

| Supplemental Table S1: Demographics of study sample   |                |            |            |
|---|----------------|------------|------------|
|   | N (n=269)      | % of Total | % Answered |
| <i>School County region:</i>  |                |            |            |
| North   | 100            | 37.2%      | 43.7%      |
| Central   | 84             | 31.2%      | 36.7%      |
| South   | 45             | 16.7%      | 19.7%      |
| Missing   | 40             | 14.9%      |            |
| <i>Race and Ethnicity<sup>a</sup>:</i>  |                |            |            |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native   | 1              | 0.4%       | 0.4%       |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Asian-Pacific Islander   | 0              | 0.0%       | 0.0%       |
| Middle Eastern/North African  | 2              | 0.7%       | 0.9%       |
| Hispanic Asian  | 1              | 0.4%       | 0.4%       |
| Hispanic Black  | 4              | 1.5%       | 1.7%       |
| Hispanic White  | 17             | 6.3%       | 7.4%       |
| Non-Hispanic Asian  | 3              | 1.1%       | 1.3%       |
| Non-Hispanic Black  | 10             | 3.7%       | 4.4%       |
| Non-Hispanic White  | 175            | 65.1%      | 76.4%      |
| I prefer not to answer this question  | 13             | 4.8%       | 5.7%       |
| Other   | 9              | 3.3%       | 3.9%       |
| Missing   | 40             | 14.9%      |            |
| <i>Gender Identity</i>  |                |            |            |
| Male  | 72             | 26.8%      | 31.4%      |
| Female  | 148            | 55.0%      | 64.6%      |
| Other/Multigender   | 3              | 1.1%       | 1.3%       |
| I prefer not to answer  | 4              | 1.5%       | 1.7%       |
| Missing   | 40             | 14.9%      |            |
| <b>Birth Year (Mean±SD, Kolmogorov–Smirnov, p-value)</b>  | 1976±9.6, 0.06 |            |            |
| Pre-1950-1959   | 11             | 4.1%       | 4.8%       |
| 1960-1969   | 49             | 18.2%      | 21.5%      |
| 1970-1979   | 81             | 30.1%      | 35.5%      |
| 1980-1989   | 70             | 26.0%      | 30.7%      |
| 1990-2000   | 17             | 6.3%       | 7.5%       |
| Missing   | 41             | 15.2%      |            |
| <b>Number of Years Teaching in NJ (Mean±SD, Kolmogorov–Smirnov, p-value)</b>                            | 15.4±7.1, 0.14 |            |            |
| <b>Number of Years of Teaching Overall (Mean±SD, Kolmogorov–Smirnov, p-value)</b>                       | 16.2±7.4, 0.08 |            |            |
| <i>What is the highest education degree completed?</i>  |                |            |            |
| Bachelor's degree   | 59             | 21.9%      | 25.8%      |
| Master's degree   | 146            | 54.3%      | 63.8%      |
| Doctoral degree   | 6              | 2.2%       | 2.6%       |
| Other   | 18             | 6.7%       | 7.9%       |
| Missing/NA/I prefer not to answer   | 40             | 14.9%      |            |
| <b>How many years of post-secondary education (after high school) have you completed? (Mean and SD)</b> | 6.4±2.6        |            |            |

<sup>a</sup> Participants had the option to choose multiple race categories.

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| Supplemental Table S2: Vaccination status information among New Jersey secondary and high school teachers based on Survey Data |
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| COVID-19 Diagnosis   | Positive (n=106) | %     | Not Positive (n=124) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
|--|------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine?  |                  |       |                      |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 92               | 86.8% | 120                  | 96.8% | <0.001***           | 212   | 92.2% |
| No   | 14               | 13.2% | 4                    | 3.2%  |                     | 18    | 7.8%  |
| Did you receive a vaccine requiring only one dose or two doses? (n=212)                |                  |       |                      |       |                     |       |       |
| One dose   | 7                | 7.6%  | 7                    | 5.8%  | 0.78                | 14    | 6.6%  |
| Two doses  | 85               | 92.4% | 113                  | 94.2% |                     | 198   | 93.4% |
| I don't know   | 0                | 0.0%  | 0                    | 0.0%  |                     | 0     | 0.0%  |
| Have you received a COVID-19 booster vaccine (n=212)                                   |                  |       |                      |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 60               | 65.2% | 104                  | 86.7% | <0.001***           | 164   | 77.4% |
| No   | 32               | 34.8% | 16                   | 13.3% |                     | 48    | 22.6% |
| How safe do you think a COVID-19 vaccine was before you got it? (n=212)                |                  |       |                      |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 7                | 7.6%  | 1                    | 0.8%  | 0.09                | 8     | 3.8%  |
| A little safe  | 8                | 8.7%  | 13                   | 10.8% |                     | 21    | 9.9%  |
| Moderately safe  | 31               | 33.7% | 45                   | 37.5% |                     | 76    | 35.8% |
| Very safe  | 44               | 47.8% | 59                   | 49.2% |                     | 103   | 48.6% |
| How safe do you think a COVID-19 vaccine was after getting it? (n=212)                 |                  |       |                      |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 5                | 5.4%  | 2                    | 1.7%  | 0.18                | 7     | 3.3%  |
| A little safe  | 8                | 8.7%  | 7                    | 5.8%  |                     | 15    | 7.1%  |
| Moderately safe  | 32               | 34.8% | 35                   | 29.2% |                     | 67    | 31.6% |
| Very safe  | 45               | 48.9% | 74                   | 61.7% |                     | 119   | 56.1% |
| How easy was it to get, or would it have been to get, a COVID-19 vaccine for yourself? |                  |       |                      |       |                     |       |       |
| Very easy  | 36               | 34.0% | 32                   | 25.8% | 0.34                | 68    | 29.6% |
| Somewhat easy  | 37               | 34.9% | 46                   | 37.1% |                     | 83    | 36.1% |
| Somewhat difficult   | 25               | 23.6% | 34                   | 27.4% |                     | 59    | 25.7% |
| Very difficult   | 6                | 5.7%  | 11                   | 8.9%  |                     | 17    | 7.4%  |

