

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

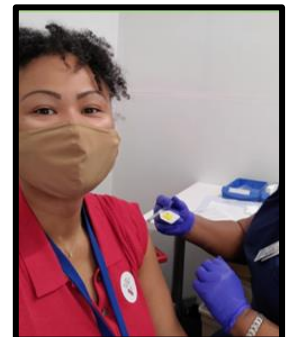
Obstetrics and Gynecology



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:

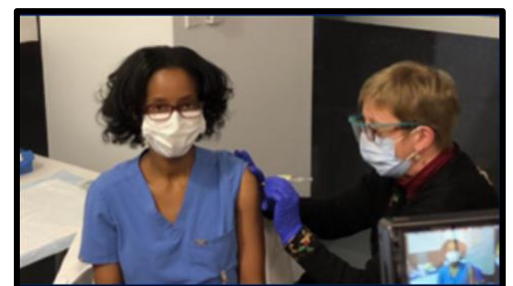
- I believe in **science**.
- This is **NOT a live virus** vaccine.
- The **benefits** of the vaccine outweigh the risks of the vaccine and certainly outweigh the risks of COVID-19.
- I did this for **my family** and for **my patients**.

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