



California  
Health Care  
Foundation

# California Health Providers' Attitudes Regarding a COVID-19 Vaccine

Goodwin and Simon Strategic Research  
December 2020

**California Health Providers' Attitudes Regarding a COVID-19 Vaccine  
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**Author: Goodwin Simon Strategic Research**

In early December 2020, as two vaccines against COVID-19 were moving toward consideration by the US Food and Drug Administration, the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) in conjunction with [Goodwin Simon Strategic Research](#), conducted a statewide survey of California health care providers regarding attitudes and motivations around a COVID-19 vaccine.

The survey was conducted December 2–9, 2020, among 1,203 health care providers.

Key findings include:

- Statewide, 83% of health care providers say they will get the vaccine. More than half (53%) will “definitely” get the vaccine if it is made available to them, and another 31% will “probably” get it.
- As for timing, nearly half of providers (47%) would want to get the vaccine immediately after it is made available to them, and another 23% would want to get it one to two months after.
- Sixty-five percent of all providers favor an employer mandate that clinicians receive the vaccine. While majorities across provider types favor an employer mandate, a potentially vocal minority (15%) of providers strongly oppose one. .

Here is the breakdown of provider types who were interviewed.

<b>Respondent Type</b>	<b>Specialty</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
MDs/DOs	PCPs and other mixed specialty who treat patients/residents. Can work in any of the settings in Q6, including skilled nursing, assisted living, or long-term care facilities.	501
NPs/PAs	NPs/PAs who treat patients/residents	320
Nurses	Nurses who treat patients/residents	318
Providers at SN/AL/LTC Facility	Direct providers at skilled nursing (SN), assisted living (AL), or long-term care (LTC) facilities	300

**QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESPONSES**

Following is the complete questionnaire with responses.

Thank you for agreeing to take our confidential and anonymous survey.

To participate, simply answer the question(s) on each page and click the “Continue” button to progress in the survey. Your responses will be submitted as you progress through the survey. Overall, we expect your participation to take approximately 10 minutes.

Click the “Continue” button below to begin.

Now we have some questions that are strictly for statistical use.

S1. Please indicate your state of residence. **[INSERT STATE DROP DOWN]**

California = CONTINUE; ALL ELSE = **TERMINATE**

1. In what county do you practice *primarily*? **[INSERT CA COUNTY DROP DOWN, + UNSURE]**

<b>Bay Area:</b> Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	23%
<b>Rural North:</b> Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yuba	3
<b>Greater Sacramento:</b> El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo	5
<b>Central Coast:</b> Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura	6
<b>Central Valley:</b> Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	7
<b>Los Angeles County:</b> Los Angeles	29
<b>San Diego / Orange:</b> Orange, San Diego	21
<b>Inland Empire / Desert:</b> Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino	7

\* Indicates that less than one half of one percent of respondents gave this response.

— Indicates that no respondents gave this response.

Please note that due to rounding, totals may equal a few points more or less than one hundred.

2. Would you describe where you primarily practice as:

A large city with about a half-million people or more	53%
A smaller city	20
A suburb near a city	20
A small town or rural area	7
Unsure	*

3. In the last six months, have you provided direct care to patients in any setting (private practice, hospital, urgent care center, etc.) *and/or* direct care to residents in a skilled nursing facility, nursing home, or residential care facility (assisted living or long-term care)? This could include in-person or telehealth. (Telehealth includes providing patient care virtually by telephone or video.)

Yes, direct care to patients	78%	
Yes, direct care to residents in a skilled nursing facility, nursing home, or residential care facility (assisted living or long-term care)	5	
Yes, both	16	
No, neither	—	<b>TERMINATE</b>
Unsure	—	<b>TERMINATE</b>

4. Which of the following licenses, credentials, or degrees do you currently hold? (Please select all that apply.) **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES]**

MD	38%	
DO	3	
Nurse Practitioner (NP)	17	
Physician Assistant (PA)	10	
Respiratory Therapist	*	
RN	29	
Licensed Practical Nurse/Licensed Vocational Nurse (LPN/LVN)	3	
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	*	
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	*	
Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)	1	
Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)	1	
Dietitian	2	
Occupational Therapist	*	
Physical Therapist	3	
Speech Therapist	—	
Other		<b>TERMINATE</b>
Prefer not to say		<b>TERMINATE</b>
Unsure		<b>TERMINATE</b>

**[ASK Q5 IF MD, DO, NP, OR PA]**

5. What is your medical specialty? (*n* = 821)

Primary care (general and family practitioner, general internist)	41%
Specialist (medical specialist, surgeon, ob/gyn, radiology)	27
Pediatrics	11
Psychiatry	5
Emergency medicine	9
Other (Please specify)	8
Unsure	—

**[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]**

6. In which of the following *settings* have you primarily practiced or worked in the last six months? (Please select all that apply.) **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES]**