| Gender   | Female (n=147) | %     | Male (n=72) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
|--|----------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine?  |                |       |             |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 139            | 94.6% | 66          | 91.7% | 0.53                | 205   | 93.6% |
| No   | 7              | 4.8%  | 5           | 6.9%  |                     | 12    | 5.5%  |
| Did you receive a vaccine product that requires only one dose or two doses? (n=205)    |                |       |             |       |                     |       |       |
| One dose   | 8              | 5.6%  | 5           | 7.6%  | 0.76                | 13    | 6.3%  |
| Two doses  | 131            | 94.2% | 61          | 92.4% |                     | 192   | 93.7% |
| Have you received a COVID-19 booster vaccine? (n=205)                                  |                |       |             |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 103            | 74.1% | 57          | 86.3% | 0.05*               | 160   | 78.0% |
| No   | 36             | 25.8% | 9           | 13.6% |                     | 45    | 22.0% |
| How safe do did you think a COVID-19 vaccine was before you got it? (n=205)            |                |       |             |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 6              | 4.3%  | 2           | 3.0%  | 0.44                | 8     | 3.9%  |
| A little safe  | 15             | 10.8% | 4           | 6.0%  |                     | 19    | 9.2%  |
| Moderately safe  | 53             | 38.1% | 22          | 33.3% |                     | 75    | 36.6% |
| Very safe  | 63             | 45.3% | 38          | 57.6% |                     | 101   | 49.3% |
| How safe do you think a COVID-19 vaccine is after you got it? Would you say:(n=205)    |                |       |             |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 5              | 3.6%  | 2           | 3.0%  | 0.28                | 7     | 3.4%  |
| A little safe  | 11             | 7.9%  | 2           | 3.0%  |                     | 13    | 6.3%  |
| Moderately safe  | 48             | 34.5% | 18          | 27.3% |                     | 66    | 32.2% |
| Very safe  | 73             | 45.3% | 44          | 66.7% |                     | 117   | 57.1% |
| How easy was it to get, or would it have been to get, a COVID-19 vaccine for yourself? |                |       |             |       |                     |       |       |
| Very easy  | 40             | 27.4% | 22          | 31.0% | 0.02*               | 62    | 28.6% |
| Somewhat easy  | 45             | 30.8% | 34          | 47.9% |                     | 79    | 36.4% |
| Somewhat difficult   | 48             | 32.9% | 12          | 16.9% |                     | 60    | 27.7% |
| Very difficult   | 13             | 8.9%  | 3           | 4.2%  |                     | 16    | 7.4%  |

| Race   | Non-Hispanic White (n=174) | %     | Other (n=39) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
|--|----------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine?  |                            |       |              |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 166                        | 95.4% | 34           | 87.2% | 0.07                | 200   | 93.9% |
| No   | 8                          | 4.6%  | 5            | 12.8% |                     | 13    | 6.1%  |
| Missing/NA/IPNA  | 0                          | 0.0%  | 0            | 0.0%  |                     | 0     | 0.0%  |
| Did you receive a vaccine product that requires only one dose or two doses? (n=200)    |                            |       |              |       |                     |       |       |
| One dose   | 12                         | 7.2%  | 1            | 2.9%  | 0.70                | 13    | 6.5%  |
| Two doses  | 154                        | 92.8% | 33           | 97.1% |                     | 190   | 93.5% |
| Have you received a COVID-19 booster vaccine? (n=200)                                  |                            |       |              |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 130                        | 78.3% | 28           | 82.4% | 0.82                | 158   | 79.0% |
| No   | 36                         | 21.7% | 6            | 17.7% |                     | 42    | 21.0% |
| How safe do you think a COVID-19 vaccine was before you got it? (n=200)                |                            |       |              |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 5                          | 3.0%  | 3            | 8.8%  | 0.21                | 8     | 4.0%  |
| A little safe  | 13                         | 7.8%  | 5            | 14.7% |                     | 18    | 9.0%  |
| Moderately safe  | 60                         | 36.1% | 12           | 35.3% |                     | 72    | 36.0% |
| Very safe  | 85                         | 51.2% | 14           | 41.2% |                     | 99    | 45.5% |
| How safe do you think a COVID-19 vaccine is after you got it? (n=200)                  |                            |       |              |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 5                          | 3.0%  | 2            | 5.9%  | 0.77                | 7     | 3.5%  |
| A little safe  | 10                         | 6.0%  | 2            | 5.9%  |                     | 12    | 6.0%  |
| Moderately safe  | 51                         | 30.7% | 12           | 35.2% |                     | 63    | 31.5% |
| Very safe  | 97                         | 58.4% | 18           | 52.9% |                     | 115   | 57.5% |
| How easy was it to get, or would it have been to get, a COVID-19 vaccine for yourself? |                            |       |              |       |                     |       |       |
| Very easy  | 46                         | 26.6% | 14           | 35.6% | 0.36                | 62    | 29.0% |
| Somewhat easy  | 61                         | 35.3% | 15           | 38.5% |                     | 76    | 35.5% |
| Somewhat difficult   | 52                         | 30.1% | 8            | 20.5% |                     | 61    | 28.5% |
| Very difficult   | 14                         | 8.1%  | 1            | 2.6%  |                     | 15    | 7.0%  |

