

## COVID-19 TOOLBOX

MEDBOX.ORG

## Issue Brief

The MEDBOX team publishes issue briefs on different topics around COVID-19. We would be pleased to receive feedback on this issue brief or topics you would like to see covered in future issues. Registered MEDBOX users can see the latest documents in the 'My News' section by selecting their personal preferences under 'My Profile'.

## Vaccination Hesitancy

For over one year, the news is dominated by various issues around Covid-19. One of the main topics is vaccinations. How long will the process take? How will it roll out? What are the side effects?

In this brief, we will look at the aspect of vaccination hesitancy. Several studies have been done about interest in getting the vaccine. Ipsos and World Economic Forum have looked at the willingness of the population in 16 countries from all over the world and also at the changes overtime in their '[Global attitudes : COVID-19 vaccines](#)' study.

There is a significant difference in the willingness to be vaccinated between respondents in different countries. The study was done in January of 2021. Over 80% of the surveyed population in the United Kingdom (89%), Brazil (88%), China (85), Mexico (85%) were willing to be vaccinated. The lowest level of willingness was seen in Russia (42%) and France (57%). Compared with an [earlier study in December 2020](#), the researcher found an increasing number of people interested in getting a vaccination in all 16 countries. In Spain and Italy, the percentage went from 52% in December 2020 to 80% in January 2021.

- "I am worried about the side effects" is the main overall reason for not willing to be vaccinated
- "I am worried that a vaccine is moving through clinical trials too fast" is the second reason that people would not take a COVID-19 vaccine . This reason was the main reason in Brazil (51%). Sixty-six % of the interviewed people in Japan were afraid of the side effects, while 14% thought that it went too fast through clinical trials
- "I do not think that it will be effective" is given as the reason 45% of the people in China and South Korea and was highest in the United Kingdom with 12%
- "The risk to me of getting COVID-19 is low" has been named as another reason
- "I am against vaccination in general" was highest in the United States (11%) and lowest in Spain (2%)

The Centre for Disease Control Africa published a similar [study](#) on the situation in Africa in March 2021. In all the surveyed countries, respondents considered the COVID-19 vaccines as less safe than other vaccines. The highest proportion of people willing to take a COVID-19 vaccine was in Ethiopia (94%). The lowest response was in DRC, with just 59% of the respondents were ready to be vaccinated against the coronavirus.

In this brief, we will highlight some of the publications that can be found in the [MEDBOX COVID-19 Toolbox](#) in the sections [Vaccination & Strategy](#), including [Vaccine Hesitancy & Myths](#), [Communication Materials](#) and [Videos](#).

The MEDBOX Team has already published a small series of issue briefs on different aspects on COVID-19 & Vaccination: Issue Brief [No.8 COVID-19 & Vaccination](#), [No.9: Fair global distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) and [No.11: COVID-19 Vaccination & Communication](#). Please take a look at all available [Issue Briefs](#).

# Useful resources in MEDBOX

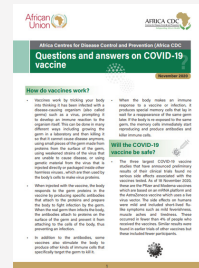
## How do Vaccines work?

### Questions and answers on COVID-19 vaccine

African Union; Africa CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2020)

How do vaccines work? Fact sheet

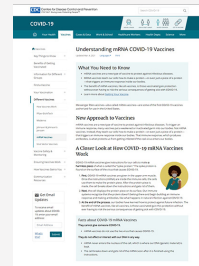
<https://medbox.org/document/questions-and-answers-on-covid-19-vaccine>



### Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

Centers for Disease Control CDC (2021)

<https://medbox.org/document/understanding-mrna-covid-19-vaccines>



### Vaccines 101: How vaccines work

Nature Video (2020)

As the world waits for a potential COVID-19 vaccine, we delve into how vaccines actually work. What are the different types of vaccine? How do they trigger and train the immune system, and what is the role of herd immunity?

<https://medbox.org/document/vaccines-101-how-vaccines-work>

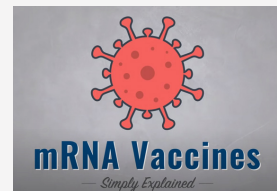


### How mRNA Vaccines Work - Simply Explained

Simply Explained, Dec. 2020

mRNA vaccines have the potential to end the COVID19 pandemic. How do they work? Are they safe? And how could they've been developed so quickly?

