COVID-19: Why I decided to get vaccinated
It’s okay to be unsure about getting the COVID vaccine. Here’s why we, a group of Black Penn Medicine physicians, decided to say yes!

**Dr. Eugenia (Gina) South**
Emergency Medicine

Three weeks ago, I was a hard NO to getting the vaccine and yet here I am. I was concerned about a rare long-term side effect, but I went ahead because I don’t want to die from COVID-19 or suffer from the long-term, lingering side effects.

**#1 My daughter:** I can now get rid of the DAILY worry I’ve had since March about exposing my asthmatic child to COVID.

**#2 My patients:** I chose to model the behavior of a physician who is fighting on the frontlines and now wants to turn up the heat on ridding us of this pandemic. I also want to encourage patient vaccination, when available to them.

**#3 My ancestors:** As a Black physician, I have the opportunity to be on the right side of medical history—something they did not have a choice in—and perhaps begin to do my part to impact the bitter and disappointing history of racial injustice in medicine.

**Dr. DaCarla Albright**
Obstetrics and Gynecology

I have the opportunity to be on the right side of medical history—something they did not have a choice in—and perhaps begin to do my part to impact the bitter and disappointing history of racial injustice in medicine.

**Dr. Meghan Lane-Fall**
Anesthesiology and ICU

#1 I’m a scientist who knows that this is our best chance to turn the corner on the pandemic. #2 Black people have too often been denied cutting edge science and I’m determined to be at the front of the line this time. #3 I have people to care for and want to make sure that I am in the best shape to look out for them. #4 I don’t have time to be sidelined by COVID.

**Dr. Florencia Greer Polite**
Obstetrics and Gynecology

I am not usually an early adopter, so here is why I got the COVID vaccine now:

- I believe in science.
- This is NOT a live virus vaccine.
- The benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks of the vaccine and certainly outweigh the risks of COVID-19.
- I did this for my family and for my patients.

We don’t know everything about it but I am comfortable with the information we do have.

**Dr. Raina Merchant**
Emergency Medicine

I’ve never been so excited to be #15! I did this for my family, my community, and my patients.

---

**FACTS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE:**

- The COVID-19 vaccine does not include any of the live virus that causes COVID-19
- COVID-19 vaccines will not cause you to test positive on COVID-19 viral tests
- People who have gotten sick with COVID-19 may still benefit from getting vaccinated
- Getting vaccinated can help prevent getting sick with COVID-19
- The manufacturers reported 95% efficacy of the vaccine based on clinical trials

The initial study group of 30,000 participants found few side effects as the vaccine components are found in most packaged medications.