| Counties   | Cumberland and Ocean (n=24) | %     | Other Counties (n=205) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine?  |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 20                          | 83.3% | 194                    | 94.6% | 0.03*               | 214   | 93.4% |
| No   | 4                           | 16.7% | 8                      | 3.9%  |                     | 12    | 5.2%  |
| Did you receive a vaccine product that requires only one dose or two doses? (n=214)    |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| One dose   | 3                           | 15.0% | 17                     | 8.8%  | 0.13                | 20    | 8.7%  |
| Two doses  | 11                          | 55.0% | 183                    | 94.3% |                     | 194   | 84.7% |
| Have you received a COVID-19 booster vaccine? (n=214)                                  |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes  | 16                          | 80.0% | 150                    | 77.3% | 1.00                | 166   | 77.6% |
| No   | 4                           | 20.0% | 44                     | 22.7% |                     | 48    | 22.4% |
| How safe do did you think a COVID-19 vaccine was before you got it? (n=214)            |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 1                           | 5.0%  | 7                      | 3.6%  | 0.52                | 8     | 3.7%  |
| A little safe  | 1                           | 5.0%  | 19                     | 9.8%  |                     | 20    | 9.3%  |
| Moderately safe  | 5                           | 25.0% | 71                     | 36.6% |                     | 76    | 35.5% |
| Very safe  | 13                          | 65.0% | 93                     | 47.9% |                     | 106   | 49.5% |
| How safe do you think a COVID-19 vaccine is after you got it? (n=214)                  |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Not at all safe  | 0                           | 0.0%  | 7                      | 3.6%  | 0.23                | 7     | 3.3%  |
| A little safe  | 2                           | 10.0% | 12                     | 6.2%  |                     | 14    | 6.5%  |
| Moderately safe  | 3                           | 15.0% | 64                     | 33.0% |                     | 67    | 31.3% |
| Very safe  | 15                          | 75.0% | 107                    | 55.2% |                     | 122   | 57.0% |
| How easy was it to get, or would it have been to get, a COVID-19 vaccine for yourself? |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Very easy  | 10                          | 41.7% | 56                     | 27.7% | 0.31                | 66    | 29.2% |
| Somewhat easy  | 9                           | 37.5% | 72                     | 35.6% |                     | 81    | 35.8% |
| Somewhat difficult   | 5                           | 20.8% | 57                     | 28.2% |                     | 62    | 27.4% |
| Very difficult   | 0                           | 0.0%  | 17                     | 8.4%  |                     | 17    | 7.5%  |

Note: IPNA is "I prefer not to answer". \*p=<0.05, \*\*\*p=<0.001.

| Supplemental Table S3: Factors pertaining to COVID-19 vaccine confidence among New Jersey secondary and high school teachers based on survey data |                       |       |                                  |       |                        |       |       |
|---|-----------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Vaccination Status  | Vaccinated<br>(n=215) | %     | Not vaccinated<br>or IPNA (n=18) | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What was important for you to know to make you more confident in the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i>                              |                       |       |                                  |       |                        |       |       |
| Agencies approving the vaccines are following strict rules  | 79                    | 36.7% | 2                                | 11.1% | 0.04*                  | 81    | 34.8% |
| Health agencies and WHO recommend the vaccine and agree it is the same  | 74                    | 34.4% | 2                                | 11.1% | 0.06                   | 76    | 32.6% |
| It is impossible to get COVID-19 or any other disease from the vaccine itself or its components   | 39                    | 18.1% | 1                                | 5.6%  | 0.32                   | 40    | 17.2% |
| My risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is bigger than the risk of side effects from the vaccine  | 111                   | 51.6% | 5                                | 27.8% | 0.08                   | 116   | 49.8% |
| The fast production of the vaccine did not compromise its safety  | 66                    | 30.7% | 5                                | 27.8% | 1.00                   | 71    | 30.5% |
| The vaccine cannot cause any immediate or long-term injury  | 73                    | 34.0% | 5                                | 27.8% | 0.8                    | 78    | 33.5% |
| The vaccine works in protecting me from COVID-19  | 107                   | 49.8% | 1                                | 5.6%  | <0.001***              | 108   | 46.4% |
| The vaccine works in stopping the transmission from one person to another   | 73                    | 34.0% | 1                                | 5.6%  | 0.02*                  | 74    | 31.8% |
| I do not need any other information   | 22                    | 10.2% | 3                                | 16.7% | 0.42                   | 25    | 10.7% |
| Other   | 8                     | 3.7%  | 2                                | 11.1% | 0.17                   | 10    | 4.3%  |
| Booster Status  | Taken (n=167)         | %     | Not Taken<br>(n=48)              | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What was important for you to know to make you more confident in the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i>                              |                       |       |                                  |       |                        |       |       |
| Agencies approving the vaccines are following strict rules  | 63                    | 37.7% | 16                               | 33.3% | 0.61                   | 79    | 36.7% |
| Health agencies and WHO recommend the vaccine and agree it is the same  | 66                    | 39.5% | 8                                | 16.7% | 0.003**                | 74    | 34.4% |
| It is impossible to get COVID-19 or any other disease from the vaccine itself or its components   | 33                    | 19.8% | 6                                | 12.5% | 0.29                   | 39    | 18.1% |
| My risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is bigger than the risk of side effects from the vaccine  | 94                    | 56.3% | 17                               | 35.4% | 0.01*                  | 111   | 51.6% |
| The fast production of the vaccine did not compromise its safety  | 50                    | 29.9% | 16                               | 33.3% | 0.72                   | 66    | 30.7% |
| The vaccine cannot cause any immediate or long-term injury  | 57                    | 34.1% | 16                               | 33.3% | 1.00                   | 73    | 34.0% |
| The vaccine works in protecting me from COVID-19  | 90                    | 53.9% | 17                               | 35.4% | 0.03*                  | 107   | 49.8% |
| The vaccine works in stopping the transmission from one person to another   | 64                    | 38.3% | 9                                | 18.8% | 0.02*                  | 73    | 34.0% |
| I do not need any other information   | 17                    | 10.2% | 5                                | 10.4% | 1.00                   | 22    | 10.2% |
| Other   | 6                     | 3.6%  | 2                                | 4.2%  | 1.00                   | 8     | 3.7%  |
| COVID-19 Diagnosis  | Positive<br>(n=106)   | %     | Not Positive<br>(n=124)          | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What was important for you to know to make you more confident in the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i>                              |                       |       |                                  |       |                        |       |       |
| Agencies approving the vaccines are following strict rules  | 40                    | 37.7% | 41                               | 33.1% | 0.49                   | 81    | 35.2% |
| Health agencies and WHO recommend the vaccine and agree it is the same  | 34                    | 32.1% | 42                               | 33.9% | 0.78                   | 76    | 33.0% |
| It is impossible to get COVID-19 or any other disease from the vaccine itself or its components   | 16                    | 15.1% | 24                               | 19.4% | 0.49                   | 40    | 17.4% |
| My risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is bigger than the risk of side effects from the vaccine  | 49                    | 46.2% | 65                               | 52.4% | 0.36                   | 114   | 49.6% |
| The fast production of the vaccine did not compromise its safety  | 35                    | 33.0% | 36                               | 29.0% | 0.57                   | 71    | 30.9% |
| The vaccine cannot cause any immediate or long-term injury  | 37                    | 34.9% | 41                               | 33.1% | 0.78                   | 78    | 33.9% |
| The vaccine works in protecting me from COVID-19  | 40                    | 37.7% | 68                               | 54.8% | 0.01**                 | 108   | 47.0% |
| The vaccine works in stopping the transmission from one person to another   | 28                    | 26.4% | 46                               | 37.1% | 0.09                   | 74    | 32.2% |
| I do not need any other information   | 12                    | 11.3% | 13                               | 10.5% | 0.84                   | 25    | 10.9% |
| Other   | 4                     | 3.8%  | 6                                | 4.8%  | 0.76                   | 10    | 4.3%  |

