

University of Vermont

UVM ScholarWorks

Family Medicine Clerkship Student Projects

Family Medicine Community

2021

Attitudes Towards the COVID Vaccine

Micheal Mikheal

University of Vermont

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/fmclerk>



Part of the [Medical Education Commons](#), and the [Primary Care Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Mikheal, Micheal, "Attitudes Towards the COVID Vaccine" (2021). *Family Medicine Clerkship Student Projects*. 619.

<https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/fmclerk/619>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Family Medicine Community at UVM ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Family Medicine Clerkship Student Projects by an authorized administrator of UVM ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uvm.edu.



Attitudes Towards the COVID Vaccine

CVMC BERLIN, VT

FAMILY MEDICINE ROTATION 6: JAN-FEB 2021

MICHEAL MIKHEAL

MENTORS: DR. JOSE LOPEZ & DR. DALE STAFFORD

Problem Identification and Need

- ▶ What are the attitudes of the community towards COVID vaccination?
- ▶ What sources does the community utilize for information regarding the vaccine?
- ▶ Is there a need for extensive community outreach and education about receiving the COVID vaccine?



Public Health Burden

- ▶ The State of Vermont, its institutions, and individual Vermonters received over \$4.8 billion in funding from the CARES Act.
- ▶ Notably, \$304 million to Hospitals and \$24 million to community health centers.

STATE OF VERMONT

Office of the Vermont State Auditor

Summary of Federal COVID-19 Funding to Vermont as of 12/31/2020

Federal Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$1.2 billion
Small Business - Paycheck Protection	\$1.2 billion
Federal Unemployment Insurance ¹	\$758 million
Economic Impact Payments	\$571 million
Small Business - Economic Injury Disaster Loans	\$393 million
Hospitals	\$304 million
State	\$272 million
Coronavirus Food Assistance Program ²	\$70 million
Higher Education	\$24 million
Community Health Centers	\$24 million
FEMA Disaster Loans	\$17 million

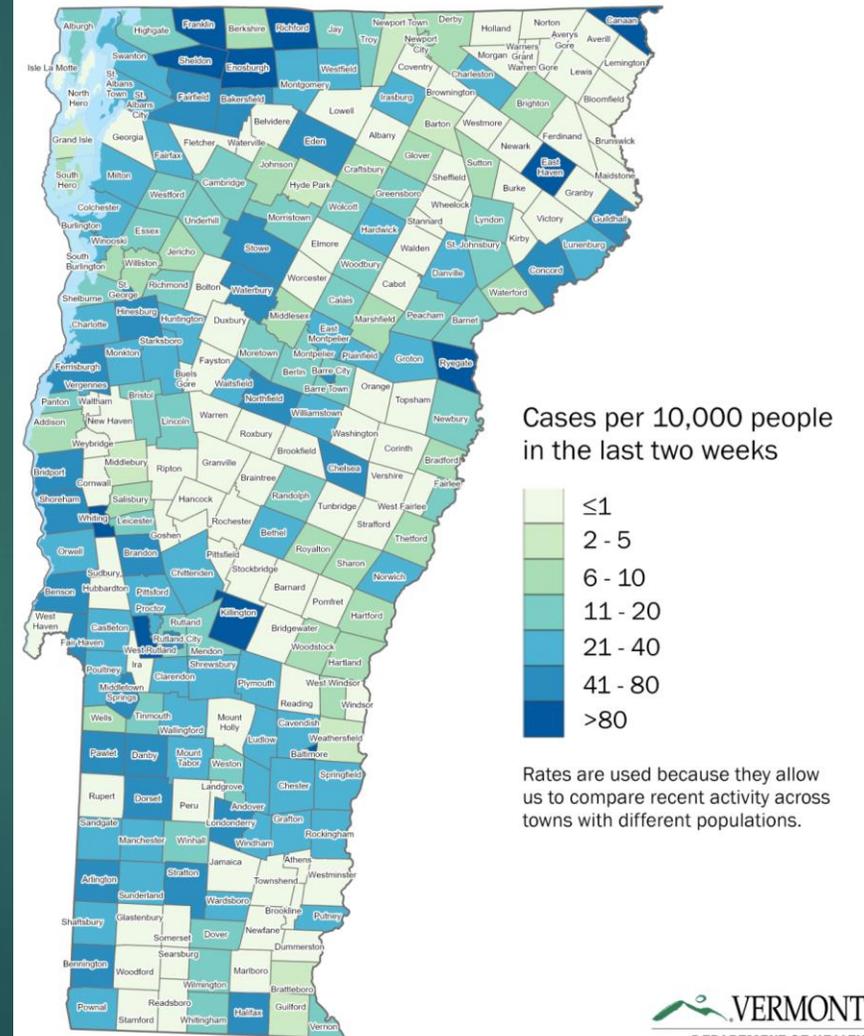
¹ This represents Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits, and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits. It does not include state unemployment payments, which total \$389 million.

