

INFORMATION FOR NBCSL MEMBERS

Dear NBCSL Legislator-Member,

Pursuant to Resolution HHS-15-35, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) supports ensuring that diverse populations of racial and ethnic backgrounds are represented in clinical research, increasing awareness for patient participation, and promoting effective partnerships with the community to achieve solutions. Please note that NBCSL is providing the following for informational purposes only and has no relationship to the clinical trials themselves.

To that end, Pfizer, one of our healthcare partners, and BioNTech recently announced that a clinical trial has initiated enrollment for a COVID-19 investigational vaccine. To better help you share information about the importance of participation in the COVID-19 clinical trial and aid in your information sharing efforts, please see the following message below to share with your constituents:

COVID-19 is an urgent health crisis that impacts racially and ethnically diverse communities at higher rates. Currently, there are no approved vaccines available to prevent COVID-19. Before a vaccine can be approved and used, it must be demonstrated to be safe and effective through the clinical trial process.

Historically, many people from our communities have not been well-represented in clinical trials. Blacks account for roughly 13 percent of the US population but make up only 5 percent of clinical trial participants. Latinos account for roughly 19 percent of the US population but make up only 1 percent of clinical trial participants. It is reported that this makes it difficult for regulators and physicians to understand if a new medicine or vaccine is safe and effective in our communities.

Participating as a Volunteer for a clinical trial may make a difference in helping to develop a safe and effective vaccine to prevent COVID-19 in all our communities. Pfizer is responsible for providing all whom volunteer with detailed information about the clinical trial, including all the possible risks and benefits as required by regulatory authorities.

Learn more about the Pfizer and BioNTech clinical study here: [COVIDVaccineStudy1.com](https://www.covidvaccinestudy1.com)