| Gender   | Female<br>(n=147)                 | %     | Male (n=72)               | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| <i>What was important for you to know to make you more confident in the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i> |                                   |       |                           |       |                        |       |       |
| Agencies approving the vaccines are following strict rules   | 53                                | 36.1% | 27                        | 37.5% | 0.88                   | 80    | 36.5% |
| Health agencies and WHO recommend the vaccine and agree it is the same   | 53                                | 36.1% | 21                        | 29.2% | 0.36                   | 74    | 33.8% |
| It is impossible to get COVID-19 or any other disease from the vaccine itself or its components                      | 27                                | 18.4% | 13                        | 18.1% | 1.00                   | 40    | 18.3% |
| My risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is bigger than the risk of side effects from the vaccine                       | 84                                | 57.1% | 30                        | 41.7% | 0.04*                  | 114   | 52.1% |
| The fast production of the vaccine did not compromise its safety   | 47                                | 32.0% | 21                        | 29.2% | 0.76                   | 68    | 31.1% |
| The vaccine cannot cause any immediate or long-term injury   | 51                                | 34.7% | 25                        | 34.7% | 1.00                   | 76    | 34.7% |
| The vaccine works in protecting me from COVID-19   | 72                                | 49.0% | 34                        | 47.2% | 0.89                   | 106   | 48.4% |
| The vaccine works in stopping the transmission from one person to another  | 51                                | 34.7% | 21                        | 29.2% | 0.45                   | 72    | 32.9% |
| I do not need any other information  | 14                                | 9.5%  | 8                         | 11.1% | 0.81                   | 22    | 10.0% |
| Other  | 4                                 | 2.7%  | 3                         | 4.2%  | 0.69                   | 7     | 3.2%  |
| IPNA   | 7                                 | 4.8%  | 3                         | 4.2%  | 1.00                   | 10    | 4.6%  |
| Race   | Non-Hispanic<br>White (n=174)     | %     | Other (n=39)              | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What was important for you to know to make you more confident in the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i> |                                   |       |                           |       |                        |       |       |
| Agencies approving the vaccines are following strict rules   | 65                                | 37.4% | 13                        | 33.3% | 0.72                   | 78    | 36.6% |
| Health agencies and WHO recommend the vaccine and agree it is the same   | 59                                | 33.9% | 15                        | 38.5% | 0.58                   | 74    | 34.7% |
| It is impossible to get COVID-19 or any other disease from the vaccine itself or its components                      | 32                                | 18.4% | 8                         | 20.5% | 0.82                   | 40    | 18.8% |
| My risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is bigger than the risk of side effects from the vaccine                       | 95                                | 54.6% | 16                        | 41.0% | 0.16                   | 111   | 52.1% |
| The fast production of the vaccine did not compromise its safety   | 53                                | 30.5% | 12                        | 30.8% | 1.00                   | 65    | 30.5% |
| The vaccine cannot cause any immediate or long-term injury   | 62                                | 35.6% | 10                        | 25.6% | 0.27                   | 72    | 33.8% |
| The vaccine works in protecting me from COVID-19   | 88                                | 50.6% | 15                        | 38.4% | 0.21                   | 103   | 48.4% |
| The vaccine works in stopping the transmission from one person to another  | 62                                | 35.6% | 9                         | 23.1% | 0.19                   | 71    | 33.3% |
| I do not need any other information  | 16                                | 9.2%  | 8                         | 20.5% | 0.05*                  | 24    | 11.3% |
| Other  | 5                                 | 2.9%  | 1                         | 2.6%  | 1.00                   | 6     | 2.8%  |
| IPNA   | 7                                 | 4.0%  | 2                         | 9.1%  | 0.67                   | 9     | 4.2%  |
| Counties   | Cumberland<br>and Ocean<br>(n=24) | %     | Other Counties<br>(n=205) | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | 9     | %     |
| <i>What was important for you to know to make you more confident in the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i> |                                   |       |                           |       |                        |       |       |
| Agencies approving the vaccines are following strict rules   | 8                                 | 33.3% | 73                        | 35.6% | 1.00                   | 81    | 35.4% |
| Health agencies and WHO recommend the vaccine and agree it is the same   | 8                                 | 33.3% | 68                        | 33.2% | 1.00                   | 76    | 33.2% |
| It is impossible to get COVID-19 or any other disease from the vaccine itself or its components                      | 7                                 | 29.2% | 33                        | 16.1% | 0.15                   | 40    | 17.5% |
| My risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is bigger than the risk of side effects from the vaccine                       | 12                                | 50.0% | 104                       | 50.7% | 1.00                   | 116   | 50.7% |
| The fast production of the vaccine did not compromise its safety   | 6                                 | 25.0% | 63                        | 30.7% | 0.64                   | 69    | 30.1% |
| The vaccine cannot cause any immediate or long-term injury   | 8                                 | 33.3% | 68                        | 33.2% | 1.00                   | 76    | 33.2% |
| The vaccine works in protecting me from COVID-19   | 14                                | 58.3% | 94                        | 45.9% | 0.28                   | 108   | 47.2% |
| The vaccine works in stopping the transmission from one person to another  | 5                                 | 20.8% | 69                        | 33.7% | 0.25                   | 74    | 32.3% |
| I do not need any other information  | 4                                 | 16.7% | 21                        | 10.2% | 0.31                   | 25    | 10.9% |
| Other  | 1                                 | 4.2%  | 7                         | 3.4%  | 0.59                   | 8     | 3.5%  |

