

Some responses on vaccine hesitancy and uptake – 28.12.21

Most of the quotations below are through survey and individual conversations. These are some of the recurring themes so far from our engagement.

- 1) “I have concern about the safety of the Covid-19 vaccine because I do not trust the vaccine as it could make the black male infertile but I had to take it – because I had no choice as my company requires it, and to keep my job” (Male Resident - 40-44)
- 2) “I had my covid-19 vaccine because I had no concern about its safety as I believe that no Government will manufacture vaccine to kill its own people, so, I thought it wise to get vaccinated to stay healthy and to keep my family and others safe” I’m educated man” (Male Resident 40-44)
- 3) “I have had my vaccine but I feel that more education is needed around the vaccination exercise, as people are fearful due to past history of vaccine, which resulted into some people having HIV or half limbs.” (Male resident - 45-49)
- 4) “Some family I know that took 1st and 2nd doses still died from covid-19, so, where is the efficacy of the vaccine, if I may ask? --- which is why I do not plan to take it” (Male resident 30-34)
- 5) “I feel the vaccine was done too quickly, so, I am waiting to see how safe it is before I make up my mind to take it.”... (Male Plumber resident 40+)
- 6) “I have taken the vaccine because I think the Government has been good and we just need to encourage them to do more. I trust the safety of the vaccine and the process behind it, which is why I took it; I’m encouraging everyone to take it.” (Female resident) – 50-54.
- 7) “It is good to get vaccinated, I have anyway, although I have my reservations, I’m worried about the vaccine safety but don’t get me wrong; I mean, who knows what might happen in the near future?” .. (Female resident - 35-39)
- 8) “I do not want to take vaccine because it has been designed to depopulate the world, especially the African Caribbean community, but you know what they did during the Tuskegee experiment in America, right? So, I ain’t having any of that”..... (Male Young Person 20-24)
- 9) “The time for the clinical trial of the vaccine is not sufficient to guarantee safety, which is why I am not taking it.”(Female resident 45-49)
- 10) “It is the vaccine that is killing people, not the covid-19, it is not safe, that’s why I won’t have it.” .. (Male resident 35-39)

- 11) "I feel that it is not the same vaccine for all' as the vaccine may be used to kill black people because it is not safe for us". I say so because of the insincerity of the Gov't from everything that they have been doing to us from time immemorial ..." (Female resident...40-44)
- 12) "I was sceptical at first, and worried about my underlying sickness, which is sickle cell and I fear that the testing time for the vaccine was far too short, but at the end, I had to summon up courage to take the vaccine to protect myself, my loved ones and the community."
..(male resident 35-39)
- 13) "Mum had 2 doses, brother had 1, but I have not had any because I am confused about which vaccine is suitable." (Female resident - student 25-29). *(Dora explained the differences to her and she then agreed to take the vaccine)*
- 14) "My Sister and her husband have taken it because of the nature of their job but I will not be having it because I don't believe in it, because I don't trust the safety and the Govt. What black people need is financial support for our businesses and livelihood"...(Female resident business owner - 35-39)
- 15) "I have worked with the NHS for over 20 years; the black Caribbean community are angry because they felt the system has failed them, as they are seen as second class and lack of opportunities for black Caribbean men" ... (Female Nurse 40-44 - work at RL)
- 16) "The Govt have hidden agenda to reduce the human race, especially the African Caribbean population... which is why I am not taking the vaccine." (Male resident 25-29)
- 17) "I am not taking the vaccine because it is an excuse to control and monitor people's movement, as I don't trust the Govt." (Male resident 30-34)
- 18) "I am not taking the vaccine because black Scientists are not represented in the design, production and promotion of the vaccine" so, I don't trust it." (female resident 35-39)
- 19) "I wonder why the Govt is making the vaccine compulsory if there is no hidden agenda to depopulate the black race, if they are sincere why do they not make it voluntary?, which is why I am afraid to take it"... (female resident 35-39)
- 20) "I have had the vaccine because I felt that it is not unsafe because the number of deaths arising from taking the vaccine in the black community is too insignificant to justify vaccine hesitancy by our people" (female resident 45-49)
- 21) "Vaccine in circulation has provided more safety than danger, which is why I had the vaccine, and will encourage others to do same" (female resident 50-54)
- 22) "From my own research, people are still dying after taking the vaccine, so, I don't see why I should take it" (female Student / resident 18-19)

- 23) "We have no idea of what is being injected into our body; only time will tell what the side effects would be; so, I'm not taking it for now." (female student resident 18-19)
- 24) "I do not trust the vaccine, I always use home remedies like garlic, lemon and some natural herbs and bitters to boost my immune system against the virus, I don't need it man" (male resident 40-44).
- 25) "I have doubt, I know of 2 women from the same family who took the vaccine and died the following day. Similar scenario happened in time past when black Caribbean people was injected with substance and majority collapsed and died instantly. I do not want to be forced to take the vaccine." (Male resident - 50-54).
- 26) "I took my vaccine because vaccines are produced to save lives, so, I will be asking the young ones to get the vaccine because it is for their own good to get vaccinated, and it is free. I encourage the young ones to follow Govt advise because the covid-19 is real and the Gov't is actually trying" (female resident 55-59)
- 27) "The vaccine is microwave quick-fix created by pressure from the pandemic. Have these vaccines actually gone through clinical trials properly?, I doubt it" and it troubles me and I'm not sure that I should take it" (Male resident 30-34)
- 28) "I've had the 2 doses and the booster because I have confidence in the vaccine and will encourage others to do so to protect themselves and their loved ones" (female resident 40-45)
- 29) "Why is it that most of these experiments to test people are done in Africa / Caribbean and when things go wrong, they say that the disease started in Africa, so, we can't really trust them; I'm not taking it" (male resident 50-54)
- 30) "I had the jab alright but a video circulating in the black community on social media showed that when any metallic object is placed on the arm where the jab was given, it clings to it but when the same object is placed on the other arm it falls down flat indicating a magnetic effect indicating that there is a chip in the vaccine. This video is misleading the black Caribbean community to think that there is a monitoring chip in the vaccine, which is why some don't want to have it" (female resident 40-44)
- 31) "I don't trust the Gov't and the vaccine but I took it to allow me travel abroad when I need to. You see, I told you I don't really trust the Gov't, as they have always neglected our needs, even Tower Hamlets Council did not give my business and other black businesses I know financial support during the pandemic when we applied but gave to other people doing similar businesses as ourselves. This is why some of our people feel reluctant about Govt push about the vaccine; they don't really care about us." (Female resident – business owner – 35-39)