Emergency department	14%	<b>NET: HOSPITAL 65%</b>
In-patient hospital	38	
Outpatient clinic or service within a hospital such as cardiology, radiology, or specialty clinics (excluding ED)	31	
Outpatient surgery center or infusion (chemotherapy) or dialysis clinic	6	<b>NET: NONHOSPITAL: 43%</b>
Urgent care center	10	
Community health center or clinic, free or reduced-fee clinic, or public health center	14	
Federally Qualified Health Center	5	
Skilled nursing facility (SNF) or nursing home	11	
Residential care facility (assisted living or long-term care)	6	
Home health care	7	
Other (specify)	12	
Unsure	*	

- **[IF Q6 ≠ 8/9, USE “PATIENT” LANGUAGE BELOW]**
- **[IF Q6 = 8/9 AND OTHER Q6 ITEMS, USE “PATIENT AND/OR RESIDENT” LANGUAGE BELOW]**
- **[IF Q6 = 8/9 ONLY, USE “RESIDENT” LANGUAGE BELOW]**

7. Do you currently belong to a professional association (e.g., California Medical Association) or to a labor union for health workers?

Yes, to a professional association	47%
Yes, to a labor union	9
Yes, to both	7
No, neither	35
Unsure	2

8. What percentage of your patient population [resident population / patient and resident populations] would you estimate are Medicaid/Medi-Cal or uninsured? Your best guess is fine. **[CODE ANYONE WHO RESPONDS 30% OR MORE (3:5) AS “SAFETY-NET PROVIDER”]**

None	4%	<b>TOTAL NOT SAFETY-NET PROVIDER: 34%</b>
Less than 30%	30	
30% to 50%	26	<b>TOTAL SAFETY-NET PROVIDER: 62%</b>
51% to 75%	18	
More than 75%	18	
Unsure	4	

9. In the last six months, approximately how many COVID-19 patients [patients and residents/residents] have you seen or treated? Your best guess is fine.

Zero	9%
1 to 5	18
6 to 10	14
11 to 20	13
21 to 50	18
51 to 100	11
101 or more	12
Unsure	5

10. Thinking about where you work most frequently, do you have enough personal protective equipment (PPE) to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Yes	76%
No	17
Unsure	7

Responses by subgroup

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
Yes	79%	76%	72%	75%
No	15	18	20	18
Unsure	6	6	8	7

11. At your workplace, which of the following best describes COVID-19 testing for health care providers like yourself?

I receive routine testing	14%
Testing is available at my request	56
I do not have access to adequate testing	27
Unsure	4

Responses by subgroup

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
I receive routine testing	8%	10%	20%	32%
Testing is available at my request	68	56	42	44
I do not have access to adequate testing	22	30	32	20
Unsure	3	4	5	4

12. How concerned are you about contracting COVID-19 *at work*?

Extremely concerned	19%	<b>TOTAL CONCERNED: 80%</b>
Very concerned	27	
Somewhat concerned	33	
A little concerned	15	
Not concerned at all	5	
Unsure	*	

13. When a COVID-19 vaccine receives emergency use authorization from the FDA and becomes available for health care providers like yourself, would you definitely get the vaccine, probably get the vaccine, probably would *not* get the vaccine, or definitely would *not* get the vaccine?

Definitely get the vaccine	53%	<b>TOTAL WOULD GET VACCINE: 83%</b>
Probably get the vaccine	31	
Probably <i>not</i> get the vaccine	9	<b>TOTAL WOULD NOT GET VACCINE: 13%</b>
Definitely <i>not</i> get the vaccine	4	
Unsure	4	

Responses by subgroup

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
Definitely get the vaccine	65%	48%	40%	46%
Probably get the vaccine	28	31	33	35
Probably <i>not</i> get the vaccine	4	13	14	10
Definitely <i>not</i> get the vaccine	2	4	6	4
Unsure	2	3	7	5

**SPLIT SAMPLE A (n 300 distributed across sample types at the top of page 1)**

14. Regardless of whether or not you would get the vaccine, what are the one or two main reasons you *would* get a COVID-19 vaccine once it is available?  
**[OPEN-ENDED]** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPLIT SAMPLE B (n 300 distributed across sample types at the top of page 1)**

15. Regardless of whether or not you would get the vaccine, what are the one or two main reasons you *would not* get a COVID-19 vaccine once it is available?  
**[OPEN-ENDED]** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPLIT SAMPLE C (n 300 distributed across sample types at the top of page 1)**

16. When a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, what, if anything, would *increase* your willingness to get vaccinated?  
**[OPEN-ENDED]** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPLIT SAMPLE D (n 300 distributed across sample types at the top of page 1)**

17. When a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available, what, if anything, would *decrease* your willingness to get vaccinated?  
**[OPEN-ENDED]** \_\_\_\_\_

**[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]**

18. For each of the following, please indicate if it would make you more likely or less likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine, or if it would make no difference one way or the other. For this question, assume the vaccine has been approved by the FDA under emergency use authorization.

