

**Statement for the Record**  
**American Nurses Association**  
**“Building Trust and Battling Barriers: The Urgent Need**  
**to Overcome Vaccine Hesitancy”**  
**House Committee on Oversight and Reform**  
**Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis**  
**July 1, 2021**

The American Nurses Association (ANA), representing the interests of the nation’s 4.2 million registered nurses, commends the House Oversight and Reform Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis for convening this hearing on “Building Trust and Battling Barriers: The Urgent Need to Overcome Vaccine Hesitancy,” and appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record.

ANA is committed to advancing the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting a safe and ethical work environment, bolstering the health and wellness of nurses, and advocating on health care issues that affect nurses and the public. ANA is at the forefront of improving the quality of health care for all.

**ANA believes that the safety profile of authorized COVID-19 vaccines is stable and that these vaccines are effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19, as well as, mitigating the risk of emerging variants.** Through ongoing clinical trials, research, and evidence, experts continue to learn more about the efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines and the anticipated length of immunity.

### **ANA’s Vaccine Advocacy**

ANA commends the concerted and expanded efforts to ensure that all eligible populations get vaccinated against COVID-19. As trusted voices, nurses and health care professionals from all walks of life and backgrounds are partnering in this effort by helping to disseminate culturally relevant information. Nurses are connecting with their patients every day to have meaningful conversations and answer questions about COVID-19 vaccines.

As the voice of the nation’s nurses, ANA has established key principles<sup>1</sup> to guide nurses and other health care professionals’ consideration for COVID-19 vaccines. The nursing workforce not only plays a vital role in educating the public but is integral to safe and effective administration of COVID-19 vaccines to patients and other health care professionals.

### **Vaccine Equity**

Ensuring the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines is vital to ending the pandemic. We also know that building public confidence in vaccines remains critical to success, particularly for communities of color. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation study of early data from states

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/work-environment/health-safety/disaster-preparedness/coronavirus/what-you-need-to-know/covid-19-vaccines/>

collecting racial and ethnic demographic data, there is a disconnect between those who have received vaccinations and the at-risk groups likely to suffer the worst effects of COVID-19, i.e., communities of color. The Kaiser report found that vaccination patterns by race and ethnicity appear to be at odds with who the virus has affected the most. As of June 21, less than half of Black and Hispanic people have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose in nearly all states reporting data.<sup>2</sup> Collecting this data is critical to understanding racial equity concerns in vaccination distribution plans and identifying any disparities that can be addressed through policies, changes in strategy, and education. **ANA calls for a concerted and deliberate effort to promote and ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines to communities of color and populations with health disparities. ANA further supports proactive and persistent COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including vaccination through providing ongoing information and facts about COVID-19 vaccines and immunization to ensure health equity.**

### **Conclusion**

Thank you for giving nurses the opportunity to provide input on the importance of increasing vaccinations across the country. ANA stands ready to work with the Subcommittee to find and implement sustainable solutions regarding this important issue. If you have any questions, please contact Ingrida Lusic, Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs, at (301) 628-5081 or [Ingrid.Lusic@ana.org](mailto:Ingrid.Lusic@ana.org).



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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-race-ethnicity/>