



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 30, 2021

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Michigan hosting virtual town hall about COVID-19 vaccine for parents and families

Discussion to focus on questions of vaccine safety and side effects

LANSING, Mich. – As Michigan parents and adolescents have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, the State of Michigan is hosting the next in a series of community town halls on Thursday, July 8 at noon with parents and medical experts. The event will be livestreamed at [Facebook.com/MichiganHHS](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganHHS) and will cover COVID-19 and vaccine questions such as side effects, MIS-C, myocarditis, fertility, and more.

This builds upon virtual conversations that have been held with [faith-based leaders](#), [communities of color](#), [older adults](#), [first ladies in the faith community](#), [local government](#), and [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#) communities, about the safety, efficacy and importance of the COVID-19 vaccines for safely reopening Michigan. Michigan will continue to host additional town halls in partnership with public health and community leaders.

“Michigan families have faced untold challenges during the pandemic, and now we have the opportunity to protect ourselves and our children by getting the COVID-19 vaccine,” said Elizabeth Hertel, director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “I’m grateful to the parents and eligible youth who have already gotten vaccinated, and those who are seeking credible information to understand the best ways to protect themselves and those who are unable to receive the vaccine.”

The event will be moderated by Veronica McNally, founder of the Franny Strong Foundation and I Vaccinate, and consumer representative on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Joining her on the panel are:

- Dr. Rachel Young, DO, family doctor, McLaren Oakland - Ortonville Family & Internal Medicine
- Andrea Secrease, executive director of Early Learning at Greater Midland
- Dr. Tisa Johnson-Hooper, MD, pediatrician, Henry Ford Hospital
- Dr. Rosalyn Maben-Feaster, MD, OB-GYN, Michigan Medicine
- [Derrick Worthey](#), father and blogger, This Worthey Life
- [Zayd’n Worthey](#), son and blogger, This Worthey Life

In order to reach community-wide immunity that can protect others who cannot get vaccinated, Michigan is working to vaccinate at least 70% of residents. Almost 5 million Michiganders 16 and older, or 61.7%, have received at least their first dose of the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine. The goal of the town hall series is to address the safety and efficacy of the vaccine by answering questions within specific communities, including families with children older than 12 who are eligible to be vaccinated.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus). To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine](https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine).

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