Dear Black Community,

As Black physicians, we would like to have an honest conversation about the COVID vaccine. You must make an informed decision for yourself. We are not here to judge. We are not here to scold. We would like to talk to you to address your concerns.

We know that there has been a lot of misinformation about this vaccine. We know that there has been a lot of mistrust about this vaccine. We understand that this is a confusing and frustrating time.

The goal is for all of us to stay alive. As of today, we have lost over 550,000 people in the United States due to COVID-19. Millions more COVID-19 survivors are battling long term effects of this illness including chronic lung disease, heart disease, kidney disease, and neurological disease. As we remain focused on preventing more devastation caused by the COVID-19 virus, we want to discuss your concerns. We desire to help you make an educated decision. We believe that your best option will be to take the vaccine. However, if you are worried that it is not, we want to address your concerns.

We admit that there are a lot of things that we do not know. Will the vaccine work for new COVID variants? Will we need to have the COVID-19 vaccine each year like the flu vaccine?

You can be reassured that there are many more things that we do know, such as the current vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective by following the normal process for vaccine approval. The only difference is that we are in an emergency situation, so the vaccines were approved for emergency use slightly sooner than usual.

We want you to know that we have read the studies ourselves. In fact, we had to make the same decision for ourselves and our families. In an effort to demonstrate our commitment to educating the community, some of us participated in the vaccine trials. We have also led by example and took our shot. We received the vaccine.

If you have made your decision to receive the vaccine already, that is a great option. If you still need help deciding, we encourage you to discuss it with us one-on-one in your upcoming visits to allow us to answer your questions and concerns to help you make an informed decision. We also encourage you to learn more by visiting the COVID19 Community Resources website: covid19communityresources.com

Sincerely,

– Black Physicians & Community Leaders
Black Physicians & Community Leaders

Nita Walker, MD, FACP
Professor of Medicine
University of Cincinnati

Esly S. Caldwell, II, MD, MPH, FRCP(C), FAAP, FACP
Physician
Cincinnati Medical Association

Bill Buckley, MD, FACOG
TriHealth

Janelle R. Bowers
Regional Medical Director
Sound Physicians

Emmett Roper, MD
Population Health Medical Director
Cincinnati Market
Bon Secours Mercy Health

Roosevelt Walker III, MD
Associate Program Director/TriHealth Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency Program
Cincinnati Medical Association

Conrad R. Cole, MD, MPH
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Chris Lewis
Professor of Family and Community Medicine
UC Health

Charles O. Dillard
Physician
Cincinnati Medical Association

Camille Graham, MD, FAAP
Pediatrician, Regional Medical Director
Mercy Health Cincinnati

Emmett C. Roper, MD, FACP
Bon Secours Population Health Medical Director
Bon Secours Mercy Health

Estrelita Dixon
Cincinnati Medical Association

Anthereca E. Lane
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Lane Women’s Health

Louito Edje, MD, MHPE, FAAP
Associate Dean, Graduate Medical Education
University of Cincinnati Medical Center

Danielle Johnson, MD, FAPA
Chief Medical Officer
Lindner Center of HOPE

William Randall Cox, MD
Montgomery Family Practice

Clyde E. Henderson, MD
Cincinnati Evaluation and Consulting, LLC

Robyn F. Chatman, MD, MPH, FAAP, CPE, CPHIMS, CHEP
Area Medical Director

Henry Akinbi
Professor of Pediatrics/Neonatologist
Perinatal Institute, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Keith Melvin, MD
Physician
Bon Secours Mercy Health

Paul A. Waller
TriHealth

Harold Taylor, MD
Cincinnati Medical Association

Keevin R. Davis, MD
Cincinnati Medical Association

Lisa Johnson
Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Alvin H. Crawford, MD, FACS, Hon Caus Gr, UC
Professor Emeritus, University of Cincinnati
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
University Of Cincinnati College Of Medicine

Basil Williams
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
University of Cincinnati

Don Scott Long, MD
TriHealth Physicians and Surgeons

Kenneth Davis Jr., MD
Emeritus Professor of Surgery
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Angelique Waller
Physician
Cincinnati Medical Association

William Randall Cox, MD
Cincinnati Medical Association

Thomas Shockley
Orthopaedic Surgeon
TriHealth

Denise Davis, MD
Cincinnati Medical Association

Alexandra Sims
Assistant Professor and Attending Physician
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Deawodi Ladzekpo
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Brittany R. Carter
Resident Physician

Oluwole Awosika, MD, MSCR
University of Cincinnati Medical Center

Whitney Wellenstein, MD
Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology Fellow
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Bi Awosika, MD, FACR SFHM
Hospitalist, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
UC Health

Victoria Hartwell, MD
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellow
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Edmond Irankunda
Physician
UC Health

Xavier Douglas, MD
The Christ Hospital

Emmanuel Chandler, MD
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Mia Mallory, MD
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Danielle Evelyn, MD
Resident Physician
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Tasha Johnson
Pediatrician
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Derek Kwakye
Internal Medicine Resident
University of Cincinnati Medical Center

Donald Lynch
Assistant Professor of Medicine
University of Cincinnati

Arthur Wall, MD
Associate Professor of Emergency
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Ndidi Unaka, MD, MEd
Pediatric Hospitalist
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Orson J Austin
Professor of Family Medicine
University of Cincinnati

Thomas Aviles, MD
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Erica Hughley, MD
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

Yemisi Jones
Assistant Professor
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Michael A. Thomas, MD
Professor
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Camille Jones, MD, MPH
Public Health Consultant

Chineze Ebo
Pediatric Resident Physician
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Lester S. Duplechan
Cincinnati Medical Association

Monica Mitchell
Professor & Senior Director of Community Relations
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

Marc Galloway, MD
Mercy Health

Keith M. Wilson, MD
TriHealth

Leon A. Reid III, MD
Ophthalmologist
Cincinnati Eye Institute
A message from the Black Physicians & Community Leaders

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