



COVID-19 Among African Americans

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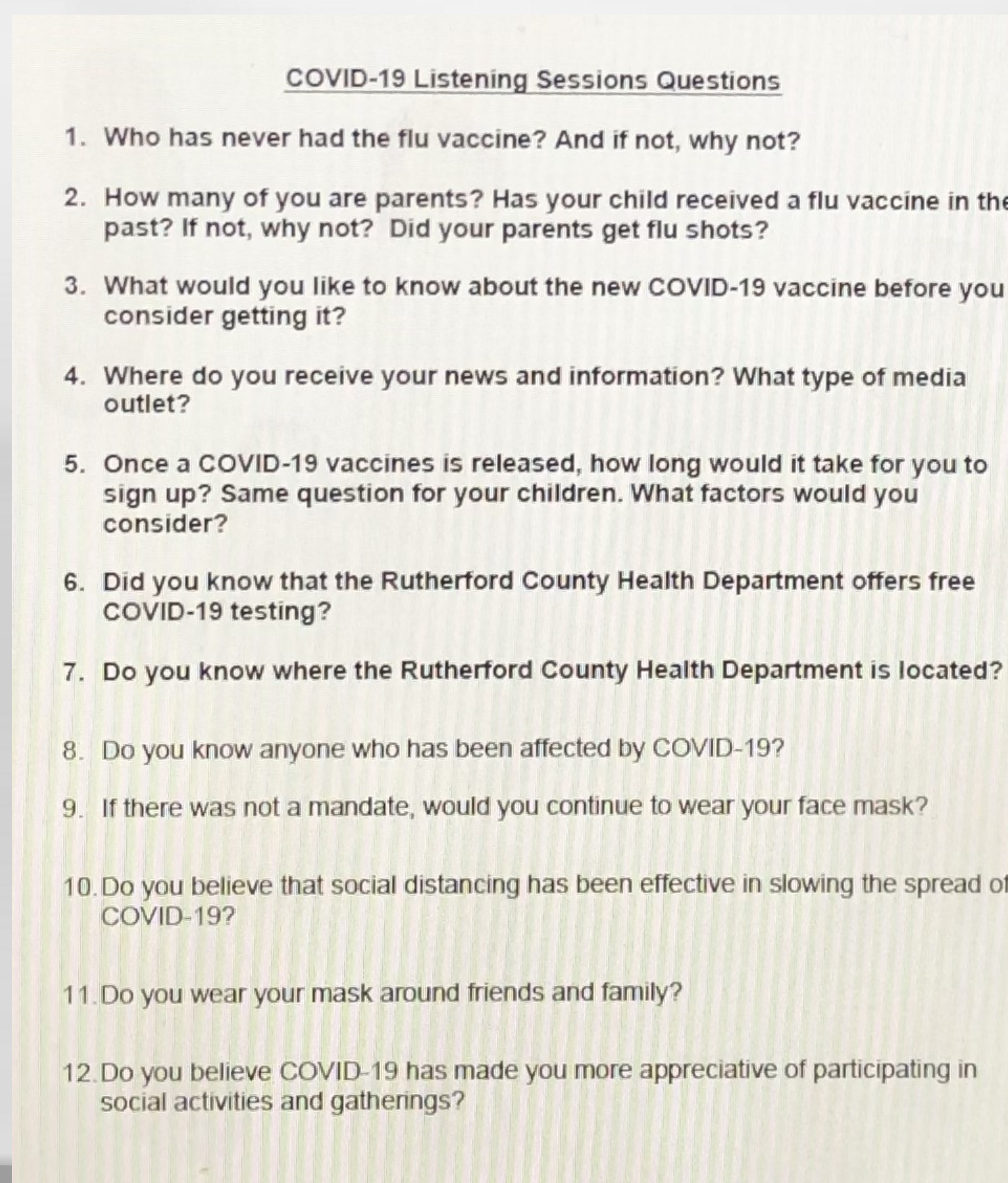


Purpose

The aim of this study is to ascertain the thoughts and personal habits/behaviors of African Americans from the ages of 18 and older at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and in the Murfreesboro, TN area. As with most diseases, African Americans have higher mortality rates with COVID-19. As a result, many black and brown people feel a strong sense of unease. Thus, the responses will hopefully share their primary concerns/issues.

Demographic

The Target Demographic for this intervention are African American women eighteen (18) years or older from any socioeconomic background who live in Murfreesboro, TN or attend Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). However, if participants do not meet these criteria; they will not be excluded if they would like to participate (excluding survey participants, they must be students). Consequently, anyone under eighteen (18) years or older will be the only individuals unable to participate.



Methods

Participants for the “Listening Sessions” were asked for participation via Facebook and individual social networking via text. This was done by advertising flyers to solicit participants.

The “Listening Sessions” were conducted via Zoom. To obtain every individuals upmost opinions, four “sessions” were conducted for a total of forty-eight (48) individuals.

With the intention to accurately account these interactions and opinions, the “Listening Sessions” were recorded. Subsequently, the information was transcribed.

Prior to beginning the session, each person was shown and explained the details of a consent form. Then, each participant was sent a consent form via Google Docs that had to be returned prior to contributing.

Finally, each participant was asked how they were recruited for the “Listening Sessions” to find which method of promotion was most effective and will be used for forthcoming research.

Outcomes

The outcomes of this project are as follows:

- 1) Most of the participants would like to know are there any unfavorable outcomes if they were to take the vaccine.
- 2) Over eighty-seven (87) percent of participants self-reported they wear a mask anytime they are in public or within proximity with others.
- 3) A significant number of participants knew the Rutherford County Health Department offers free testing due to advertisement via radio and social media.
- 4) Most participants only get the flu shot if required for work and many have never received the vaccine.
- 5) Over 95% of the group knows someone who has been affected by COVID-19.
- 6) Most individuals under 21 would not wear a mask if there was not a mandate.

Student Lessons Learned

Lessons learned from this project are:

- 1) The usage and benefits of modern technology has allowed me to conduct comprehensive research without having to risk anyone’s health during a pandemic.
- 2) In order to get the full benefit from research findings from participants, it is better to host more listening sessions to get a more accurate account towards research.
- 3) People of color are concerned about the speed the vaccine was created and the side effects.

Community Partner Acknowledgements

- ⦿ Middle Tennessee State University Dance Team
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- ⦿ Pi Nu Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha