

Dear Fight COVID Milwaukee antibody study participant and partner,

We deeply appreciate your important participation in our project!!

Thanks! We are deeply grateful to 20 primary care health centers at Froedtert Health, Ascension/MCW Family Health Centers, and Outreach, Progressive, and 16th Street Community Health Centers. We sent study recruitment letters to 220,000 of their patients and they provided space for our interactions with participants. We are also very thankful to faith and community partners, newspapers and radio stations for partnership, advice, science cafes, pop up events, and promotion of our project across Milwaukee, especially to black and brown communities.

Participants: On September 30th, we ended our COVID antibody tests and surveys. We had 4,152 diverse adults in Milwaukee County consent to participating. Among those who completed surveys, 42% were black, indigenous, or people of color, 47% enrolled in Medicare, and 20% enrolled in Medicaid. Ninety percent got at least one COVID vaccine, 24% had a positive COVID PCR test, 11% have long COVID symptoms, and 7% had a family member tragically die of COVID.

Antibody tests: From April 2021 to July 2022, 3,045 had baseline antibody tests; 95% were spike protein positive for signs of protection, 18% were nucleocapsid positive for signs of recent past infection. From August 2021 to September 2022, 1,516 had follow up antibody tests; 97% were spike positive and 15% capsid positive. During the omicron surge in April 2022, 47% were nucleocapsid positive.

Risk tool: From March 2021 to September 2022, 72,897 people visited our website and 42,077 used our COVID risk estimation tool at <https://fightcovidmilwaukee.org/individual-risk-estimator>. We held focus groups with 79 community members and 8 public health officials about the risk tool, communicating risk, and views of vaccines and related manuscripts under review. We are analyzing recently provided state data about vaccines, infections, and deaths through June and will update the risk tool with more omicron and vaccine effectiveness information this fall.

Research findings: In August, we presented a Fight COVID MKE progress report for National Center for Advancing Translational Science leaders visiting the Clinical and Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin. The slides are posted at <https://fightcovidmilwaukee.org/reports>. Our research team at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Northwestern University has found COVID excess mortality, when compared with non-COVID deaths from natural causes, disproportionately affecting young Hispanic men and women in Wisconsin and Indiana. In another study, the elderly in Milwaukee had substantial relative COVID mortality risk after two-dose vaccination, especially in the omicron period. Third booster doses provided important protection. While manuscripts are being reviewed for peer-reviewed scientific publications, the first study report can be read at https://papers.ssm.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3706392.

Community engagement: Dr Dessie Levy with General Baptist State Convention of Wisconsin, Reverend Cliff Taylor of Word of Hope Ministry, and Dr John Meurer with Medical College of Wisconsin recently presented our community engagement experience for a national NIH RADxUP Advancing Academic and Community Partnerships symposium. Our slides are posted at <https://fightcovidmilwaukee.org/reports>. The Fight COVID MKE team will also provide a keynote address, panel discussion, and breakout session at the October 26 SDC Poverty Summit (register at <https://www.cr-sdc.org/event/2022-sop>).

Future work and All of Us: Our MCW and Northwestern research teams will continue analyses of data through May 2023 and other NIH-funded investigators may study our deidentified participant data next year and beyond. If you are interested in other research, check out the *All of Us* Research Program at <https://www.joinallofus.org/>. *All of Us* is collecting health data from one million or more people in the US and returning DNA results to participants who choose to receive them, including information about ancestry, traits, disease risk, and medication response.

Gratefully yours,

John Meurer, MD, MBA

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