



# COVID-19 VACCINE TOOLKIT FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

## Table of Contents

Message From the BJA Director .....	1
COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for Law Enforcement Guidance .....	2
Executive Letter to the Community Example .....	4
Law Enforcement and COVID-19 Fact Sheet Example .....	6
Community Awareness and COVID-19 Fact Sheet Example .....	8
Customizable Fact Sheet and Executive Agency Letter Templates .....	10

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## Message From the BJA Director

Effective public safety requires trust building through face-to-face interactions between law enforcement and members of the community. This has never been more challenging due to the risks and dangers associated with the COVID-19 virus. We know that vaccines are the most important defense that we have against COVID-19, yet there continues to be hesitancy among some in our communities including officers.

To help with that effort, the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) VALOR Officer Safety and Wellness Program has developed this toolkit for immediate use in your department and community. The toolkit consists of fact sheets and a letter that can be edited and customized with your agency logo and pictures to promote confidence in the available COVID-19 vaccines.

The safety and wellness of law enforcement officers is a top BJA priority. We are committed to doing all that we can to keep you, your families, and your communities safe. COVID-19 has been the number one killer of law enforcement officers in 2020 and 2021. Let's work together to stop this trend in its tracks—lives depend on it. We hope that these resources are helpful. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can help with your officer safety and wellness needs.

Kristen Mahoney, Acting Director  
Bureau of Justice Assistance

### About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, helps make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system. Its grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting-edge tools and best practices that they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization. To learn more about BJA, visit [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov).

# COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for Law Enforcement Guidance

## How to Use This Toolkit

**The COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheets** are designed to share with personnel within your agency and community members. They are based on scientific data and research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For the law enforcement fact sheet, we have identified several law enforcement-specific concerns and directly addressed them. Since the beginning of 2020, COVID-19-related deaths are the leading cause of law enforcement line-of-duty deaths. Showing your leadership on this issue will help save lives. The community awareness fact sheet can be shared with members of your community to boost confidence in vaccines.

There are two versions of both fact sheets included in this toolkit. One version contains static images of individuals, the other is a customizable version that allows you to imbed images from within your agency and community. Both versions allow for a local agency logo to be imbedded on the front page near the bottom. Instructions for customizing the fact sheets are also provided in this toolkit.

**The Executive Letter to the Community** is designed for you to share with your community. You are not only a leader for your department, but also a leader in your community. You can help encourage community members to get vaccinated. Public safety is more than just fighting crime, it is also about keeping officers safe and, by extension, the community.

Law enforcement officers have always led by example—wearing seat belts, helping others in need, and obeying traffic laws—and this is no different. Community members need to hear from you about the importance of finding the facts on the virus and the importance of getting the vaccine.

The *COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Law Enforcement* can be printed and posted around the department, shared via your department's intranet, or via social media. The community letter can be put on your agency letterhead and shared through social media and local media outlets or distributed at community meetings and events.

## Additional Guidance

Additional actions for you to consider as you launch your agency's vaccine confidence campaign:

- Share your “why”—why did you get the vaccine? If you were hesitant at first, share what led you to your decision to vaccinate.
- Consider inviting a medical professional to your agency who is aware of your community's specific health climate and will help answer questions.
- Use testimonials of the experiences of your officers and their families. It is important to show a face and to hear what a colleague has gone through recovering from COVID-19 or what a family goes through when they've lost a loved one to COVID-19.
- Share regular local health reports with your department so they know the data.
- Set the example—follow CDC guidelines.
- Set up special vaccine hours and locations so it is easy for officers to get vaccinated. Not everyone can do it on a day shift. Give them time during their workday to get the vaccine.
- Have nonjudgmental conversations with officers who are hesitant or have questions and present the facts that share the science and research about the virus and the vaccine.

Law enforcement officers are inquisitive and accustomed to looking at evidence, so help them look past the misinformation and find the facts that are science- and research-based.

We want to hear from you! If you run a successful campaign and choose to share on social media, please tag @valorforblue. You can also share your success through <https://www.valorforblue.org/Contact>. For the most up-to-date version of the toolkit, visit <http://s.iir.com/COVID19LE>.

## About the VALOR Officer Safety and Wellness Initiative

The VALOR Initiative is an effort to improve the immediate and long-term safety, wellness, and resilience of law enforcement officers. Through a multifaceted approach that includes delivering no-cost training and professional education, conducting research, developing and providing resources, and establishing partnerships that benefit law enforcement officers, VALOR seeks to provide our nation's law enforcement officers with innovative, useful, and valuable resources. To learn more about VALOR, visit [VALOR Initiative](#).

## Executive Letter to the Community

### An Open Letter to the Residents of the <your community's name will appear here> Community

From: <Your Name Will Appear Here>

I write to urge you to help me spread the word about the importance of getting a COVID-19 vaccination.

