Evans
President of National Black Church Initiative
***Ministers are not Doctors.**



Dr. Elena Rios
President & CEO of the National Hispanic Medical Association, (NHMA)



Dr. Joseph Webster, MD
Internist and Gastroenterologist
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Dr. Yolanda Lawson M.D
President-Elect of the National Medical Association
Board Certified OBGYN is the founder of MadeWell OBGYN

COVID Deaths as of August 2023

Worldwide = 769,806,130 confirmed cases; 6,955,497 deaths, reported to WHO

USA = 6,256,971 total hospitalizations; 1,137,742 deaths, reported to CDC

As of 15 August 2023, total of 13,498,570,620 vaccine doses were administered around the world.

The “Tripleemic” of flu, COVID, and RSV left many of us wary of what the coming respiratory virus season might bring. But this year’s landscape is already different, with new vaccines and treatments, including the game-changing antibody that protects kids from RSV, offering new ways to tamp down infections and transmission.

Everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated with the updated COVID-19 XBB 1.5 Omicron subvariant. (Free)

Insurance Coverage of Vaccines by Age and Insurance Program

Private Insurance	0-64 years old	All ACIP-recommended vaccines with no out-of-pocket cost to the patient
Medicare Part B	65+	Influenza, Pneumonia, Hepatitis B and Covid-19 vaccines with no out-of-pocket cost to the patient
Medicare Part D	65+	All other ACIP-recommended vaccines with no out-of-pocket cost to the patient as of January 2023
Medicaid	0-18 years old	All ACIP-recommended vaccines with no out-of-pocket cost to the patient through the federal Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)
	19-64 years old	All other ACIP-recommended vaccines with no out-of-pocket cost to the patient as of October 1, 2023. Some state adoption may take longer.
Uninsured	0-18 years old	All ACIP-recommended vaccines with no out-of-pocket cost to the patient through the federal Vaccines for Children Program (VFC)
	19-64 years old	Bridge program for Covid-19 vaccines starts this fall; New federal policies are under consideration to provide all ACIP-recommended vaccines to this population with no out-of-pocket costs

RSV vaccines- (Free for Children) Flu Vaccines(free with Insurance) Updated COVID vaccines(Free for everyone) after infections and transmission

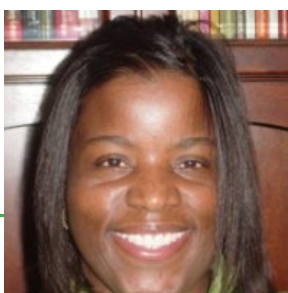
How Does COVID-19 Spread?

- COVID-19 lives in your lungs and nose. You use your lungs and nose to breathe, so COVID-19 is an airborne virus and it spreads when you breathe out, sneeze, talk, or sing. When you do that, the virus goes from your nose or mouth into the air. (Just open the window)
- If the virus falls on a surface and someone touches the surface while the virus is still alive, if the virus falls on someone’s clothes or skin or hair and the person touches those areas, or if someone breathes the virus in, that person gets the virus.
- If you are close to someone, more virus particles fall on you. That is why we should stay at least six feet away from each other in public.
- Most virus particles don’t travel six feet away from someone on their own, but air currents or ventilation systems can take the virus from someone who has it to someone completely across the room from them. **KEEP YOUR MASK ON INSIDE!**

[NBCI COVID Success Stories Video Series - tinyurl.com/5zrufbek](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/ncbi-covid-success-stories-video-series-tinyurl.com/5zrufbek)

Lessons Learned in the Pandemic: How Can the Black Church Work Effectively W/Public Health Experts

On behalf of the National Black Church Initiative, Dr. Kashemi Rorie, Chief Scientific Officer of CME Outfitters, an award-winning medical education and communications company, would like to encourage everyone to view [“Lessons Learned in the Pandemic: How Can the Black Church Work More Effectively with Public Health Experts”](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/ncbi-covid-success-stories-video-series-tinyurl.com/5zrufbek) - tinyurl.com/mr397ttt



“I hope this discussion will continue to stimulate ideas and opportunities to involve community and faith-based organizations in devising proactive steps in mitigating morbidity and mortality in disparately impacted communities.”



