



IntelligenSEER

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mRNA



Introduction

There are three basic camps when it comes to the mRNA vaccine. One camp believes the next generation vaccine will provide positive results for humankind and allow us to return to our normal lives. Another camp feels a strong sense of hesitancy and will wait to see what happens to others who rush to get this first ever messenger RNA vaccine. Finally, a third camp, the smaller of the three in numbers, but still significant, will refuse to take this unprecedented vaccine.

Who is right? Will those with hesitancy and fear towards the vaccine be singled out or scapegoated? Will governments mandate the mRNA vaccine? Will governments press employers to require proof from employees? Will it be entirely left up to each state to determine, and for those that do, will there be a mass exodus of citizens looking to realign geographically with those of similar beliefs?

In this issue, we'll have a special focus on race. Given America's legacy of inhumane experimentation (notably the Tuskegee Experiment), it is necessary to gauge how African-Americans feel about this first-time vaccine.

We'll show levels of intensity regarding the various sentiments, as well as provide insight into approximate sizes of each camp, and portend what it all means for the future of America? All of this from our Dec. 14, 2020 online nationwide poll of US Adults.

Main St. – K St. IntelligenSEER - Issue No. 12

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Written by Jeremy Zogby

The two COVID-19 Vaccines produced by Pfizer and Moderna are the first of their kind – lab created mRNA strands put into vaccines aimed to alter our immune system at the cellular level. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Statement A: *The mRNA vaccine is new to the field of immunology and will produce positive results for humankind in the near and long-term future.*

Statement B: *The short and long-term effects of mRNA vaccines are largely unknown and could cause irreversible harm for those who receive the vaccine.*

	Overall	White	Hispanic	Black
Positive Results	34%	36%	39%	25%
Could Cause Harm	36%	33%	33%	47%
Not Sure	30%	31%	28%	29%

The numbers above reveal two strong sentiments – hope for the mRNA vaccine’s effectiveness and grave concern over it. Both cut across race cohorts.

But when drilling down, the numbers here suggest the Tuskegee experiment still exists in the hearts and minds of a large segment of African Americans.

Note this is the first issue in the IntelligenSEER that has not included political party or ideology.

It is arguably for the better that party affiliation/ideology were not collected in this survey as our hyper-partisan environment would likely boil this comprehensive report down to a “Trump” or “Biden thing.” As seen in the numbers above, **it is bigger than that.**

Regarding the mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine, which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Statement A: *The severity of the pandemic requires accelerated production and distribution of a vaccine for COVID-19. The FDA must find ways to rush this to as much of the public as soon as possible.*

Statement B: *While there are claims that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe, the reality is that vaccines take years of testing and still cause serious injuries and even death. This vaccine is not ready.*

	Overall	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Rush ASAP	41%	44%	33%	37%	52%
Vacc. Not Ready	37%	41%	44%	36%	26%
Not Sure	22%	15%	23%	27%	22%

Clearly, age too has clear divide within most of the cohorts. An exception is the 65+ who are more vulnerable to infections like COVID-19. Even still, over one-quarter are concerned about the mRNA vaccine potentiality to cause harm and over one-fifth are not sure.

When you think about the mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Statement A: *It makes me feel like safety is around the corner and that we can all return to our normal lives soon.*

Statement B: *It makes me feel worried because it is being rushed to distribution and needs a lot more testing.*

	Overall	White	Hispanic	Black
Feel Safety	39%	43%	37%	37%
Feel Worried	41%	36%	44%	44%
Not Sure	21%	21%	19%	19%

Looking at race, again there is still stark division within each cohort over a sense of relief that the mRNA vaccine is around the corner vs. those who feel safety testing standards have been lowered. In fact, pluralities of Hispanics and African Americans feel more worried than safe.

