

California Health Providers' Attitudes Regarding a COVID-19 Vaccine, March 2021 Topline Results

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In mid-February 2021, approximately two months into the rollout of two COVID-19 vaccines that had received emergency use authorization, the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), in conjunction with Goodwin Simon Strategic Research, conducted a statewide survey of California health care providers regarding opinions and attitudes around COVID-19 vaccines. This survey is the second in a two-part study and includes questions to measure changes in opinions since the first survey was conducted in early December 2020. Please see the full report for comparisons of the results between the two waves of the study.

This study was conducted February 17–28, 2021, among 1,202 health care providers. The full report is available at www.chcf.org/publication/california-health-providers-attitudes-regarding-covid-19-vaccine-march-2021.

Key findings include:

- Statewide, 91% of health care providers have received one (7%) or both (84%) doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of those who have not, 13% say they will “never” get the vaccine, representing 1% of the total sample.
- Eighty-five percent of providers who have been vaccinated agree that they are *less worried about contracting COVID-19 at work*, and 74% agree that they are *less worried about giving someone else COVID-19*.
- Eighty-seven percent of providers believe new variants will make it “much” (21%) or “somewhat” (66%) harder to get the pandemic under control.
- Approximately three in four providers favor their employers (74%) or the state of California (73%) mandating that health care providers get a COVID-19 vaccine.

Here is a breakdown of provider types who were interviewed.

Respondent Type	Specialty	Quantity
MD/DO	PCPs and other mixed specialty as listed in Question 5 below who treat patients/residents. Can work in any of the settings listed in Question 6 below, including skilled nursing, assisted living, or long-term care facilities.	501
NP/PA	NPs/PAs who treat patients/residents	351
Nurse	Nurses who treat patients/residents	288
Provider at long-term care facilities	Direct providers at skilled nursing (SN), assisted living (AL), or long-term care (LTC) facilities, referred to below as “LTCF providers”	300

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESPONSES

Following is the complete questionnaire with responses.

NOTES:

* indicates that fewer than one half of one percent of respondents gave that response.

-- indicates that no respondents gave that response.

Due to rounding, totals may equal a few points more or less than one hundred.

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]**

Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma	21%
Rural North: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yuba	3
Greater Sacramento: El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo	6
Central Coast: Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Ventura	6
Central Valley: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare	5
Los Angeles County: Los Angeles	28
San Diego / Orange: Orange, San Diego	23
Inland Empire / Desert: Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino	7

2. Would you describe where you primarily practice as:

A large city with about a half-million people or more	53%
A smaller city	22
A suburb near a city	18
A small town or rural area	7
Unsure	1

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)	6	
Yes, both	16	
No, neither	--	TERMINATE
Unsure	--	TERMINATE

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

MD	37%	
DO	4	
Nurse Practitioner (NP)	18	
Physician Assistant (PA)	11	
Respiratory Therapist	--	
RN	25	
LPN/LVN	4	
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)	*	
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)	*	
Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)	1	
Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)	*	
Dietitian	2	
Occupational Therapist	*	
Physical Therapist	3	
Speech Therapist	*	
Other	1	
Prefer not to say	--	TERMINATE
Unsure	--	TERMINATE

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

5. What is your medical specialty? (n=852)

Primary care (general and family practitioner, general internist)	43%
Specialist (medical specialist, surgeon, OB/GYN, radiology)	24
Pediatrics	11
Psychiatry	6
Emergency medicine	8
Other (Please specify)	9
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 RESPONSE]

Emergency department	13%	TOTAL HOSPITAL: 60%
In-patient hospital	32	
Out-patient clinic or service within a hospital such as cardiology, radiology, or specialty clinics (excluding ED)	33	
Out-patient surgery center or infusion (chemotherapy) or dialysis clinic	6	TOTAL NON-HOSPITAL: 47%
Urgent care center	12	
Community health center or clinic, free or reduced fee clinic, or public health center	14	
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	6	
Skilled nursing facility (SNF) or nursing home	10	
Residential care facility (assisted living or long-term care)	7	
Home health care	8	
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 (Q6 ≠ 1:7, 10, 11), USE “RESIDENT” LANGUAGE BELOW]

7. 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 AS “SAFETY NET-PROVIDER”]

None	4%	TOTAL NOT SAFETY-NET PROVIDER: 34%
Less than 30%	29	
30% to 50%	27	TOTAL SAFETY-NET PROVIDER: 61%
51% to 75%	16	
More than 75%	18	
Unsure	5	

8. Are you currently providing direct in-person care to patients with COVID-19?

Yes	61%
No	33
Unsure	6

Responses by subgroup

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
Yes	69%	53%	61%	56%
No	24	42	33	39
Unsure	6	5	6	5