	<b>RANDOMIZE</b>	Much <i>more</i> likely	Somewhat <i>more</i> likely	Somewhat <i>less</i> likely	Much <i>less</i> likely	No difference	Not applicable	Unsure
<b>SPLIT SAMPLE A (n = 600)</b>								
a.	The vaccine is shown to be 85% to 94% effective at preventing sickness	58%	26%	2%	1%	11%	—	2%
b.	The vaccine trials included people demographically similar to you (e.g., similar age, race, gender, etc.)	47	32	2	1	18	—	2
c.	The vaccine shows no serious side effects	76	15	2	1	5	*	1
d.	The vaccine is <i>recommended</i> by your employer	21	26	3	2	45	2	1
e.	All vaccine-related costs are covered by your employer and/or the state of California	45	23	1	1	29	1	1
<b>SPLIT SAMPLE B (n = 603)</b>								
f.	The vaccine is shown to be 95% to 99% effective at preventing sickness	68	21	1	*	10	*	*
g.	A large number of other health care providers have already received the vaccine	47	29	2	*	20	*	1
h.	The vaccine trials included people with similar health conditions as you (e.g., heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, etc.)	42	30	2	*	17	8	*
i.	The vaccine is recommended by your personal doctor	25	33	2	1	37	1	1
j.	The vaccine is <i>required</i> by your employer	45	23	4	2	22	2	2
<b>IF UNION MEMBER IN Q7, ASK: (n = 185)</b>								
k.	The vaccine is recommended by your union	15	18	4	2	57	1	3
<b>IF MEMBER OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION IN Q7, ASK: (n = 651)</b>								
l.	The vaccine is recommended by your professional association	30	32	4	1	32	*	1



**[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]**

19. After the FDA grants emergency use authorization and it becomes available to you, when would you want to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Immediately	47%
After one to two months	23
After three to four months	11
Wait longer than that	12
Never	2
Unsure	5

Responses by subgroup

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
Immediately	56%	44%	38%	41%
After one to two months	25	21	19	27
After three to four months	9	12	12	12
Wait longer than that	6	14	21	13
Never	1	2	2	2
Unsure	3	7	8	5

20. For you personally, how important is each of the following when it comes to getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

<b>RANDOMIZE</b>		Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not important at all	Unsure
a.	To protect yourself	71%	16%	7%	2%	2%	1%
b.	To protect your family	86	9	3	1	1	1
c.	To protect your friends	64	24	7	2	1	1
d.	To protect your coworkers	63	26	7	1	1	1
e.	To protect your patients [patients and residents / residents]	70	23	4	1	1	1
f.	To protect people in the community where you live	57	31	8	2	2	1

21. Which of the following sources would you trust to provide you with accurate information about a COVID-19 vaccine? Please select all that apply.

<b>[RANDOMIZE]</b>	
Peer-reviewed medical journals (e.g., <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i> )	74%
Research studies/literature	70
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	63
Dr. Anthony Fauci	57
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	49
California Department of Public Health	41

Biden administration's COVID-19 Task Force	33
Leadership at your hospital or medical facility (e.g., medical director, chief medical officer, etc.)	31
Colleague(s) in your field	30
Your county's public health officer	26
<b>[IF IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION ON Q7]</b> Your professional association	24
President-elect Joe Biden	17
General health media (e.g., Kaiser Health News, California Healthline, VoxCare)	13
Governor Gavin Newsom	12
Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup	8
<b>[IF IN UNION ON Q7]</b> Your labor union	2
Other, please specify:	4
Unsure	1

22. When a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is approved by the FDA for the general public, would you recommend the vaccine to your patients [patients and residents / residents] OR *probably* recommend it [patients and residents / residents], probably *not* recommend it, or definitely *not* recommend it to your patients [patients and residents / residents]?

Definitely recommend the vaccine	57%	<b>TOTAL RECOMMEND VACCINE: 91%</b>
Probably recommend the vaccine	33	
Probably <i>not</i> recommend the vaccine	2	<b>TOTAL NOT RECOMMEND VACCINE: 3%</b>
Definitely <i>not</i> recommend the vaccine	1	
Unsure	7	

Responses by subgroup

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
Definitely recommend the vaccine	68%	52%	47%	53%
Probably recommend the vaccine	28	38	37	34
Probably <i>not</i> recommend the vaccine	1	2	3	2
Definitely <i>not</i> recommend the vaccine	*	1	2	1
Unsure	3	6	11	10

