
TITLE: Understanding the determinants of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and uptake among diverse communities in South Africa

Short title: Determinants of COVID-19 Vaccine hesitancy and uptake

SUMMARY

Low acceptance and poor uptake of COVID-19 vaccines are a threat to public health systems globally and in South Africa. Reduction in morbidity and mortality is dependent on large-scale vaccination in order to establish the required herd immunity level that will effectively reduce the transmission of the virus. This study examines the determinants that may be facilitators and barriers to the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and non-pharmaceutical methods in the prevention of infection and disease.

The determinants include social, religious, political and communication factors. The study will be qualitative and quantitative and will be conducted in Tshwane. Participants 18 years and older will be enrolled and 400 people from the general public will participate in a cross sectional survey and 20 in-depth interviews. The findings of this study will be used to engage with the South African Departments of Health, Education and Social Development towards enhancing and developing new strategies to improve COVID-19 vaccine uptake and non-pharmaceutical prevention methods

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- The aim of the study is to explore the facilitators and barriers to vaccine uptake & hesitancy in Tshwane.
- The overall study objectives are:
 - To identify the sources of information that may influence understanding and decision making on the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines
 - To determine the influence of historical and current political factors on responses to COVID-19 infection and prevention methods particularly vaccines
 - To understand the role of ethnicity and religion on responses to COVID-19 infection and disease and uptake of COVID-19 vaccine