9. Have you already received a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, I received the first dose	7%	TOTAL RECEIVED VACCINE: 91%
Yes, I received both doses	84	
No, I have not received a COVID-19 vaccine	9	
Unsure	--	

Responses by subgroup

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
Yes, I received the first dose	5%	8%	9%	7%
Yes, I received both doses	89	81	80	82
No, I have not received a COVID-19 vaccine	6	11	11	11
Unsure	--	--	--	--

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
TOTAL RECEIVED VACCINE:	94%	89%	89%	89%

[ASK Q10 IF HAVE NOT RECEIVED VACCINE/UNSURE IN Q9]

10. When a COVID-19 vaccine becomes available to you, when would you want to get it? (n=109)

Immediately	20%
In one or two months	17
In three or four months	14
Wait longer than that	22
Never	13
Unsure	15

[ASK Q11 IF HAVE NOT RECEIVED VACCINE/UNSURE IN Q9]

11. Have you been offered the vaccine? (n=109)

Yes	70%
No	29
Unsure	1

[ASK Q12 IF RECEIVED VACCINE IN Q9]

12. Having received a COVID-19 vaccine, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following. (n=1,093)

	RANDOMIZE	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable	Unsure
a.	I am less worried about contracting COVID-19 at work	41%	47%	8%	4%	*	1%
b.	I am less worried about giving someone else COVID-19	31	43	15	9	*	2
c.	I feel more freedom to go out in public or be around others outside of work	24	46	17	10	*	2

[RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS]

13. In your opinion, when do you think everyone in the United States who wants a COVID-19 vaccine will have had the opportunity to get it?

March/April	2%
May/June	13
July/August	36
September/October	23
November/December	12
2022	11
2023 or later	1
Never	--
Unsure	2

[ASK Q14 IF (HAVE NOT RECEIVED VACCINE/UNSURE IN Q9 AND Q10 NOT IMMEDIATELY]

14. For you personally, how important are each of the following in your decision to not get a COVID-19 vaccine immediately when it becomes available to you? **[RANDOMIZE] (n=87)**

	RANDOMIZE	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	A little important	Not important at all	Unsure
a.	I am concerned about side effects, including unknown side effects	51%	28%	11%	8%	2%	--
b.	Not enough evidence of vaccine efficacy	33	25	17	11	11	1
c.	The vaccine approval process was too rushed	37	22	18	7	13	3
d.	I am pregnant or plan to get pregnant in the future	23	8	6	3	59	1
e.	I am concerned about negative impacts due to underlying medical conditions I have	11	22	14	11	41	--
f.	I want to wait until more people have gotten the vaccine	28	25	18	9	18	1
g.	There is no long-term evidence about the safety of vaccines	44	29	13	7	8	--
h.	I am uncomfortable with the mRNA technology in these vaccines	30	17	18	10	16	8
i.	I believe I can recover fully if I get COVID-19	33	22	20	3	15	7
j.	I am concerned clinical trials did not include enough people like me	30	26	16	6	15	7

[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]

15. Aside from increasing the number of vaccine doses available, what do you think are the one or two most important things that should be done to improve California’s COVID-19 vaccination program?

Educate public/address hesitancy/dispel anti-vaxxers	22%
Ease of scheduling appointments	18
More vaccine sites/locations	18
More supply/vaccine equity	10
Pharmacy/doctor’s offices/clinics administer vaccines	10
Integrated system/better organization	9
Clear guidelines/communication	9
Available for underserved communities	8
Accessibility – general	8
Vaccinate elderly/high-risk/essential	6
Mobile vaccinations/drive-thru vaccinations	6
More staff to provide vaccines	5
Safety/side effects of vaccine	5
Less restrictions/release tiers/move forward	4
Mass vaccinations	3
Vaccinate teachers	2
Distribution mention	2
Less bureaucracy/less government	2
No wasted vaccines/refusals	1
Vaccines mandated	1
Free vaccines/no matter if insurance	1
Enforce masking/more PPE/masks	1
Need more trials	1
Social distancing/limited travel/less socializing	1
Community leader/celebrity promotion of vaccine	1
Bilingual mentions	1
Pediatric dosing	*
Pay people to administer	*
Variant monitoring/research	*
Vaccinate families together	*
Proper storage mentions	*
Other	4
N/A/none/nothing	1
Don’t know/refused	1

16. Thinking about the challenges facing California’s COVID-19 vaccination program, how serious of a problem do you consider each of the following?