Note: IPNA is “I prefer not to answer”. \* $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*  $p \leq 0.01$ , \*\*\* $p \leq 0.001$ .

Note: Two people who did not get the vaccine chose “Agencies approving the vaccines are following strict rules” and “Health agencies and WHO recommend the vaccine and agree it is the same”.

Note: One person who did not get the vaccine chose “It is impossible to get COVID-19 or any other disease from the vaccine itself or its components”, “The vaccine works in protecting me from COVID-19” and “The vaccine works in stopping the transmission from one person to another”.

Note: This study was not able to delineate the number of booster shots gotten at the time of taking the survey.

Note: For all questions, zero to ten participants chose IPNA or did not answer.

Note: No positive diagnosis consists of both a negative diagnosis and “I do not know”. I do not know means either an inconclusive test or did not take a test.

Note: “Other” consisted of American Indian or Alaskan Native, Middle Eastern or North African, Hispanic Asian, Hispanic Black, Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Asian, Non-Hispanic Black, those who indicated they were multiracial, and those who self-identified as Other.



| Supplemental Table S4: Important factors regarding the COVID-19 vaccine among New Jersey secondary and high school teachers based on survey data |                                      |       |  |       |                        |       |       |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|--|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Vaccination Status   | Vaccinated<br>(n=215)                | %     | Not<br>vaccinated<br>or IPNA<br>(n=18) | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What else was important for you to know that made you more likely to take the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i>                    |                                      |       |  |       |                        |       |       |
| Everybody will have equal access to the vaccine regardless of income or race   | 74                                   | 34.4% | 1                                      | 5.6%  | 0.01**                 | 75    | 32.2% |
| I will be free to choose if I get the vaccine or not with no consequences  | 40                                   | 18.6% | 10                                     | 55.6% | 0.001***               | 50    | 21.5% |
| Once vaccinated I will be able to live my life with no restrictions  | 103                                  | 47.9% | 1                                      | 5.6%  | 0.002**                | 104   | 44.6% |
| Pharmaceutical companies will not make large profits from the vaccine  | 31                                   | 14.4% | 2                                      | 11.1% | 1.00                   | 32    | 13.7% |
| The school district or school I work for required the vaccine  | 58                                   | 27.0% | 1                                      | 5.6%  | 0.05*                  | 59    | 25.3% |
| There are no other reasons why so many people are sick   | 9                                    | 4.2%  | 1                                      | 5.6%  | 0.56                   | 10    | 4.3%  |
| Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public   | 11                                   | 5.1%  | 2                                      | 11.1% | 0.26                   | 13    | 5.6%  |
| Booster Status   | Taken<br>(n=167)                     | %     | Not Taken<br>(n=48)                    | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What else was important for you to know that made you more likely to take the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i>                    |                                      |       |  |       |                        |       |       |
| Everybody will have equal access to the vaccine regardless of income or race   | 66                                   | 39.5% | 8                                      | 16.7% | 0.003**                | 74    | 34.4% |
| I will be free to choose if I get the vaccine or not with no consequences  | 25                                   | 15.0% | 15                                     | 31.3% | 0.02*                  | 40    | 18.6% |
| Once vaccinated I will be able to live my life with no restrictions  | 84                                   | 50.3% | 19                                     | 39.6% | 0.25                   | 103   | 47.9% |
| Pharmaceutical companies will not make large profits from the vaccine  | 22                                   | 13.2% | 9                                      | 18.8% | 0.35                   | 31    | 14.4% |
| The school district or school I work for required the vaccine  | 39                                   | 23.4% | 19                                     | 39.6% | 0.04*                  | 58    | 27.0% |
| There are no other reasons why so many people are sick   | 8                                    | 4.8%  | 1                                      | 2.1%  | 0.69                   | 9     | 4.2%  |
| Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public   | 9                                    | 5.4%  | 2                                      | 4.2%  | 1.00                   | 11    | 5.1%  |
| Gender   | Female<br>(n=147)                    | %     | Male<br>(n=72)                         | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What else was important for you to know that made you more likely to take the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i>                    |                                      |       |  |       |                        |       |       |
| Everybody will have equal access to the vaccine regardless of income or race   | 51                                   | 34.7% | 23                                     | 31.9% | 0.76                   | 74    | 33.8% |
| I will be free to choose if I get the vaccine or not with no consequences  | 31                                   | 21.1% | 17                                     | 23.6% | 0.73                   | 48    | 21.9% |
| Once vaccinated I will be able to live my life with no restrictions  | 63                                   | 42.9% | 39                                     | 54.2% | 0.15                   | 102   | 46.6% |