[Read the CDC Response to NBCI President Rev. Anthony Evans’ Letter on COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s220818-covid-19-vaccine.html)
tinyurl.com/22ub99mu



Stephen A. Smith of ESPN Off-Air with COVID-19 Again Just 10 Months After Near-Death Experience with the Virus

With Stephen A. Smith surprisingly absent from First Take when the show began Monday morning, October 31, 2022, the ESPN host announced he’s in the middle of his second bout with COVID-19. Stephen A. Smith off-air with COVID-19 just 10 months after near-death experience with the virus.

Smith tested positive for COVID late last year, making the announcement while hosting First Take remotely. After initially experiencing mild symptoms, Smith’s bout with the virus quickly took a turn for the worse. He ended up being off-air for nearly a month, and when he returned, he related scary details about what had turned into a life-threatening experience with COVID.

“I had a 103-degree fever every night. Woke up with chills and a pool of sweat,” Smith described when he returned to First Take from his first battle with COVID in late January. “Headaches were massive. Coughing profusely. And it got to a point that right before New Year’s Eve, I was in the hospital New Year’s Eve into New Year’s Day. That’s how I brought in the New Year...[Doctors] told me, had I not been vaccinated, I wouldn’t be here.”

“That’s how bad it was,” Smith continued. “I had pneumonia in both lungs. My liver was bad. And it ravaged me to the point where even now I have to monitor my [lung function], gotta get to the gym every day, walk before you run and work your way back because I’m still not 100 percent with my lungs, but I’m COVID negative. I’m on the road to recovery.”

Smith previously spoke about his initial reservations with the vaccine, but he later became a strong advocate for the shot after being convinced by a doctor that it was the right decision. Even following his own frightening experience with COVID, Smith remained a strong advocate for the vaccine, preaching the fact that doctors told him it was the jab that saved his life.

“COVID IS NO JOKE - GET VACCINATED!”
- Stephen A. Smith

NBCI encourages all of its 27.7 million members to get both their flu and COVID-19 vaccines this year

Follow the NBCI Immunization Tracker

<https://www.naltblackchurch.com/health/flu-campaign.html>

Black Doctors say the entire Black Community needs to be protected

CDC recommends everyone 6 months and older get the updated COVID-19 vaccine to protect against the potentially serious outcomes of COVID-19 illness this fall and winter. There are two types of COVID-19 vaccines available in the US; mRNA (Pfizer, Moderna) and non-mRNA protein-based (Novavax).

Age Group	Moderna mRNA Vaccine	Pfizer mRNA Vaccine	Novavax protein-based Vaccine
All individuals 5 years and older	Single dose of 2023-2024 vaccine	Single dose of 2023-2024 vaccine	Single dose of 2023-2024 vaccine, two doses if no previous vaccine against COVID-19 for individuals 12 years and older
Individuals 6 months through 4 years, previously vaccinated against COVID-19	1 or 2 doses of 2023-2024 vaccine	1 or 2 doses of 2023-2024 vaccine	
Individuals 6 months through 4 years, no previous vaccine	2 doses of 2023-2024 vaccine	3 doses of 2023-2024 vaccine	

Now that you have gotten your COVID shots, now is the time to get your boosters! [Report all side effects.](https://tinyurl.com/4nn3kubh) - tinyurl.com/4nn3kubh

NBCI Statement on the Nation of Islam COVID Opinion

The National Black Church Initiative is disappointed in the Nation of Islam because of the bad science and disinformation about COVID-19 vaccinations it is spreading in the Black community. Many of our members love and respect the work of the Nation of Islam and its socioeconomic programs in our community, but the misinformation about COVID, the vaccines, the vaccines' effectiveness, and whether the vaccines harm Black people is wrong. The reality is that African Americans are still dying at a very high rate and anything that discourages them from getting vaccinated is not helpful. We ask the Nation to stop this disinformation campaign immediately.

The Nation of Islam is not a scientific or medical organization, it is a religious organization, and the NBCI and other African American organizations do not get medical or scientific information from the Nation.

Thus, we encourage the Nation and others similarly situated to listen to the National Medical Association, the world's largest organization of African American doctors, clinicians, and researchers, who say emphatically that the COVID vaccine is safe. Our 150,000 African American churches, including 37 major Black Protestant denominations, agree with the National Medical Association as well as the National Black Nurses Association that the vaccine is both safe and effective.

