



STORIES + RESOURCES  
ABOUT COVID VACCINATION

**VAX VOX**

**A COMMUNITIES FOR  
IMMUNITY PROJECT**

*the  
peale*



# HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT



**The Peale, Baltimore's Community Museum, has been gathering stories about COVID and vaccination.**

In 2021, a coalition of national museum and library associations awarded the Peale a grant for the Communities for Immunity project, an effort to build vaccine confidence and fight the pandemic in local communities.

Based in the oldest museum building in the United States, the Peale's core mission is to amplify the stories of real people in our community. Therefore, we turned to the community itself to help us gather perspectives about vaccination and life during the pandemic. Our community's thoughts, opinions, and experiences are reflected here in hopes that they resonate with someone you know who may still be questioning whether to get vaccinated.



## Themes and Audience

In this toolkit, you'll find links to audio stories from all age groups. The "Topics" indicator offers details about what each storyteller discusses. Be mindful that some stories deal with mature themes, like the deaths of family members, drug use, and suicide. All stories include English/Spanish transcripts.

The toolkit also features links to contemporary fables that subtly explore responsibility and accountability. In addition, you'll find a webinar/slides about medical trust, current COVID data, and even an opportunity to wander through a virtual maze with the "Vax Vox" exhibition in Second Life.



# 4,598,041 VACCINATIONS AND COUNTING IN MARYLAND



As of April 2022, nearly 4,598,041 Marylanders (about 76.39%) have been fully vaccinated. But, that leaves around 24% of us **unvaccinated**. We won't beat around the bush, the purpose of this short toolkit is to encourage **more** folks to get the jab.

We think the first step is hearing from others who have already been vaccinated. On the following page, you'll hear stories from Marylanders who opted to get the shot.

**"I WAS SO NERVOUS, BUT OTHER THAN THAT, I HAD TO DO WHAT I HAD TO DO. IT'S COOL. I'M HERE."**

**—TAVON PHILLIPS**

Tavon isn't the only person who was nervous about getting the vaccine. The goal of this toolkit is help reassure people that their hesitation is normal, but that in the end, "you have to do what you have to do," as Tavon muses in his story.

For those interested in the science behind vaccination, how viruses work, learnings from doctors, and more, we encourage users to seek additional resources on the [Smithsonian's "Vaccines and US" website](#).



Tavon Phillips, Baltimore, 2022. Photo by Daisy Brown



**At the bottom of each page, check out a few questions for thought or discussion with your group.**

# HEAR PERSPECTIVES ABOUT VACCINATION



## **Joy Ross, Nurse**

**Topics:** Making connections with youth, trust, education  
[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(6:02 minutes)



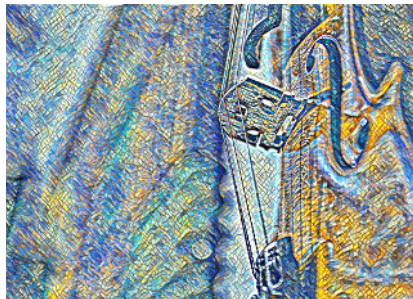
## **Cherring Spence, Activist**

**Topics:** Loss, education, polarization, masking  
[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(25:11 minutes)



## **Aissata Sy, Student**

**Topics:** Misinformation, research, vaccine hesitancy  
[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(4:23 minutes)



## **Tristan Stefanović, Student**

**Topics:** Loss, normalcy, stress relief, confidence, friendship  
[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(6:33 minutes)



## **Jay'Quan Washington, Peale AAA Apprentice**

**Topics:** Fear, illness, humor  
[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(3:11 minutes)



## **Taco, Student**

**Topics:** Vaccination, side effects, hope, expectations  
[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(1:12 minutes)

### **More stories: See [full English/Spanish transcripts on the Peale's website.](#)**

- [Tayler Mugar: On Vaccine Mandates, Covid Symptoms, and Wellness](#) (20:11)
- [Tavon Phillips: Anxiety Over Getting Vaccinated, Baltimore](#) (1:02 minutes)
- [Lula Rose: Feeling Sick After the Vaccine, Maryland](#) (0:32 seconds)
- [Timon: Just Staying Safe, Maryland](#) (0:33 seconds)



**Name two reasons people give for not getting vaccinated.  
Can you understand these perspectives?  
Talk about how you might show empathy for others' opinions.**



# HOW COVID HAS AFFECTED BALTIMOREANS LIKE YOU



**Pauline Charles, Darley Park Neighborhood President**

**Topics:** Mental health, drugs, neighbors, death, family, sadness, food insecurity

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(18:46 minutes)