	RANDOMIZE	Extremely serious Problem	Very serious problem	Somewhat serious problem	Not too serious a problem	Not a problem at all	Unsure
a.	A lack of vaccine supply	48%	30%	17%	3%	1%	1%
b.	Not enough health care workers to administer the vaccine	13	20	32	23	8	3
c.	A lack of funding for state and local agencies to administer the vaccine	21	31	25	11	4	8
d.	The system for the general public to make vaccination appointments	37	32	24	5	1	1
e.	A lack of coordination between the federal government and state government	36	33	20	7	1	4
f.	A lack of coordination between state government and the organizations and health systems administering the vaccine	33	35	22	6	1	3
g.	Public distrust of the vaccine	23	31	34	10	1	1
h.	State or local agencies giving confusing or conflicting information to the general public	31	33	23	11	1	1
i.	Inequitable access to the vaccine for people with low incomes	30	31	20	10	6	4
j.	Inequitable access to the vaccine for people of color	28	30	19	10	8	5

17. As you may know, new variants of COVID-19 have been detected in the United States. When it comes to getting the pandemic under control, do you think these new COVID-19 variants will make it much harder, somewhat harder, or have no real impact on getting the pandemic under control?

Much harder	21%
Somewhat harder	66
No real impact	10
Unsure	4

Responses by subgroup

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
Much harder	20%	23%	18%	19%
Somewhat harder	65	66	67	65
No real impact	12	6	10	12
Unsure	3	5	4	4

18. How concerned are you that new COVID-19 variants may reduce the efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines?

Very concerned	27%	TOTAL MORE CONCERNED: 70%
Somewhat concerned	43	
A little concerned	25	TOTAL LESS CONCERNED: 30%
Not concerned at all	4	
Unsure	1	

Responses by subgroup

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
Very concerned	25%	29%	28%	26%
Somewhat concerned	45	44	40	44
A little concerned	27	24	25	22
Not concerned at all	4	3	6	7
Unsure	*	1	1	1

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
TOTAL CONCERNED:	69%	73%	68%	70%
TOTAL LESS CONCERNED:	31	26	31	29

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

Strongly favor	49%	TOTAL FAVOR: 73%
Somewhat favor	24	
Somewhat oppose	11	TOTAL OPPOSE: 24%
Strongly oppose	13	
Unsure	3	

Responses by subgroup

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
Strongly favor	57%	46%	41%	54%
Somewhat favor	22	27	22	19
Somewhat oppose	9	9	15	9
Strongly oppose	10	13	17	15
Unsure	2	5	6	2

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
TOTAL FAVOR:	79%	73%	63%	73%
TOTAL OPPOSE:	19	22	32	25

20. 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	50%	TOTAL FAVOR: 74%
Somewhat favor	24	
Somewhat oppose	10	TOTAL OPPOSE: 23%
Strongly oppose	13	
Unsure	3	

Responses by subgroup

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
Strongly favor	58%	48%	40%	54%
Somewhat favor	23	26	24	20
Somewhat oppose	8	9	15	9
Strongly oppose	10	12	18	15
Unsure	2	5	5	2

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
TOTAL FAVOR:	81%	74%	63%	74%
TOTAL OPPOSE:	17	22	32	24

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

21. 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)	17
Medical group-owned practice	13
A hospital-owned or hospital system-owned practice	18
Self-employed / own practice	10
A city	1
A county (including a county-owned hospital)	6
A health care district	1
The University of California	5
The State of California, other than the University of California	2
The federal government	2
Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)	6
Other (please specify)	8
Unsure	2

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

1-5	19%
6-10	11
11-25	13
26-50	9
51-100	8
101-250	9
More than 250	29
Unsure	3

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

Every year	90%
Most years	4
Just some years	1
Rarely	1
Never	3
Unsure	*

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

10% or less	8%	TOTAL 25% OR LESS: 28%
11% to 25%	20	
26% to 50%	32	TOTAL 51%+: 39%
51% to 75%	25	
More than 75%	13	
Unsure	2	

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
10% or less	6%	6%	9%	14%
11% to 25%	24	18	16	26
26% to 50%	37	28	30	30
51% to 75%	23	26	27	20
More than 75%	10	20	13	8
Unsure	1	2	5	3

	MD/DOs	NP/PAs	Nurses	LTCF Providers
TOTAL 25% OR LESS:	30%	23%	26%	40%
TOTAL 51%+:	33	47	40	28

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

Male	31%
Female	69
I identify differently	*

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

18–24	*
25–29	4%
30–34	11
35–39	16
40–44	14
45–49	13
50–54	12
55–59	10
60–64	9
65+	10
Unsure	*

27. 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	53%
African American/Black	3
Hispanic/Latino/Latina	10
East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, Taiwanese, etc.)	18
South Asian (Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Nepalese, Sri Lankan, etc.)	5
Filipino	8
Other Asian (Thai, Cambodian, Laotian, etc.)	1
Pacific Islander	1
Middle Eastern	3
Native American (Apache, Cherokee, Lakota, Navajo, etc.)	1
Other: specify _____	1
Unsure	1

28. 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.