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# Insights into Unvaccinated Military-Connected Families

Sneak Peek: April 2020 Pulse Check Results

**Fielding Dates: April 1-12, 2021**

n=2,468 military-connected families

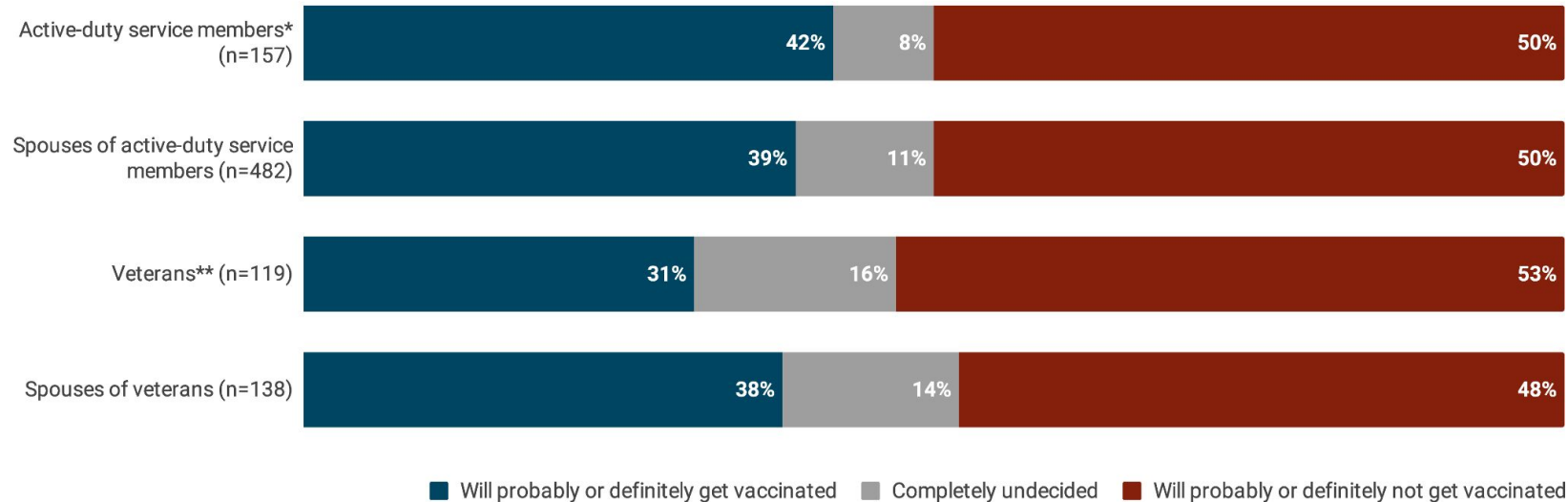
# Plans to Receive the Vaccine



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## About half of **unvaccinated military-connected respondents without an appointment** will probably or definitely get vaccinated

Among respondents who have not received at least one dose of the vaccine and do not have an appointment scheduled



Responses to: "Understanding that the COVID-19 vaccine remains voluntary, if a COVID-19 vaccine is available to you at no cost, will you definitely get vaccinated, probably get vaccinated, probably not get vaccinated, definitely not get vaccinated, or are you completely undecided about whether you will get vaccinated?" \*The active-duty service member sample is weighted to be more representative by gender, age, race, rank, and branch \*\*The veteran sample is weighted to be more representative by gender n= number of respondents who provided a response to this question

# Understanding Vaccine Choices: Spotlight on Hesitancy



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## Concerns about vaccine effectiveness, safety, and distrust over development process remain in all groups

Among respondents who have not received at least one dose of the vaccine and who say they will not, or are undecided

	Active-Duty Service Members* (n=94)	Active-Duty Spouses (n=290)	Veterans** (n=82)	Spouses of Veterans (n=86)
Concerns about COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness	59%	51%	53%	52%
Concerns about COVID-19 vaccine safety and unknown side effects	55%	83%	69%	78%
Distrust of COVID-19 vaccine development process or timeline	49%	70%	49%	55%
Distrust of vaccines in general	49%	30%	19%	30%
Don't believe the coronavirus is a threat to me or my family	36%	41%	25%	22%
Personal religious beliefs	34%	40%	14%	20%
Difficulty getting an appointment that works with my schedule	22%	2%	1%	3%
Would like to get more information about the vaccine from my doctor	20%	7%	14%	11%
Personal health reason (e.g., pregnancy, immunocompromised, etc.)	19%	32%	16%	39%
Difficulty traveling to vaccine site	17%	1%	3%	0%
Unable to take time off of work to receive vaccine	16%	1%	5%	1%