**Pat Jones, Immigration Outreach Service Center**

**Topics:** Immigration, refugees, tutoring, ESL, education, faith

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(24:32 minutes)



**Michelle Fisher, University of Maryland Hospital**

**Topics:** Essential workers, prayer, confidence, social experiences, isolation

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(10:11 minutes)



**Ronald Charles, Darley Park Neighborhood Resident**

**Topics:** Economy, masking

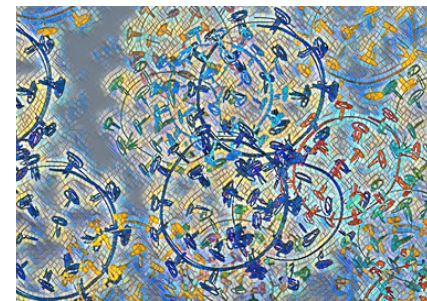
[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(5:49 minutes)



**MonTressa Trips, Outreach Coordinator**

**Topics:** Resilience, isolation

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(26:57 minutes)



**Adi and Kaden, Students**

**Topics:** Loss, virtual school, friendship, preparation

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(17:48 minutes)



Some storytellers seem hopeful, while others are more pessimistic. What are your thoughts about the future as it relates to the pandemic? What might it take to finally put COVID-19 behind us?



# STUDENTS AND TEACHERS REFLECT ON PANDEMIC LIFE



These stories were part of the "Covid Chronicles" program by the Stoop Storytelling Series, recorded at the Baltimore School for the Arts, March 26, 2022. Original images of storytellers by Aaron Curtis.



## **Charity, Baltimore Student**

**Topics:** Dance, fun, normalcy, spirituality, family, mental health, prayer

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(9:26 minutes)



## **Sammy, Baltimore Student**

**Topics:** Aspirations, food, culture, mentors, cooking, high school, homeschooling,

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(9:31 minutes)



## **Nefer, Baltimore Student**

**Topics:** Mental health, isolation, suicide, trauma, meditation, courage

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(10:22 minutes)



## **Chisom, Baltimore Student**

**Topics:** Introversion, self expression, confidence, connections, friendship, community, teamwork

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(10:49 minutes)



## **Malia, Baltimore Student**

**Topics:** Family, virtual school, illness, sisters, care, emotion, isolation, courage, resilience

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(7:28 minutes)



## **Paul Best, Teacher**

**Topics:** Ancestors, family, adolescence, teaching, problem solving, self regulation

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(9:52 minutes)



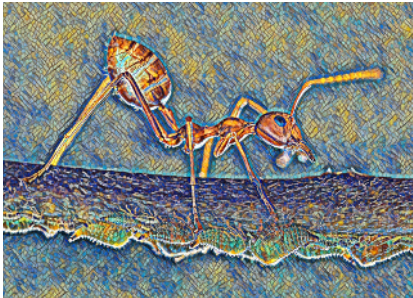
**Can you relate to the feelings these students expressed? Name three activities you enjoy. How might you incorporate those things into your daily life to relieve stress and help you cope?**



# LEARNING FROM TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY STORIES



Mama Linda Goss is the Peale's storyteller-in-residence as well as a performer in the African diasporic oral tradition. Here, she shares well-known and personally inspired fables that offer key lessons about our collective survival in the COVID-19 era.



## **The Ant and the Grasshopper Fable**

Topics: Preparation, friendship, collaboration

*English | Spanish Transcript*  
(7:21 minutes)



## **The Welcome Table of Peace Fable**

Topics: Conflict, openness, respect, creativity

*English | Spanish Transcript*  
(10:27 minutes)



## **When Spiders Unite Fable**

Topics: Destruction, misunderstandings, respect, listening, standing up

*English | Spanish Transcript*  
(13:10 minutes)



## **Great Aunt Essie Fable**

Topics: Fear, technology, generations, experience

*English | Spanish Transcript*  
(10:56 minutes)



## **Waiting on the Lord Fable**

Topics: Preparation, family, listening, stubbornness

*English | Spanish Transcript*  
(10:25 minutes)



## **Gifted Hands, Gifted Minds**

Topics: education, history, teaching, healthcare

*English | Spanish Transcript*  
(17:22 minutes)



**How might these tales help someone understand what we are going through right now? Which story resonated with you the most?**



# WEBINAR AND SECOND LIFE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION



## **COVID-19 and the Black Community** **Webinar** and **Companion Slides**

**Creator:** Chrys Seawood (top) is a Baltimore-based artist and educator. Her work inside and outside of the classroom centers the experiences of Black lives in her community and beyond.