I want to assure you that the safety and well-being of the community are our utmost priority. We are working hard to ensure that essential police services remain uninterrupted. However, this pandemic has impacted many members of the <your agency name will appear here>. Our mission has always been and will continue to be to protect and serve our community. This pandemic has created a whole new level of complexity when it comes to delivering police services. It is critical that our police, fire, EMS, and professional staff get vaccinated. COVID-19 is the #1 killer of law enforcement officers. ***It is just as critical that YOU, someone we are sworn to protect, receives this life-saving vaccination.***

I recognize that many of you may have questions about the vaccine, and I encourage you to review the extremely compelling evidence about its effectiveness and safety by visiting the [Food and Drug Administration](https://www.fda.gov/food/food-and-drug-administration)<sup>1</sup> (FDA) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html)<sup>2</sup> (CDC) website.

The bottom line: COVID-19 vaccines protect people from getting infected and severely ill and significantly reduce the likelihood of hospitalization and death. The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent infection by the Delta variant and others is to get vaccinated.

For people who are vaccinated and still get infected (i.e., “breakthrough infections”), there is a risk of transmission to others. That is why, if you are

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

vaccinated or unvaccinated and live or work in an area with [substantial or high transmission](#)<sup>3</sup> of COVID-19, you—as well as your family and community—will be better protected if you wear a mask when you are in indoor public places.

The CDC also provides information addressing vaccine myths at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>.

In addition, I implore you to talk to your physician or medical provider to discuss your concerns and to help you make the best decision.

It is my duty as **<your title will appear here>** of the **<your agency name will appear here>** to ensure public safety. Part of that duty entails helping officers and community members understand the danger of COVID-19 that can be so easily transmitted through our contacts with each other. Through those contacts, the virus can be transmitted to our neighbors, our family members, and our children. Please help us make the difference.

Each of us is needed to combat this pandemic and to address the public safety challenges facing our community. We need you, each of you, to help us reduce the impacts that this virus has on our community so that we can focus on our community safety. Together, we can save lives.

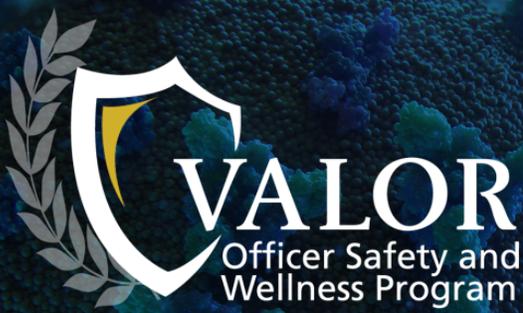
Vaccines remain the most powerful weapon in this fight. I got vaccinated. Will you join me?

Sincerely,

**<Your Signature Will Appear Here>**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COVID-19

COVID-19 is killing officers across the country. Do not let this be you. We need you. We are all in this together for the well-being of ourselves, our friends and families, and our communities.

**DO NOT WAIT—GET VACCINATED TODAY!**

You are used to running toward danger to protect your community. You wear body armor because you know it increases your safety. You wear your seat belt because it adds an additional level of protection when needed. That is what the COVID-19 vaccine is designed to do—to protect you, even if you think you are completely healthy.

Please consult your personal physician and visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) website at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for up-to-date information.

Your agency logo will appear here

## NUMBER 1 KILLER

COVID-19 HAS BEEN THE  
NUMBER 1 KILLER OF LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS  
IN 2020 AND 2021.



SCAN ME  
Vaccine site  
near you



To find a vaccination site near you, search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your zip code to **438829**, or call **1-800-232-0233**.

## The Facts About COVID-19

- COVID-19 is responsible for more officer deaths than all other line-of-duty deaths combined. Hundreds of officers have lost their battle with COVID-19.
- Long-standing inequities, such as poverty and inadequate access to health care, cause some racial and ethnic minority groups to be disproportionately affected by COVID-19.<sup>i</sup>
- Minorities with COVID-19 are more likely to develop serious health complications and require hospitalization.<sup>ii</sup>
- The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent infection is to get vaccinated.<sup>iii</sup>
- Fully vaccinated people who develop COVID-19 are better protected from serious illness, hospitalization, and death than the unvaccinated. The majority of those who are fully vaccinated do not have breakthrough cases resulting in hospitalization or death.<sup>iv</sup>
- More than half of the population in the United States has already been fully vaccinated.<sup>v</sup>