| Pharmaceutical companies will not make large profits from the vaccine  | 24                                   | 16.3% | 9                                      | 12.5% | 0.55                   | 33    | 15.1% |
| The school district or school I work for required the vaccine  | 35                                   | 23.8% | 21                                     | 29.2% | 0.41                   | 56    | 25.6% |
| There are no other reasons why so many people are sick   | 6                                    | 4.1%  | 4                                      | 5.6%  | 0.73                   | 10    | 4.6%  |
| Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public   | 8                                    | 5.4%  | 5                                      | 6.9%  | 0.76                   | 13    | 5.9%  |
| Race   | Non-<br>Hispanic<br>White<br>(n=174) | %     | Other<br>(n=39)                        | %     | Fisher's<br>Exact Test | Total | %     |
| <i>What else was important for you to know that made you more likely to take the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i>                    |                                      |       |  |       |                        |       |       |
| Everybody will have equal access to the vaccine regardless of income or race   | 61                                   | 35.1% | 12                                     | 30.8% | 0.71                   | 73    | 34.3% |
| I will be free to choose if I get the vaccine or not with no consequences  | 29                                   | 16.7% | 16                                     | 41.0% | 0.002**                | 45    | 21.1% |
| Once vaccinated I will be able to live my life with no restrictions  | 84                                   | 48.3% | 15                                     | 38.5% | 0.29                   | 99    | 46.5% |
| Pharmaceutical companies will not make large profits from the vaccine  | 27                                   | 15.5% | 6                                      | 15.4% | 1.00                   | 33    | 15.5% |
| The school district or school I work for required the vaccine  | 46                                   | 26.4% | 9                                      | 23.1% | 0.84                   | 55    | 25.8% |
| There are no other reasons why so many people are sick   | 8                                    | 4.6%  | 2                                      | 5.1%  | 1.00                   | 10    | 4.7%  |
| Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public   | 9                                    | 5.2%  | 4                                      | 10.3% | 0.26                   | 13    | 6.1%  |

| Counties  | Cumberland and Ocean<br>(n=24) | %     | Other Counties<br>(n=205) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
|---|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| <i>What else was important for you to know that made you more likely to take the COVID-19 vaccine? (Check all that apply)</i> |                                |       |                           |       |                     |       |       |
| Everybody will have equal access to the vaccine regardless of income or race  | 5                              | 20.8% | 70                        | 34.1% | 0.25                | 75    | 32.8% |
| I will be free to choose if I get the vaccine or not with no consequences   | 6                              | 25.0% | 44                        | 21.5% | 0.79                | 50    | 21.8% |
| Once vaccinated I will be able to live my life with no restrictions   | 16                             | 66.7% | 88                        | 42.9% | 0.03*               | 104   | 45.4% |
| Pharmaceutical companies will not make large profits from the vaccine   | 3                              | 12.5% | 30                        | 14.6% | 1                   | 33    | 14.4% |
| The school district or school I work for required the vaccine   | 6                              | 25.0% | 52                        | 25.4% | 1                   | 58    | 25.3% |
| There are no other reasons why so many people are sick  | 3                              | 12.5% | 7                         | 3.4%  | 0.07                | 10    | 4.4%  |
| Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public                              | 1                              | 4.2%  | 12                        | 5.9%  | 1                   | 13    | 5.7%  |

Note: IPNA is "I prefer not to answer". \*p=<0.05, \*\* p=<0.01, \*\*\*p=<0.001.

Note: No positive diagnosis consists of both a negative diagnosis and "I do not know". We can not determine if this means an inconclusive test or did not take a test.

Note: For all questions, eight to ten participants chose IPNA or did not answer.

Note: For people who have not been vaccinated or IPNA, only one participant chose the following options: "Once vaccinated I will be able to live my life with no restrictions", "Everybody will have equal access to the vaccine regardless of income or race", "There are no other reasons why so many people are sick", "The school district or school that I work for required the vaccine",

Note: Two chose "Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public", and "Pharmaceutical companies will not make large profits from the vaccine".

Note: This study was not able to delineate the number of booster shots gotten at the time of taking the survey.

Note: One participant in the "No booster" category chose "There are no other reasons why so many people are sick" and two chose "Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public". Note: No positive diagnosis consists of both a negative diagnosis and "I do not know". I do not know means either an inconclusive test or did not take a test.

Note: "Other" consisted of American Indian or Alaskan Native, Middle Eastern or North African, Hispanic Asian, Hispanic Black, Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Asian, Non-Hispanic Black, those who indicated they were multiracial, and those who self-identified as Other.

Note: Two participants in the "Other" category chose "Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public"

Note: Cumberland and Ocean counties are separated out because they have lower overall vaccination rates.

