

COVID-19 Vaccination Through a Social Work Lens: Myths and Facts

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Agenda

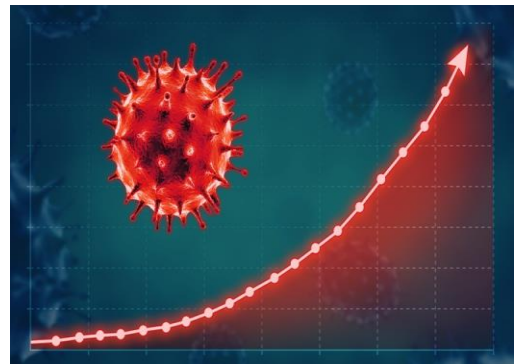
- Opening Remarks
- Social Work Lens: Part 1
- COVID-19 101, Myths and Facts
- Social Work Lens: Part 2
- Question & Answer
- Closing Remarks

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COVID-19: Context

- CV19 continues to spread, especially among certain populations/communities
- 776,300 deaths from CV19 in the United States as of today
- Over 175,000 children have lost a parent or primary caregiver to CV19; 65% are children of color
- Devastating economic, financial and social impacts



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COVID-19: Context (cont'd)

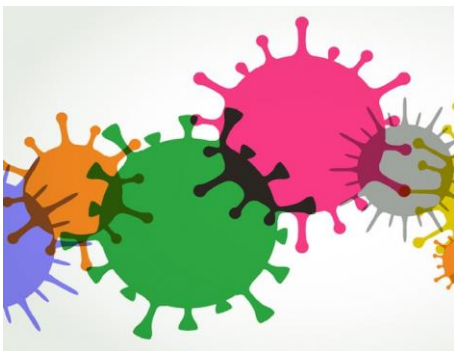


- Long COVID impacts mental as well as physical health (*students for whom this is disabling may be eligible for educational accommodations*)
- Learning disruption and associated loss
- National emergency in children's mental health, attributed to CV19: AAP, AACAP, CHA
- Spike in substance use disorders attributable to pandemic impacts
- Exacerbation of social isolation and loneliness among older adults

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Underlying Conditions: Mental Health, SUDs, Disabilities



- Certain mental health conditions are associated with more severe COVID-19 illness; CDC has added as "underlying medical conditions":
 - Mood disorders (including depression)
 - Schizophrenia
- Substance use disorders also increases risk of severe illness
- People with disabilities

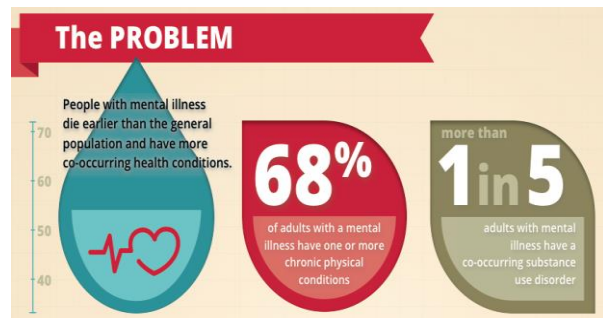
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Baseline Chronic Health Conditions Elevate Risk

The risk of severe COVID-19 increases with the number of underlying medical conditions.

Millions of Americans of all ages have multiple conditions, which can be further compounded by a mental health condition.



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COVID-19 CASES, HOSPITALIZATION, AND DEATH BY RACE/ETHNICITY

FACTORS THAT INCREASE COMMUNITY SPREAD AND INDIVIDUAL RISK



CROWDED SITUATIONS



CLOSE / PHYSICAL CONTACT



ENCLOSED SPACE



DURATION OF EXPOSURE

Rate ratios compared to White, Non-Hispanic Persons

American Indian or Alaska Native, Non-Hispanic persons

Asian, Non-Hispanic persons

Black or African American, Non-Hispanic persons

Hispanic or Latino persons

CASES¹

2.8x higher

1.1x higher

2.6x higher

2.8x higher

HOSPITALIZATION²

5.3x higher

1.3x higher

4.7x higher

4.6x higher

DEATH³

1.4x higher

No Increase

2.1x higher

1.1x higher

Race and ethnicity are risk markers for other underlying conditions that impact health — including socioeconomic status, access to health care, and increased exposure to the virus due to occupation (e.g., frontline, essential, and critical infrastructure workers).

ACTIONS TO REDUCE RISK OF COVID-19



WEARING A MASK



SOCIAL DISTANCING (6 FT GOAL)



HAND HYGIENE



CLEANING AND DISINFECTION



¹ Data source: COVID-19 case-level data reported by state and territorial jurisdictions. Case-level data include about 80% of total reported cases. Numbers are unadjusted rate ratios.

² Data source: COVID-NET (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>, accessed 08/06/20). Numbers are ratios of age-adjusted rates.

³ Data source: NCHS Provisional Death Counts (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/COVID19/index.htm>, accessed 08/06/20). Numbers are unadjusted rate ratios.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS319360-A 08/08/2020

Vaccination Data (as of today)

- 59% of total population 12+ fully vaccinated
- 68% of total population 12+ at least one dose
- Vaccination recently approved for children ages 5 to 11

State variation:

- ME/CT: 70% fully vaccinated
- WV: 41% fully vaccinated



Vaccine Hesitancy



- Vaccines and vaccine boosters are highly safe and effective – but some people are “hesitant”
- World Health Organization definition (2015):

...(D)elay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination despite availability of vaccination services...It is influenced by factors such as complacency, convenience and confidence.