23. Would you favor or oppose the state of California mandating that all health care providers get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Strongly favor	37%	<b>NET TOTAL FAVOR: 65%</b>
Somewhat favor	28	
Somewhat oppose	15	<b>NET TOTAL OPPOSE: 30%</b>
Strongly oppose	15	
Unsure	6	

Responses by subgroup

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
Strongly favor	44%	31%	32%	36%
Somewhat favor	30	31	22	25
Somewhat oppose	12	17	19	16
Strongly oppose	9	16	22	18
Unsure	6	4	5	4

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
<b>NET TOTAL FAVOR:</b>	73%	62%	54%	61%
<b>NET TOTAL OPPOSE:</b>	21	33	41	35

24. Would you favor or oppose employers at health care facilities like yours mandating that all health care providers at their facility get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Strongly favor	37%	<b>NET TOTAL FAVOR: 65%</b>
Somewhat favor	28	
Somewhat oppose	15	<b>NET TOTAL OPPOSE: 30%</b>
Strongly oppose	15	
Unsure	5	

Responses by subgroup

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
Strongly favor	45%	32%	31%	35%
Somewhat favor	27	32	25	27
Somewhat oppose	13	17	17	16
Strongly oppose	10	16	23	19
Unsure	5	3	4	4

	MDs/DOs	NPs/PAs	Nurses	SN/AL/LTC Providers
<b>NET TOTAL FAVOR:</b>	72%	64%	56%	62%
<b>NET TOTAL OPPOSE:</b>	23	33	40	35

**[ON-SCREEN] These last questions are strictly for statistical purposes only.**

25. Are you employed by any of the following? (Please select all that apply.) **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES]**

A private practice or physician-owned practice	27%
A private medical system or hospital (including a private university-owned system or hospital)	18
Medical group-owned practice	14
A hospital-owned or hospital-system-owned practice	21
Self-employed / own practice	8
A city	1
A county (including a county-owned hospital)	7
A health care district	1
The University of California	5
The state of California, other than the University of California	3
The federal government	3
FQHC	5
Other (please specify)	6
Unsure	2

26. Approximately how many health care providers are there at the facility where you work most frequently?

1-5	18%
6-10	10
11-25	11
26-50	10
51-100	9
101-250	10
More than 250	31
Unsure	2

27. How frequently do you get a flu shot, if ever?

Every year	90%
Most years	4
Just some years	3
Rarely	2
Never	2
Unsure	*

28. What percentage of your patient [patient or resident / resident] population would you estimate is patients of color (e.g., Black / African American, Hispanic/Latino/a, Asian / Pacific Islander, or Native American)?

10% or less	7%	<b>NET 25% OR LESS: 24%</b>
11%–25%	16	
26%–50%	38	<b>NET 51% OR MORE: 37%</b>
51%–75%	25	
More than 75%	12	
Unsure	1	

29. What is your gender? Are you . . .

Male	33%
Female	66
I identify differently	*

30. What is your age? [CODE AS A NUMERIC VALUE]

18–24	*
25–29	4%
30–34	12
35–39	15
40–44	15
45–49	13
50–54	11
55–59	10
60–64	9
65+	10
Unsure	*

31. And just to make sure we have a representative sample, what is your race or ethnicity? You may select all that apply. **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES]**

White/Caucasian	56%
African American / Black	3
Hispanic/Latino/Latina	9
East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, Taiwanese, etc.)	19
South Asian (Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Nepalese, Sri Lankan, etc.)	6
Filipino	6
Other Asian (Thai, Cambodian, Laotian, etc.)	1
Pacific Islander	1
Middle Eastern	2
Native American (Apache, Cherokee, Lakota, Navajo, etc.)	1
Other: specify _____	1
Unsure	1

32. Have you ever gotten tested for COVID-19? If you prefer not to say, please indicate that.

Yes	66%
No	31
Prefer not to say	3
Unsure	*

**[IF Q32 = YES, ASK Q33] (n = 790)**

33. And have you ever tested positive for COVID-19? If you prefer not to say, please indicate that.

Yes	7%
No	92
Prefer not to say	1
Unsure	*

**[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]**

34. Thank you for your participation. If you had any technical or other issues with the survey, or if there is anything else you would like to add about the topics of the survey, please share with us in the box below. **[OPEN-END, INSERT TEXT BOX]**

Nothing to share

**Thank you for your participation.**

## **About the Authors**

Goodwin Simon Strategic Research (GSSR) is an independent opinion research firm with decades of experience in polling, policy analysis, and communications strategy for clients in the public and private sectors. GSSR's Partner Amy Simon, Senior Research Director John Whaley, and research analyst Andrea Hackl all contributed their thought leadership to this survey research in collaboration with the California Health Care Foundation.

## **About the Foundation**

The California Health Care Foundation is dedicated to advancing meaningful, measurable improvements in the way the health care delivery system provides care to the people of California, particularly those with low incomes and those whose needs are not well served by the status quo. We work to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford.