

COVID-19 Clinical Trials in Communities of Color

Frequent Questions

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care recently hosted a webinar with members of the [Covid-19 Prevention Network \(CoVPN\)](#) who are working with Black, LatinX and American Indian communities around COVID-19 education. ANAC has compiled responses from our expert panelists following the webinar: *COVID-19 Clinical Trials in Communities of Color*. For other COVID-19 resources, visit ANAC's website and refer to [previous updates and recorded webinars](#) for additional information.

1. Can you talk about vaccine rollout and the role that you think the HIV community can play in helping people access the COVID-19 vaccines? Can we use the same tools of outreach and education that we have used for ART and PrEP or do we need to rethink our strategy?

Advocates play a critical role of serving as community-level ethics representatives. Advocates can work with local and state health departments on vaccine dissemination processes, including messaging. Some of the same strategies used in HIV community messaging, engagement, and mobilization can be applied to the COVID-19 response. Read more about CoVPN Recommendations for Vaccine Implementation Following an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) [here](#).

2. Do we know how diverse the research staff is/was during the COVID-19 vaccine trials?

There are several research studies happening, and the staff of the research sites have varying degrees of diversity. Diversity can include race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender, etc. In terms of race, many of the research sites are in academic institutions, some of which are predominantly Black, and other research sites are situated in Latinx and American Indian communities. Some research sites also deployed mobile units in order to support further engagement of diverse communities.

3. Given the concerns of trust in certain communities, and the reality that we do not understand the long-term potential impact of the vaccine, should we focus more on

helping communities make informed decisions as opposed to encouraging them to take the vaccine?

Providing relevant and accurate information that support informed decision-making is critical. As part of this, explaining what is known and not known about the vaccines to-date, including the recent data announced which describes the efficacy of the first two vaccines to prevent severe disease.

4. With the many trials that people are asking to engage in; how does one decide which clinical trial to participate in?

Regarding the COVID-19 trials, persons who are interested are encouraged to go to: www.PreventCOVID.org and sign up for the registry. This will allow the sites that are conducted the various studies to engage the interested participants directly about the specific studies being conducted at the research site closest to the interested person.

5. Given that community conversations are beginning to happen, what are bridges to action as it relates to more community engagement and what platforms have the potential to influence participating in clinical trials or accepting a COVID-19 vaccine?

We can all be active participants in disseminating information about COVID-19 vaccines with our families and social networks. Many, well-trusted, local community-based organizations are looking for health educators, nurses, and physicians to participate in Facebook Lives or other conference platforms on their social media pages. Keeping ourselves well informed and updated about the status of COVID-19 vaccines and clinical trials is the first step to then share our knowledge with others.

6. What is the percentage of persons of color involved in COVID clinical trials?

The only study to date that has fully enrolled and demographic data have been published is the Moderna sponsored study. Demography of the study volunteers can be viewed by going to this link: <https://www.modernatx.com/cove-study>

7. What resources do you suggest we view to be prepared to educate our communities about the vaccine?

The CoVPN has prepared a suite of materials that are available to use and share widely. See the [materials menu](#), with a Dropbox link where you can access those materials. Feel free to share them widely.

Each state health department developed a vaccine dissemination plan, it would be an important consideration to be aware of that plan. Also, each study sponsor has a website where you can check out the specifics of each of the products. For more information about the COVID-19 Prevention Network, feel free to go to: www.PreventCOVID.org.