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Statement A: *I will take the mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to me.*

Statement B: *I prefer to wait and see if it negatively affects other people who get it.*

Statement C: *I don't want to get this new mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine.***

	Overall	White	Hispanic	Black
Will Take ASAP	30%	35%	23%	29%
Wait & See	39%	37%	49%	31%
Don't Want It	16%	15%	16%	24%
Not Sure	14%	13%	19%	16%

Here, we put the question in actionable form. In this instance, Hispanics by far show the most hesitancy and African Americans show the most resistance.

****What is the Reason [for not taking it]?** Follow up to those who answer Statement C, N = 163

Reason	Overall
Never Take Vaccines	33%
mRNA Won't Work	21%
Afraid of Side Effects	67%
I'm Healthy Don't Need	29%
COVID is Not Dangerous	22%
No Compensation If Injured	39%

We thought it was important to follow up with those who don't want to take the mRNA vaccine. The above table breaks down the sentiment. The basic split can be interpreted as those who either feel they are healthy and therefore don't need it, don't believe vaccines are effective, or those afraid of side effects. In other words, we have added depth and dimension to the camp that will refuse. **The most popular reasons** are notably fear of side effects and that manufacturers have legal immunity.

How safe do you feel a mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine will be for you (and your child) when made available?

	Overall	White	Hispanic	Black
Safe	50%	51%	58%	47%
Unsafe	25%	23%	24%	33%
Not Sure	25%	26%	18%	21%

Here the mRNA vaccine witnesses a boost of support. Over half of Hispanics and nearly half of blacks believe it will be safe when made available.

Of course, nobody wants to believe that their government is either reckless or out to get them. The problem is, **still nearly one-quarter of whites, nearly one-quarter of Hispanics, and one-third of African Americans believe it won't be safe.** Still, many are not sure (which by definition can translate to "hesitancy"). Combining the two, then overall, half of the population either don't think it will be safe and are uncertain about its safety.

This is a problem for the CDC, FDA, and Pfizer. How will they deal with half of the population's hesitancy/rejection as they scramble to roll out the mRNA vaccine?

Do you support or oppose your employer requiring a mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine in order to remain employed?

	Overall	East	South	Grt Lakes	West
Support	36%	43%	36%	30%	37%
Oppose	35%	29%	37%	38%	32%
Not Sure	7%	8%	10%	5%	5%
Does Not Apply	23%	20%	18%	28%	26%

A geographic breakdown of this question raises the issue - what happens if states press or even mandate employers to require the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine to maintain employment? Does that translate to an exodus out of states that will require employers to see proof of employees' vaccination and into states that won't? Will some states mandate/press and others not? Though we can't provide statistically significant data per each state in a sample of 1,000, we can get a picture by looking at region in the next question.

Do you support or oppose your state government mandating a mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine?

	Overall	East	South	Grt Lakes	West
Support	45%	53%	43%	40%	48%
Oppose	40%	36%	39%	45%	37%
Not Sure	15%	12%	18%	15%	15%

While there is already a mass exodus out of big cities, as well as out of states like California, New Jersey, New York, etc. (which even preceded COVID-19, but accelerated with the pandemic), the data in this report suggests another exodus could be underway if states mandate or require employers to have their citizens/constituents get the mRNA vaccine.

But the mother of all questions is...

Do you support or oppose the federal government mandating a mRNA based COVID-19 vaccine for Americans?

	Overall	East	South	Grt Lakes	West
Support	44%	53%	42%	39%	46%
Oppose	42%	36%	41%	47%	41%
Not Sure	14%	11%	17%	14%	14%

What is the Likely Outcome?

With numbers like these, a federal mandate would be a bold move. It's one thing for the newly elected president to impose his political will over the defeated party – but it's another thing when the issue gets skin deep. State mandates are more likely.

On the state level, again with numbers like these, governors that choose the path of a statewide mandate face a slippery slope as the population that have fear and are hesitant about getting the mRNA vaccine will demand exemptions (medical, philosophical, or religious). If they are not granted by and large, governors will face exodus and there goes a significant portion of the tax base.

If so, this great migration would be perhaps the most diverse in American history as the data reveals this is beyond a partisan thing.