

## Fact Sheet: Museums and COVID-19 Vaccinations

*The American Alliance of Museums offers the following information related to museums and COVID-19 vaccinations. The information shared here is based on the best available information as of publication. Museums are encouraged to seek legal and other expert advice on their specific circumstances.*

Ending the COVID-19 pandemic, stemming the death toll, and enabling people to return to work hinges on our country's ability to effectively distribute and administer the vaccinations that have proven effective against the novel coronavirus. Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has said that the US will reach "herd immunity" (at which point unvaccinated individuals have significant protection from the virus) when [around 70 to 90 percent of the population has been vaccinated](#). At the [current rate of vaccination](#), the country will reach the bottom end of that range in July 2021. Many variables affecting the rate of vaccination, such as supply and distribution, are outside the control of individual organizations. But museums can and are helping to accelerate the vaccination roll-out by building confidence in the vaccine, and by serving as accessible, community-based vaccination centers.

### Building Vaccine Confidence

One of the biggest barriers to effective community vaccination is "[vaccine hesitancy](#)." Currently only 67 percent of Americans have been vaccinated or plan to get a vaccine. As [trusted sources of information](#), museums can play a significant role in promulgating accurate information about the safety and efficacy of vaccines.

Here are some vaccine resources that museums can draw on in creating their own programs and messaging to build confidence in vaccination:

### Centers for Disease Control

- » [Community-Based Organizations COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#) – designed for staff of organizations serving communities affected by COVID-19. This toolkit will help your organization educate community members about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and address common questions and concerns.
- » [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines](#) – provides communication and social media toolkits, including print resources and graphics.
- » [General Vaccination Patient Education](#) – including a variety of educational information about vaccines and the diseases they prevent.
- » [Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#) – a clear explanation, written for the non-scientist, of how the various COVID-19 vaccines work.

- » [COVID-19 Vaccine: Helps protect you from getting COVID-19](#) – provides brief answers to frequently asked questions about COVID-19 vaccines—including safety, efficacy, and availability—and shares what people can expect after they are fully vaccinated.

### National Informal STEM Education Network

- » [COVID-19 Vaccine Museum Resources](#) – provides resources including the recording of a workshop on the role museums can play in the roll-out of the vaccine; links to educational products created by museums for public audiences around viruses, COVID-19, and vaccinations in general; tips for science communication around COVID-19; a collection of public perception and audience research around COVID vaccination; and posters, signs, graphics, and social media resources museums can use in their own campaigns.

### Examples of Museums Providing COVID-19 and Vaccine Education

**The Franklin Institute** in Philadelphia has produced [a series of videos](#) providing the latest information about COVID-19 and vaccination, as well as exploring the science behind combatting the disease.

**The New York Hall of Science** produced an interactive graphic novel called [Transmission Gone Viral](#), following three teenagers as they discover that West Nile virus is the culprit behind a mysterious illness haunting their neighborhood. (Includes an accompanying guide for educators.) Published in 2019, this does not address COVID-19 directly, but is an accessible introduction to epidemiology and public health.

On March 26, 2020, the **Museum of Science, Boston**, hosted a [free, community-wide town-hall forum](#) in collaboration with WGBH public radio to discuss the latest details about COVID-19.

The **Smithsonian** museums have created a number of relevant resources, including:

- » A Do-it-Yourself exhibit called [Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World](#)
- » A webinar series from the National Museum of Natural History [contextualizing the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- » [Pandemic Perspectives](#), a series of recorded conversations from the National Museum of American History exploring the historical context and dimensions of the pandemic.

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### Support Free COVID-19 Resources for the Museum Field

The current crisis is taking a distressing financial toll on cultural organizations, and AAM is no different. In these challenging times, we ask that if you can, consider supporting our [advocacy work](#) and making extensive [COVID-19 resources](#) freely available for our field, by [making a donation](#) or [becoming a member](#) of AAM. Thank you for your much-needed support.