Vaccination Data (cont'd)

Lower rates in/among:

- Pregnant women
- Certain geographic areas (e.g., rural)
- Adolescents and young adults
- Incarcerated individuals
- People who are unhoused
- Historically under-served populations



Vaccine Hesitancy (cont'd)



Vaccine hesitancy can reflect, among other things:

- Perceptions about personal level of risk
- Negative prior experiences with health care providers/systems/treatments
- Religious and/or philosophical beliefs
- Socio-political views
- Perceptions of vaccine development process
- Beliefs about health and prevention
- Social/peer group norms, perceptions
- Communication/media environment



Vaccinate with Confidence

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant to NASW Foundation and the Health Behavior Research and Training Institute (HBRT) at The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work
- Opportunity for social workers: support clients in vaccine decision making using motivational interviewing and other models
- NASW-UT/Austin initiative includes:
 - Communications Campaign
 - Ambassadors
 - Training Webinars
 - App

CDC's Strategy to Reinforce Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines

Build Trust

- **Objective:** Share clear, complete, and accurate messages about COVID-19 vaccines and proactively address mis- and disinformation.

Empower Healthcare Personnel*

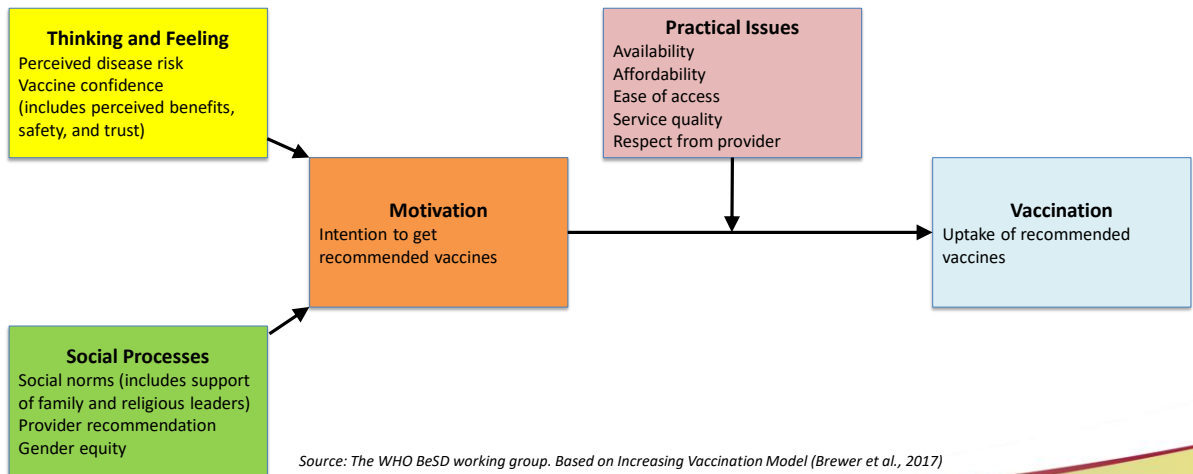
- **Objective:** Promote confidence among healthcare personnel* in their decision to get vaccinated and to recommend vaccination to their patients.

Engage Communities & Individuals

- **Objective:** Engage communities in a sustainable, equitable and inclusive way—using two-way communication to listen, build trust, and increase collaboration.

*Personnel = All staff working in healthcare settings, including physicians, physician assistants/nurse practitioners, nurses, allied health professionals, pharmacists, social workers, support staff, and community health workers

The Behavioral and Social Drivers Framework



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Social Work Opportunity/Role

Social workers can play a crucial role in *supporting client decision making* about vaccination. We practice in a broad range of settings, are often trusted messengers in communities and bring a distinctive skill set reflecting:

- Person in the environment framework
- Patient/client-centered care approach
- Trauma-informed care models
- Cultural competence
- Public/population health and prevention expertise
- Disaster response expertise
- Commitment to health equity, access and social justice

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NASW National Webinars



- **Webinar 1:** *TODAY*
- **Webinar 2:** (January 12, 1:00-3:00 PM ET): Using Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) to Support Clients in Vaccine Decision Making
- **Webinar 3:** (February 23, 1:00-2:30 PM ET): Supporting Special Populations
 - Vulnerable and marginalized groups
 - Rural communities
 - Children/families
 - Others

Application of a Social Work Lens



Social workers play an important role in supporting clients with differential needs due to:

- Prioritization of rapport building and patient autonomy (i.e. informed consent)
- Adherence to guiding frameworks:
 - Social Determinants of Health
 - Trauma-informed care
 - Harm reduction
- Ability to spend additional time with patients

Case Example



Ms. K is a 54 year old female who lives alone. Her husband of 20+ years passed away 3 years prior due to cancer. Ms. K's primary source of income is disability which she obtained due to long-standing mental health concerns. Ms. K has an established relationship with her PCP of 8 years and has intermittently been connected with behavioral health services. She experiences extreme anxiety when needing to leave the house. Ms. K is routinely in the position of being a care provider for her close friends – many of whom also have chronic health issues.

- Past Medical History: Chronic Pain; COPD (Stage III); Breast CA s/p lumpectomy;
- Past Behavioral Health History: Complex PTSD; Complex Grief; Panic D/o w/ agoraphobia; nicotine dependence

Ms. K is debating whether or not to pursue vaccination

Application of a Social Work Lens

Strategies for Supporting Ms. K



*Provide information on **how to access** the COVID-19 vaccine and **what to expect** during vaccination. Proactively identify ways to remove barriers to care to enhance motivation and reduce anxiety.*

Application of a Social Work Lens

When supporting Ms. K, attention was paid to:

- Perception of vaccine benefits and risks
- Behavioral health considerations
- Differential learning needs
- The social environment of care
- Consistency, pace, and nature of messaging
- Interprofessional collaboration