<https://medbox.org/document/how-mrna-vaccines-work-simply-explained>



### WHO Science in 5 Info Episode #16 - COVID-19 - How do vaccines work?

World Health Organization (Dec.2020) Video

How do vaccines work to protect us? What are the vaccine technologies in the pipeline and how do we ensure safe vaccines?

<https://medbox.org/document/who-science-in-5-episode-16-covid-19-how-do-vaccines-work>

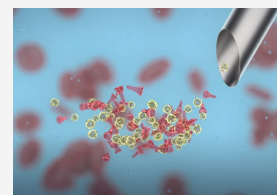


### There are four types of COVID-19 vaccines: here's how they work

GAVI Alliance (2021) Video

The fight against COVID-19 has seen vaccine development move at record speed, with more than 170 different vaccines in trials. But how are they different from each other and how will they protect us against the disease?

<https://youtu.be/IFjVIlcCvc>



You can find more videos in our [Vaccination & Strategy/Video Section](#).

# Vaccine Safety

## Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines

World Health Organization (2021)

This article is part of a series of explainers on vaccine development and distribution. Learn more about vaccines – from how they work and how they’re made to ensuring safety and equitable access – in WHO’s Vaccines Explained series. Countries around the world are rolling out COVID-19 vaccines, and a key topic of interest is their safety. Vaccine safety is one of WHO’s highest priorities, and we’re working closely with national authorities to develop and implement standards to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

<https://medbox.org/document/safety-of-covid-19-vaccines>

## Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?

Lockerd, Maragakis, L.; and G.D. Kelen, (2021); John Hopkins University

The arrival of safe, effective COVID-19 vaccines is a major development in the coronavirus pandemic. An effective COVID-19 vaccine will help protect people who come in contact with the virus from becoming sick. As more people are vaccinated, families and communities will be able to gradually return to a more normal routine.

<https://medbox.org/document/is-the-covid-19-vaccine-safe>

## COVID-19 vaccines - will they be safe?

World Health Organization (2020) Video

Why we can trust the safety of COVID-19 vaccines trials? Dr Kate O'Brien explains.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccines-will-they-be-safe>

## How do we know that vaccines are safe?

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Nov. 2020, Video

This video explores the safety measures in place throughout the entire vaccine development process, from the four clinical trial phases and through to the use of vaccines in the community.

<https://youtu.be/owFT2e8h7lw>

## COVID-19 Vaccine Safety, Side Effects, and Risks, Explained

Stanford Center for Health Education (2021) Video

Dr. Seema Yasmin answers 3 common questions about COVID-19 vaccine safety, side effects, and risks: The COVID-19 vaccines are new so what do we know about short- and long-term side effects? What’s the deal with allergic reactions to the COVID vaccines? Has anyone died because of COVID vaccines?

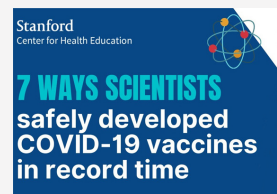
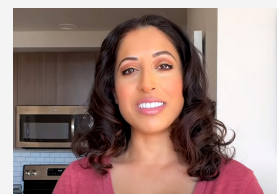
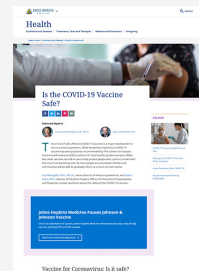
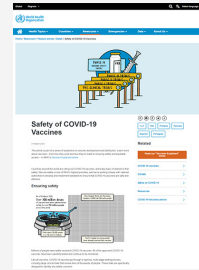
<https://youtu.be/6MoRTw8rsxk>

## 7 Ways Scientists Safely Developed COVID-19 Vaccines in Record Time

Stanford Center for Health Education (2021) Video

How were COVID-19 vaccines developed so fast? Dr. Seema Yasmin explains how the vaccines were made in record time and why you can trust the process.

<https://youtu.be/Yi9AQP6Tyjg>

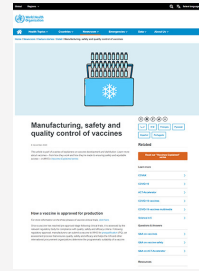


## Manufacturing, safety and quality control of vaccines

World Health Organization WHO (2020)

This document is part three in a series of explainers on vaccine development and distribution. Part one focused on how vaccines work to protect our bodies from disease-carrying germs. Part two focused on the ingredients in a vaccine and the three clinical trial phases. This document outlines the next part of the vaccine journey: the steps from completing the clinical trial phases through to distribution.