² This program provides financial assistance to agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Dairy farmers have received the majority of this funding in Vermont.

Public Health Burden (cont.)

- ▶ There have been 23 positive results in Berlin, VT since 3/5/20 according to Vermont Department of Health
- ▶ Neighboring cities of Montpelier, Barre Town, and Barre City with 137, 75, and 504 positive results respectively since 3/5/20.
- ▶ Washington County is noted to have ≤ 1 case per 10,000 between 2/4/21-2/17/21.

Data from 02/04/2021 to 02/17/2021



Community Perspective

- ▶ Dale Stafford, MD: *“Nearly 100% of my patients have been in favor of the vaccine, in fact they have been anxious to receive it. I have not yet encountered a patient who was not willing to receive the vaccine. Some patients did inquire about side effect concerns. Others mentioned news reports of deaths in nursing homes in Sweden. Although they mentioned these concerns, they were still willing to receive the vaccine. I also had questions about whether patients should wait until the vaccine that is only 1 dose, and I advise them not to wait.”*
- ▶ Jose Lopez, MD: *“Most of my patients want the vaccine, in fact I have not had any patients who have said they would not want it. I receive many questions about age brackets and comorbidities to qualify for the vaccine. If I was to encounter a patient who would not want the vaccine, I would first attempt to understand what their concerns were and ethically present the available research of the medical community.”*

Intervention and Methodology

- ▶ A quick, anonymous, and non-judgmental survey was presented to patients at the Berlin Family Medicine Clinic at CVMC.
- ▶ As part of a group project, the same survey was also presented to patients at Milton Family Medicine.

COVID-19 vaccination questionnaire - All information provided is anonymous and confidential.

Please Circle Your Answers, you may choose more than one answer for question #3

1. Have you received a vaccine (at least one dose) against covid-19?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - If YES, which one?
 - a. Pfizer
 - b. Moderna
2. If NO, would you voluntarily receive a Covid-19 vaccine when it becomes available to your group?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Unsure
 - If YES, do you have a preference in the brand of vaccine?
 - a. Pfizer
 - b. Moderna
 - c. no preference
 - If NO or UNSURE, what are your concerns?

3. What are your preferred sources of information about the vaccine?
 - a. Traditional newspapers (paper or online)
 - b. Local News
 - c. Cable News
Which one (s) _____
 - d. Government Websites (CDC, VT Dept of Health, Etc.)
 - e. Primary Peer reviewed articles (NEJM, Nature, Science)
 - f. Social Media
Which one(s) _____
 - g. Other Sources (please list) _____
4. How often do you receive a flu (influenza) vaccine?
 - a. Every year
 - b. Some years
 - c. Rarely
 - d. Never

Responses

Attitudes

- ▶ ~95% of patients reported that they already have or would be willing to receive the COVID vaccination.
- ▶ ~5% of patients reported that they would be *unsure* about receiving the vaccine due to its “rapid creation and unknown long-term effects.”
- ▶ 0% of patients reported refusal of the vaccine.

Sources (Combined)

- ▶ 52% - Government websites (CDC, Vermont Department of Health)
- ▶ 52% - Local News Sources
- ▶ 14% - Newspapers
- ▶ 9.5% - Cable News
- ▶ 9.5% - Social Media
- ▶ 5% - Primary Care Physicians
- ▶ 5% - Primary research articles

Effectiveness and Limitations

Effectiveness

- ▶ The survey was able to quantitatively assess the attitudes of the community towards receiving the COVID-19 vaccination by participants.
- ▶ The survey was also able to gather data regarding which sources of information were most utilized in the community by participants.

Limitations

- ▶ The survey is only able to gather information regarding patients who were willing to take the survey.
- ▶ Only a limited number of responses were collected which may not entirely represent the community.

Recommendations

- ▶ This survey could be used as a tool to assess attitudes of patients regarding COVID vaccination in highly impacted areas depending on the amount of responses.
- ▶ Can be used to identify sources of information which may contribute to negative attitudes towards vaccination which can be further explored.
- ▶ Can be utilized as an easy and non-judgmental tool for physicians to understand why a patient may not want to receive the vaccine.

References

- ▶ COVID-19 Federal and State Expenditures. Office of the Vermont State Auditor, <https://auditor.vermont.gov/content/covid-19-federal-and-state-expenditures-0>.
- ▶ “COVID-19 in Communities.” Vermont Department of Health, <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/covid-19-communities>.