Responses to: "Which of the following factors influenced your decision not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine? Please select all that apply." \*The active-duty service member sample is weighted to be more representative by gender, age, race, rank, and branch \*\*The veteran sample is weighted to be more representative by gender n= number of respondents who provided a response to this question

## Further Insight

*Among military-connected family respondents who have not received at least one dose and do not have an appointment*

**Knowing someone matters:** 40% of respondents who know someone who has been vaccinated say they will receive the vaccine, compared to 29% who don't know anyone

**Majority of COVID-19 survivors oppose:** 65% of respondents who had COVID-19 lean against the vaccine

# Understanding Vaccine Choices: Spotlight on Motivation



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## Top motivating reasons for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine

Combined top-three responses among all respondents, regardless of vaccination status

### Active-duty service members\* (n=485)

Tie -

**57%** To ensure our national security by protecting the force and ensuring that it is mission ready &

**57%** To protect my family and loved ones

“The reason I received the vaccine was to keep the military and my family and the community safe.”

— Active-Duty Service Member

### Active-duty spouses (n=836)

**90%** To protect my family and loved ones

“My spouse is deployed. I am parenting alone for several months. I need to do what I can to stay safe and healthy for the sake of my family.” — Military Spouse

Responses to: “Below are reasons that members of the military community have given for why they will get or did get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please rank, in order of importance, the three reasons that you personally find to be the most motivating reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine.”

\*The active-duty service member sample is weighted to be more representative by gender, age, race, rank, and branch  
n= number of respondents who provided a response to this question

# Understanding Vaccine Choices: Spotlight on Motivation



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## Top motivating reasons for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine

Combined top-three responses among all respondents, regardless of vaccination status

### Veterans\* (n=395)

**87%** To protect my family and loved ones

“I am acting as a concerned citizen who wants to protect my family and others from getting sick with COVID-19. I wear my mask, practice social distancing, and feel that getting the vaccine is just another important step in doing my part.” – Veteran

### Spouses of veterans (n=288)

**92%** To protect my family and loved ones

“I am a registered nurse and caregiver of a 100% service-connected disabled veteran. Getting the vaccine was simply non-negotiable. I got it as soon as I could, and sought out an opportunity for my spouse and myself.”  
– Spouse of a Veteran

Responses to: “Below are reasons that members of the military community have given for why they will get or did get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please rank, in order of importance, the three reasons that you personally find to be the most motivating reasons to get the COVID-19 vaccine.”

\*The veteran sample is weighted to be more representative by gender

n= number of respondents who provided a response to this question

# Recommendations



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## Offer Choice



of active-duty service member\* respondents say choice in vaccine increases likelihood of receiving it (n=144)

Among respondents who have not received the vaccine and do not have an appointment



### Other subgroups report the same:

- 43% of active-duty spouse respondents (n=444)
- 41% of veteran\*\* respondents (n=112)
- 48% of spouse of veteran respondents (n=125)

## Guarantee Time Off



of active-duty service member\* respondents report difficulty obtaining an appointment that works for their schedule (n=94)

Among respondents who have not received the vaccine and who will not, or are undecided



### No other subgroups report the same:

- 16% of active-duty service member\* respondents report they are "unable to take time off work" to receive the vaccine (n=94)

## Increase Information



of active-duty spouse respondents do not know if the vaccine is available to them (n=483)

Among respondents who have not received the vaccine and do not have an appointment



### Other subgroups report the same:

- 20% of veteran\*\* respondents (n=120)
- 34% of spouse of veteran respondents (n=138)

\*The active-duty service member sample is weighted to be more representative by gender, age, race, rank, and branch; \*\*The veteran sample is weighted to be more representative by gender; n= number of respondents who provided a response to this question