Note: One participant in the "Cumberland and Ocean" county chose "Those with concerns about the vaccine have opportunities to share their opinions with the public"

| Supplemental Table S5: COVID-19 case information among New Jersey secondary and high school teachers based on survey data                       |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
|---|--------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Diagnosis Status  | Positive (n=106)   | %     | Not Positive (n=124)          | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
| Do you have any close family members older than 70 years?   |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes, living together  | 14                 | 13.2% | 15                            | 12.1% | 0.72                | 29    | 12.6% |
| Yes, not living together  | 72                 | 67.9% | 80                            | 64.5% |                     | 152   | 66.1% |
| No  | 20                 | 18.9% | 29                            | 23.4% |                     | 49    | 21.3% |
| Do you personally know anyone in your family, group of friends, or community networks who became seriously ill or died as a result of COVID-19? |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 64                 | 60.4% | 77                            | 62.1% | 0.89                | 141   | 61.3% |
| No  | 41                 | 38.7% | 47                            | 37.9% |                     | 88    | 38.3% |
| Describe the level of care you received, or are receiving (n=104)   |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Did not seek medical care   | 64                 | 61.5% | 0                             | 0.0%  | ---                 | 64    | 61.5% |
| Received medical care but was not hospitalized  | 37                 | 35.6% | 0                             | 0.0%  |                     | 37    | 35.6% |
| Vaccination Status  | Vaccinated (n=215) | %     | Not vaccinated or IPNA (n=18) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
| Do you have any close family members older than 70 years?   |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes, living together  | 29                 | 13.5% | 0                             | 0.0%  | 0.09                | 29    | 12.4% |
| Yes, not living together  | 138                | 64.2% | 16                            | 88.9% |                     | 154   | 66.1% |
| No  | 47                 | 21.9% | 2                             | 11.1% |                     | 49    | 21.0% |
| Do you personally know anyone in your family, group of friends, or community networks who became seriously ill or died as a result of COVID-19? |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 133                | 61.9% | 8                             | 44.4% | 0.14                | 141   | 60.5% |
| No  | 80                 | 37.2% | 10                            | 55.6% |                     | 90    | 38.6% |
| To your knowledge, do you have or have you had COVID-19?  |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 92                 | 42.8% | 14                            | 77.8% | 0.02*               | 106   | 45.5% |
| No  | 102                | 47.4% | 3                             | 16.7% |                     | 105   | 45.1% |
| I do not know   | 18                 | 8.4%  | 1                             | 5.6%  |                     | 19    | 8.2%  |
| Describe the level of care you received, or are receiving (n=106)   |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Did not seek medical care   | 56                 | 60.9% | 8                             | 57.1% | 0.37                | 64    | 60.4% |
| Received medical care but was not hospitalized  | 34                 | 37.0% | 3                             | 21.4% |                     | 37    | 34.9% |
| Booster Status  | Taken (n=167)      | %     | Not Taken (n=48)              | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
| Do you have any close family members older than 70 years?   |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes, living together  | 25                 | 15.0% | 4                             | 8.3%  | 0.13                | 29    | 13.5% |
| Yes, not living together  | 101                | 60.5% | 37                            | 77.1% |                     | 138   | 64.2% |
| No  | 40                 | 24.0% | 7                             | 14.6% |                     | 47    | 21.9% |
| Do you personally know anyone in your family, group of friends, or community networks who became seriously ill or died as a result of COVID-19? |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 104                | 62.3% | 29                            | 60.4% | 0.74                | 133   | 61.9% |
| No  | 61                 | 36.5% | 19                            | 39.6% |                     | 80    | 37.2% |
| To your knowledge, do you have or have you had COVID-19?  |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 60                 | 35.9% | 32                            | 66.7% | <0.001***           | 92    | 42.8% |
| No  | 88                 | 52.7% | 14                            | 29.2% |                     | 102   | 47.4% |
| I do not know   | 16                 | 9.6%  | 2                             | 4.2%  |                     | 18    | 8.4%  |
| Describe the level of care you received, or are receiving (n=106)   |                    |       |                               |       |                     |       |       |
| Did not seek medical care   | 37                 | 61.7% | 19                            | 59.4% | 0.92                | 56    | 60.9% |
| Received medical care but was not hospitalized  | 21                 | 35.0% | 13                            | 40.6% |                     | 34    | 37.0% |

| Number of Vaccine Doses Received  | One dose (n=14) | %     | Two doses (n=201) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
|---|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Do you have any close family members older than 70 years?   |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes, living together  | 2               | 14.3% | 27                | 13.4% | 1.00                | 29    | 13.5% |
| Yes, not living together  | 9               | 64.3% | 129               | 64.2% |                     | 138   | 64.2% |
| No  | 3               | 21.4% | 44                | 21.9% |                     | 47    | 21.9% |
| Do you personally know anyone in your family, group of friends, or community networks who became seriously ill or died as a result of COVID-19? |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 9               | 64.3% | 124               | 61.7% | 1.00                | 133   | 61.9% |
| No  | 5               | 35.7% | 75                | 37.3% |                     | 80    | 37.2% |
| To your knowledge, do you have or have you had COVID-19?  |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 7               | 50.0% | 85                | 42.3% | 0.10                | 92    | 42.8% |
| No  | 4               | 28.6% | 98                | 48.8% |                     | 102   | 47.4% |
| I do not know   | 3               | 21.4% | 15                | 7.5%  |                     | 18    | 8.4%  |
| Describe the level of care you received, or are receiving (n=106)   |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Did not seek medical care   | 6               | 85.7% | 50                | 58.8% | 0.21                | 56    | 60.9% |
| Received medical care but was not hospitalized  | 1               | 14.3% | 33                | 38.8% |                     | 34    | 37.0% |
| Gender  | Female (n=147)  | %     | Male (n=72)       | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
| Do you have any close family members older than 70 years?   |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes, living together  | 19              | 12.9% | 8                 | 13.8% | 0.95                | 27    | 12.3% |
| Yes, not living together  | 97              | 66.0% | 49                | 84.5% |                     | 146   | 66.7% |
| No  | 30              | 20.4% | 15                | 25.9% |                     | 45    | 20.5% |
| Do you personally know anyone in your family, group of friends, or community networks who became seriously ill or died as a result of COVID-19? |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 90              | 61.2% | 44                | 61.1% | 1                   | 134   | 61.2% |
| No  | 56              | 38.1% | 27                | 37.5% |                     | 83    | 37.9% |
| To your knowledge, have you gotten COVID-19?  |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 68              | 46.3% | 30                | 41.7% | 0.59                | 98    | 44.7% |
| No  | 66              | 44.9% | 35                | 48.6% |                     | 101   | 46.1% |
| I don't know  | 10              | 6.8%  | 7                 | 9.7%  |                     | 17    | 7.8%  |
| Describe the level of care you received, or are receiving:  |                 |       |                   |       |                     |       |       |
| Did not seek medical care   | 44              | 29.9% | 16                | 22.2% | 0.38                | 60    | 27.4% |
| Received medical care but was not hospitalized  | 21              | 14.3% | 14                | 19.4% |                     | 35    | 16.0% |
| Was hospitalized  | 1               | 0.7%  | 0                 | 0.0%  |                     | 1     | 0.5%  |