<https://medbox.org/document/manufacturing-safety-and-quality-control-of-vaccines>



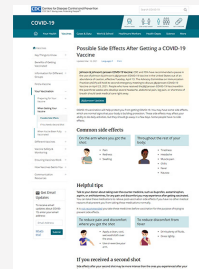
## Side Effects

### Possible Side Effects after getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Centers for Disease Control CDC (2021)

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have some side effects, which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days. Some people have no side effects.

<https://medbox.org/document/possible-side-effects-after-getting-a-covid-19-vaccine>



### Side Effects of COVID-19 Vaccines

World Health Organization WHO (2021)

This article is part of a series of explainers on vaccine development and distribution. Learn more about vaccines – from how they work and how they're made to ensuring safety and equitable access – in WHO's Vaccines Explained series. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, and getting vaccinated will help protect you against developing severe COVID-19 disease and dying from COVID-19. You may experience some mild side effects after getting vaccinated, which are signs that your body is building protection.

<https://medbox.org/document/side-effects-of-covid-19-vaccines>



### WHO in Science Episode #30 Vaccines-when and why?

World Health Organization WHO (2021), Video

If you have been wondering when you would receive your vaccine? Why you should get vaccinated and are concerned about what you are hearing about side effects, this episode of Science with 5 with WHO's Chief Scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan is for you.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/who-in-science-episode-30-vaccines-when-and-why>



## Myths & Misinformation

### COVID-19 Vaccines: Myth Versus Fact

Kelen, D.G.; and L.Lockerd Maragakis, John Hopkins University (2021)

The authors review some common myths circulating about the vaccine and clear up confusion with reliable facts.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccines-myth-versus-fact>

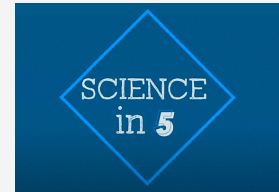


## WHO in Science Episode #24 - Vaccine myths vs science

World Health Organization WHO (2021) Video

WHO's Dr Katherine O'Brien busts some vaccine myths related to infertility, DNA and composition of vaccines.

<https://medbox.org/document/who-in-science-episode-24-vaccine-myths-vs-science>



## Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccine

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC (2021)

It can be difficult to know which sources of information you can trust. Learn more about finding credible vaccine information.

<https://medbox.org/document/myths-and-facts-about-covid-19-vaccines>



## Addressing Rumors or Myths and Role in Vaccine Safety Events

UN Children's Fund UNICEF (2020)

The immunization program has been going well until a rumor begins that one child in a community far from the capital has become sick after receiving a vaccine. The rumor is becoming stronger every day and is picking up coverage on local radio. Concerned that the rumor might make caregivers concerned about bringing their children for vaccination, a few frontline workers (FLWs) go to the house of the children who fell sick.

<https://medbox.org/document/addressing-rumors-or-myths-and-role-in-vaccine-safety-events>



## Rumors, trust and vaccines

Larson, H.; TEDMED April (2020) Video

Heidi Larson, Vaccine Trust Anthropologist, studies rumors. With today's technology, information is at our fingertips; at the same time, misinformation spreads like wildfire. While working across the globe on global Polio eradication, Heidi noticed the consequential impact of vaccine distrust and medical rumors. In response, she created the Vaccine Confidence Project, an interdisciplinary, global initiative that studies rumor dissemination across countries, communities, and social networks to better understand medical misinformation. While vaccines are surrounded by "political and social turbulence," Heidi argues that the problem is not misinformation, but rather the lack of relationships around trusted health information.

<https://youtu.be/iZpGjzEwIOA>

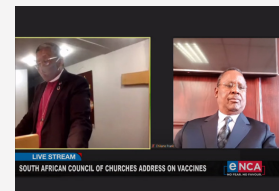


## Church leaders speak on COVID-19 vaccine conspiracies

South African Council of Churches (2021)

8 Febr. 2021. The South African Council of Churches is holding a media briefing to speak on the myths on the coronavirus vaccines in light of the conspiracy theories making the rounds. Conspiracy theories about the coronavirus vaccine have been doing the rounds for a while now.