The NBCI, along with the NBCI Scientific Team, remains willing to engage with the Nation of Islam regarding the seriousness of this matter. NBCI is committed to eliminating any misconceptions about COVID, the vaccine, the vaccines' effectiveness, and any other misinformation about COVID-19 for African Americans.

- [NMA Statement on COVID-19 Vaccine/ Booster Shot](https://tinyurl.com/ydv7rmkd) - tinyurl.com/ydv7rmkd

Pregnant Women and COVID – Latest Research

If you are thinking about becoming pregnant, are pregnant, or have just had a baby, getting COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters is a safe thing to do. Although pregnant women who get COVID cannot pass it on to their babies, they do pass on the antibodies to COVID-19 their bodies make in response to the vaccine and their babies are born protected and stay protected from severe disease for the first six months of their lives.

COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID because none of them are made with live virus (Learn about [Types of COVID-19 Vaccines Available](https://tinyurl.com/yck68m98) - tinyurl.com/yck68m98). They cannot alter your genes or the baby's genes and will not cause premature birth or low birth weight, according to the latest information from the CDC, the American infectious disease watchdog agency.

If you get one shot of a two-shot series, like the Pfizer vaccine, and get pregnant after the first shot but before the second one, go ahead and get the second shot. It is safe and your baby will have full protection. You should also get booster shots when they are recommended so you are protected against new types of the virus as they develop.

Pregnant women who are not vaccinated run a higher risk of getting severe disease, and have a higher risk of a premature baby, or a stillbirth where the baby dies inside them before it is born if they get infected with COVID-19.

Use hand sanitizer often and wash your hands as soon as you come home. You should consider keeping a mask on while you are breastfeeding or tending to your baby if you or a person in your household has been outside so you do not spread COVID to the baby by breathing on it.

Once the baby is here, you can pass COVID-19 to your baby if you pick up the virus, so consider wearing a mask in public and wash your hands often.

- [COVID-19 and Pregnancy](https://tinyurl.com/22yzwbk2) - tinyurl.com/22yzwbk2
- [Effectiveness of Maternal Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy Against COVID-19](https://tinyurl.com/mr4d58fu) - tinyurl.com/mr4d58fu



The Black Church says to Black women; "Do not listen to Cardi B. concerning the COVID vaccine. Ask your doctor. Cardi B. is not a medical doctor, she's a rapper.



Dr. Ala Stanford, MD
Founder of the Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium

Photo by Kriston Jae Bethel



DJ Kay Slay, 55, Dies After Long COVID-19 Battle

The legendary New York DJ was hospitalized in January after contracting coronavirus in April of 2022.

We feel compelled to make the case that all Black Americans should get vaccinated to protect themselves from a pandemic that has disproportionately killed them at a rate 1.5 times as high as white Americans in cases in which race is known — a rate that is most likely very conservative.

Long-Term COVID is No Joke! Get Vaccinated So You Don't Get It!!!

The NBCI believes that the government should invest in more research on long-term COVID and financially support people who are suffering from its effects, including allowing them to claim government disability benefits.

- [Resources for People with Long COVID](https://tinyurl.com/4j4z62yn) - tinyurl.com/4j4z62yn

RSV in Older Adults, Infants and Young Children

RSV is a common respiratory tract disease that can be especially dangerous for infants, and young children, older adults, and immunocompromised populations. RSV symptoms include runny nose, decreased appetite, coughing, sneezing, fever, and wheezing. People infected with RSV usually experience mild symptoms, but for some people RSV can be severe and may require hospitalization.

Each year in the United States, an estimated 58,000-80,000 children younger than 5 years are hospitalized due to RSV infection.



Steps to prevent transmission of RSV include washing your hands often with soap and water, avoiding close contact with others, and covering coughs or sneezes.

This year, we have new tools to protect against RSV available for older adults, pregnant women, and infants. Make sure you discuss with your healthcare provider about the best options for protecting you and your family. These RSV immunizations can help protect you and those around you from severe RSV disease. It is safe to have RSV vaccines at the same time as other vaccines.

There are two vaccines available for adults over 60, a vaccine for pregnant women that protects the babies, and a product used in a vaccine-like manner for infants in their first RSV season (typically fall through spring).

The Immunization Services Division has updated the schedules with the addenda:

[Immunization Schedules | CDC](https://tinyurl.com/mry4jps5) - tinyurl.com/mry4jps5

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