

Why I Got the COVID-19 Vaccine

Kaiser Permanente staff and physicians share why they chose to vaccinate.

Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center began vaccinating our staff and physicians on December 17—just days after the vaccines became available for use. A few of our frontline staff and physicians share why they decided to get the COVID-19 vaccine.



"I was the first respiratory therapist to take care of our first intubated COVID case back in March. I'm very excited that I got the opportunity today, and I hope that when the time comes, the majority of people will get the vaccine so that we can get on top of this and get some control over this pandemic."

--Matthew Hwang, Respiratory Therapist

"It's just so difficult and so sad to see what this disease is doing to our patients. It doesn't discriminate against age or race, or anything like that. We've seen people of all walks of life get sick and pass away. Taking the vaccine is kind of a hope that we can finally get through this."

--Lilliana De La Torre, RN, Intensive Care Unit

"I chose to get vaccinated because I believe in science and I love my patients. I take care of very fragile and sick babies and I owe it to them and their families. I think we physicians have a responsibility to lead by example and be accountable for the faith our patients place in us."

--Dr. Rohit Passi, Neonatologist

"I deal with COVID patients all day long, nonstop, 24/7, so I felt like I needed to get it for me, my patients, and my family. I would like to make sure that everyone understands that, just because a few people got the vaccine, it doesn't mean that this is over. We need the vast majority of people to get it."

--Dr. Larry Tom, Pulmonologist

"To stop this pandemic and do the right thing to protect myself, my family and the patients I care for. There are not enough words to express the feeling of relief, hope and gratitude I felt getting my first dose."

--Dr. Lisa Agustines, Ob/Gyn

"I was skeptical about side effects at first. After considering, I realized I needed to protect my family as well as myself. I felt a little tired with a sore arm for two days after. But since then I've felt great. It's a relief to know I'm better protected against the virus."

--Dr. Rebecca Alleyne, Surgeon

"Here are my reasons: my family, my colleagues, and my patients. The science is well done and based on research from 10 years ago when the SARS-1 vaccine was developed. The vaccine is also safe and over 90% effective. This is an easy action I can take to make a huge difference!"

--Dr. Charu Soni, Pediatrician