**Topics:** Injustice, inequality, history, Tuskegee experiments, Henrietta Lacks, how vaccines work, herd immunity

[English](#) | [Spanish Transcript](#)  
(21:56 minutes)

- [Video Webinar](#)
- [English Slide Presentation](#)
- [Spanish Slide Presentation](#)

## **Vax Vox Exhibition in Second Life**

**Creator/Background:** This virtual exhibition is open 24 hours a day. Installed by our partners at Virtual Ability, Inc., the interactive experience is a story maze! As you walk through the maze, you'll be able to hear/read vaccination and COVID stories, but are you prepared to encounter the surprise at the center of the maze? We hope, after reviewing this toolkit, you will be! Create an avatar and explore.

If you need assistance setting up your Second Life account or avatar, please contact our friends at [Virtual Ability](#).

**Topics:** Virtual worlds, gaming, interactivity, exhibitions, storytelling, accessibility



**After watching the webinar, are you surprised by any of the information? Does it change your thoughts about vaccination in general?**

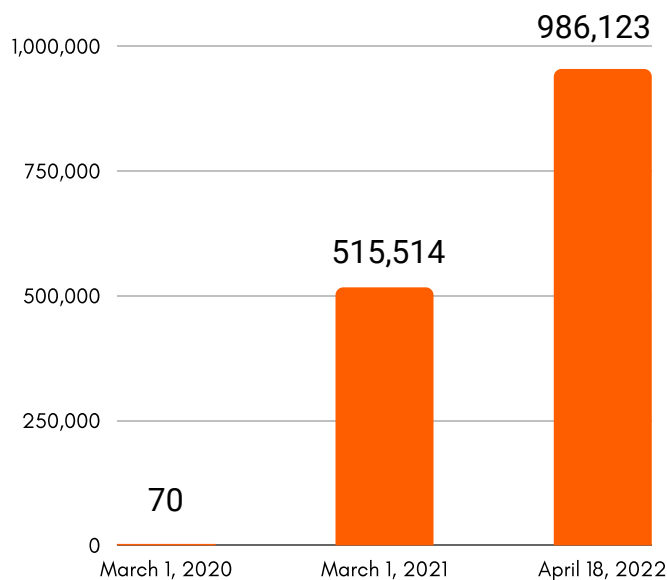


# BY THE NUMBERS



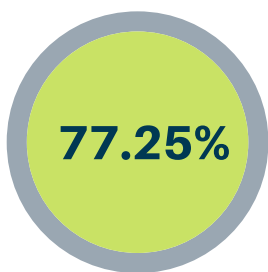
## COVID DEATHS

The numbers are grim, but the facts speak for themselves: Nearly ONE MILLION people have died from COVID-19 in the United States as of April 2022. And, the disease is still with us, despite the easing of masking and social distancing practices.

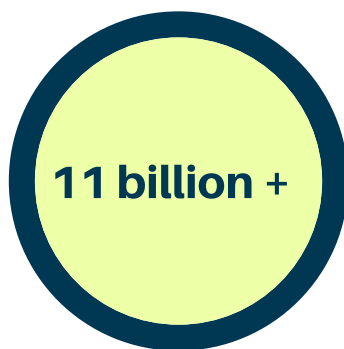


**"UNVACCINATED PERSONS HAD 13.9 AND 53.2 TIMES THE RISKS FOR INFECTION AND COVID-19-ASSOCIATED DEATH . . . COMPARED WITH FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS WHO RECEIVED BOOSTER DOSES."**

**—CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**



Percentage of U.S. population that has received at least one dose (April 2022)



11,212,915,179 billion doses of vaccine given in the world so far. That's roughly 17.5 million each day. (April 2022)



See the data for yourself. Please visit:  
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html> and  
<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>



# ABOUT THE PEALE AND PROJECT PARTNERS



## The Peale, Baltimore

The Peale is a community museum located in Baltimore, Maryland, and a place where anyone can contribute their story to the city's cultural and historical narrative. Together with creators and storytellers of all kinds, we're actively redefining the role of museums in society and building the largest archive of Baltimore stories in the world.

We'd love to hear from you if you've used this toolkit or listened to the stories contained within it. Feedback is the cornerstone of our mission. Please email us [online@ThePeale.org](mailto:online@ThePeale.org).

**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS: THE STOOP STORYTELLING SERIES, WHITNEY FRAZIER, LAUREL STEWART, CHRYS SEAWOOD, DAISY BROWN, MAMA LINDA GOSS, AARON HENKIN, DR. DAVID FAKUNLE, NIA HAMPTON, & VIRTUAL ABILITY.**

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities.

The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in the recordings for this project do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. If you have any question about whether your product requires this statement, please contact the Office of Communications at 202-653-4757.



**Submit YOUR own story about COVID and vaccination for the Baltimore Stories archive at the Peale.**