| Race  | Non-Hispanic White (n=174)  | %     | Other (n=39)           | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Do you have any close family members older than 70 years?   |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes, living together  | 20                          | 11.4% | 6                      | 15.4% | 0.37                | 26    | 12.2% |
| Yes, not living together  | 118                         | 67.8% | 22                     | 56.4% |                     | 140   | 65.7% |
| No  | 35                          | 20.1% | 11                     | 28.2% |                     | 46    | 21.5% |
| Do you personally know anyone in your family, group of friends, or community networks who became seriously ill or died as a result of COVID-19? |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 100                         | 57.4% | 28                     | 71.8% | 0.15                | 128   | 60.1% |
| No  | 72                          | 41.4% | 11                     | 28.2% |                     | 83    | 39.0% |
| To your knowledge, have you gotten COVID-19?  |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 77                          | 44.2% | 16                     | 41.0% | 0.93                | 93    | 43.7% |
| No  | 81                          | 46.6% | 20                     | 51.2% |                     | 101   | 47.4% |
| I don't know  | 13                          | 7.5%  | 3                      | 7.7%  |                     | 16    | 7.5%  |
| Describe the level of care you received, or are receiving:  |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Did not seek medical care   | 47                          | 27.0% | 8                      | 20.5% | 0.66                | 55    | 25.8% |
| Received medical care but was not hospitalized  | 27                          | 15.5% | 8                      | 20.5% |                     | 35    | 16.4% |
| County  | Cumberland and Ocean (n=24) | %     | Other Counties (n=205) | %     | Fisher's Exact Test | Total | %     |
| Do you have any close family members older than 70 years?   |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes, living together  | 5                           | 20.8% | 23                     | 11.2% | 0.37                | 28    | 12.2% |
| Yes, not living together  | 14                          | 58.3% | 138                    | 67.3% |                     | 152   | 66.4% |
| No  | 5                           | 20.8% | 43                     | 21.0% |                     | 48    | 21.0% |
| Do you personally know anyone in your family, group of friends, or community networks who became seriously ill or died as a result of COVID-19? |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 13                          | 54.2% | 126                    | 61.5% | 0.51                | 139   | 60.7% |
| No  | 11                          | 45.8% | 77                     | 37.6% |                     | 88    | 38.4% |
| To your knowledge, have you gotten COVID-19?  |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Yes   | 14                          | 58.3% | 90                     | 43.9% | 0.48                | 104   | 45.4% |
| No  | 9                           | 37.5% | 94                     | 45.9% |                     | 103   | 45.0% |
| I don't know  | 1                           | 4.2%  | 18                     | 8.8%  |                     | 19    | 8.3%  |
| Describe the level of care you received, or are receiving:  |                             |       |                        |       |                     |       |       |
| Did not seek medical care   | 8                           | 33.3% | 56                     | 31.8% | 0.85                | 64    | 27.9% |
| Received medical care but was not hospitalized  | 6                           | 25.0% | 31                     | 17.6% |                     | 37    | 16.2% |

Note: IPNA is "I prefer not to answer". \*p<0.05, \*\*\*p<0.001.

Note: No positive diagnosis consists of both a negative diagnosis and "I do not know". We cannot determine if this means an inconclusive test or did not take a test.

Note: One participant belonging to the "Positive COVID diagnosis" group was hospitalized.

Note: One participant belonging to the "People who have been vaccinated" group was hospitalized.

Note: Two participants who have not been vaccinated reported they do not live with any family members older than 70 years.

Note: This study was not able to delineate the number of booster shots a participant had gotten at the time of taking the survey.

Note: One participant belonging to the "Booster taken" group was hospitalized.

Note: One participant belonging to the "Two doses" group was hospitalized.

Note: Two participants who received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine reported they do live with family members older than 70 years

Note: "Other" consisted of American Indian or Alaskan Native, Middle Eastern or North African, Hispanic Asian, Hispanic Black, Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Asian, Non-Hispanic Black, those who indicated they were multiracial, and those who self-identified as Other.

Note: One participant belonging to the "Female" group was hospitalized.

Note: One participant belonging to the "Non-Hispanic White" group was hospitalized.

Note: One participant belonging to the "Other Counties" group was hospitalized.

Note: One to 123 participants selected "I prefer not to answer" or did not answer this set of questions.