<https://medbox.org/document/church-leaders-speak-on-covid-19-vaccine-conspiracies>





## Online Courses

### Corona Crash Course Unit 5: Vaccine *Jesuit Worldwide Learning (2020)*

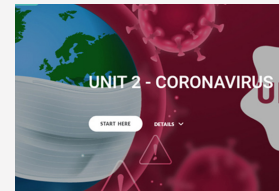
In this unit we will learn about vaccines and what is the progress made for developing a vaccine for COVID-19 Jesuit Worldwide Learning invites you to learn facts and test your knowledge on the ongoing pandemic caused by Coronavirus (COVID 19) through a fun-interactive crash course! Access is free! You have only to sign up.

<https://medbox.org/document/corona-crash-course-unit-5-vaccine>



### Corona Crash Course Unit 7: Vaccine hesitancy *Jesuit Worldwide Learning (2021)*

Coming soon, please check the website <https://sis.jwl.global/apply/corona>



## Video Playlists

### COVID-19 Vaccine Playlist YouTube *World Health Organization WHO*

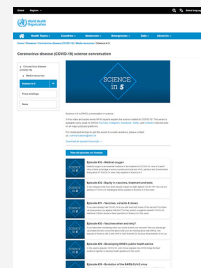
[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9S6xGsoqIBXHSDMCp8CjOmhULeQnJ\\_7J](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9S6xGsoqIBXHSDMCp8CjOmhULeQnJ_7J)



### WHO Science in 5 Video Series *World Health Organization WHO*

There are many interesting videos to discover in “Science in 5”

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/media-resources/science-in-5>



## Background Information

### Global Attitudes on a COVID-19 Vaccine Conducted February 25-28, 2021 *IPSOS (2021)*

<https://medbox.org/document/global-attitudes-on-a-covid-19-vaccine-conducted-february-25-28-2021>



### Global Attitudes on a COVID-19 Vaccine Conducted January 28 -31, 2021 *IPSOS (2021)*

<https://medbox.org/document/global-attitudes-on-a-covid-19-vaccine-conducted-january-28-31-2021>



## COVID 19 Vaccine Perceptions: A 15 country study

*African Union; Africa CDC Centres for Disease Control and Prevention; World Health Organization WHO, et al. (2021)*

Initial public health responses to control the pandemic focused on promoting protective behaviors among the general population, including frequent hand washing, physical distancing and the use of face masks in public spaces. However, many saw these only as interim measures to reduce the spread of the virus and hopes for a return to a sense of rested on the development of a safe and effective vaccine.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccine-perceptions-a-15-country-study>

## COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy worldwide: a systematic review of vaccine acceptance rates

*Sallam, M. (2021)*

Vaccines 2021, 9(2), 160; <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines9020160>

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccine-hesitancy-worldwide-a-systematic-review-of-vaccine-acceptance-rates>

## How to stop vaccine hesitancy

*Vaughan, A. (2020)*

New Scientist 2020 Nov. 21; 248 (3309): 12-13

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7833418/>

## A High Rate of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Arabs: Results of a Large-scale Survey

*Qunaibi, E.A.; et al. (2021)*

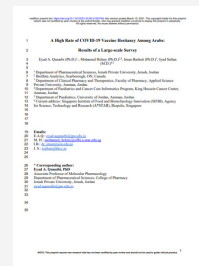
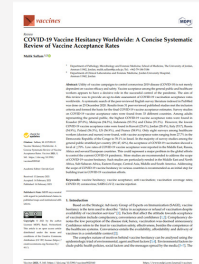
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.09.21252764v1.full.pdf>

## Vaccine hesitancy

*Osmosis (March 2021) Video*

Vaccine hesitancy has become a significant health concern, and is defined by the World Health Organization as “a delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccination services.” Vaccine hesitancy is a complex issue, and its causes are unique to each individual.

<https://youtu.be/yZwVOD-ITx4>



## Resource Platforms

### COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance *Compass (2021)*

Social and behavior change (SBC) professionals have often been tasked to find ways to influence knowledge, attitudes, and practices, about vaccines. Now that the COVID-19 vaccines are becoming available worldwide, renewed emphasis and urgency for SBC efforts arise. To that end, WHO has offered three factors that play a role in vaccine hesitancy, the first two of which can be addressed by SBC.

<https://medbox.org/document/covid-19-vaccine-acceptance>

### Communication Hub Vaccine hesitancy *Vital Strategies (2021)*

<https://covid19riskcomms.org/search/results?q=vaccine+hesitancy>