## Reasons to Get Vaccinated

- Being vaccinated protects you, your family, your colleagues, and your community.
- You have direct contact with the public, which opens you up to more opportunities for exposure and increased opportunities to spread the virus if you are infected.
- Higher rates of diabetes and heart disease common in law enforcement increase the risks of developing complications from COVID-19.<sup>vi</sup>
- If you are unvaccinated and contract COVID-19, you are likely to be out of service longer.
- You are more likely to be infected with COVID-19 if you are unvaccinated.<sup>vii</sup>
- As new variants emerge, the COVID-19 vaccine is proving to be safe and effective prevention against severe disease, hospitalization, and death.<sup>viii</sup>

## Busting the Myths

### 1. I'm concerned about side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. Being vaccinated will not cause you to test positive for COVID-19. None of the vaccines available in the United States contain a live virus.<sup>ix</sup>

### 2. I worked so long during COVID-19 before vaccines were available that I must have antibodies already.

You may have some antibodies, but the vaccine offers the best protection against serious illness or hospitalization.<sup>x</sup>

### 3. I had COVID-19 and I survived. I don't need the vaccine.

Unvaccinated people who have had COVID-19 are two times more likely to develop the disease again compared to those who have been vaccinated. Vaccination helps to protect you from reinfection and severe infection.<sup>xi</sup>

### 4. I'm in great shape physically, I am healthy, and I never get sick. Can I still get COVID?

Anyone can get COVID-19, and it is impossible to predict the severity of the symptoms that an individual may contract.<sup>xii</sup>

**DO NOT REGRET YOUR DECISION—GET VACCINATED TODAY!**

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/disparities-hospitalization.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/work.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/your-vaccination.html>
- [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations\\_vacc-total-admin-rate-total](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-total-admin-rate-total)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html>
- [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7037e1.htm?s\\_cid=mm7037e1\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7037e1.htm?s_cid=mm7037e1_w)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/past-reports/07092021.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/serology-overview.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19

Our nation has been heavily affected by COVID-19. We all know someone who has had it, and many of us know someone who has been seriously ill or has lost a loved one because of COVID-19. The well-being of our friends and families, our communities, and ourselves depends on all of us individually being protected, so we need your help! **WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.**

The COVID-19 vaccine is designed to protect you, even if you think you are completely healthy. **PLEASE DO NOT WAIT—GET VACCINATED TODAY!**

Please consult your personal physician and visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for up-to-date information.

Example

Your agency logo will appear here



To find a vaccination site near you, search [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov), text your zip code to **438829**, or call **1-800-232-0233**.

## The Facts About COVID-19

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- The best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent infection is to get vaccinated.<sup>ii</sup>
- More than half the population in the United States has already been fully vaccinated.<sup>iii</sup>
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### 3. I'm in great shape physically, I am healthy, and I never get sick. Can I still get COVID?

Anyone can get COVID-19, and it is impossible to predict the severity of the symptoms that an individual may contract.<sup>ix</sup>

**DO NOT REGRET YOUR DECISION—GET VACCINATED TODAY!**

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-departments/breakthrough-cases.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness/work.html>
- [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations\\_vacc-total-admin-rate-total](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations_vacc-total-admin-rate-total)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/disparities-hospitalization.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/past-reports/07092021.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/serology-overview.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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## Customizable Fact Sheet and Agency Letter Templates

We encourage you to update these resources with your agency logo and images of your officers or community members to encourage vaccination.

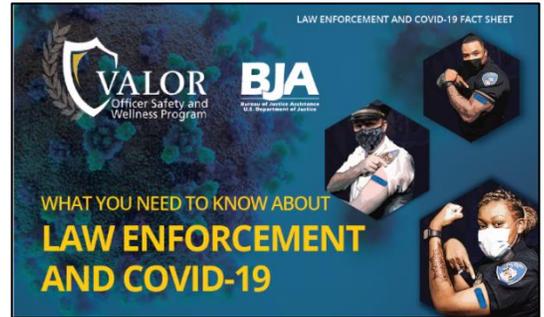


Figure 1. Sample image of a customized fact sheet

To unlock the full functionality of the toolkit and the fact sheets, they must be downloaded and saved to your local computer or network. With the toolkit open, save it to a designated location on your computer or network. Open the saved toolkit to access the fact sheet templates. Select and save the individual fact sheet files below. Open each file to customize it and save it when finished.

### Instructions for Customizing the Open Letter to Your Community

1. Open the [Executive Agency Letter](#) template.
2. Replace all highlighted areas with your agency-specific details.
3. Select the text of the letter and copy and paste it into your agency letterhead.
4. Save the customized copy of the letter.

### Instructions for Customizing the Fact Sheets

1. Open the desired fact sheet as an Adobe PDF.
  - i) Law Enforcement and COVID-19 Fact Sheet
    - [Customizable with agency logo](#)
    - [Customizable with agency logo and photos](#)
  - ii) Community Awareness and COVID-19 Fact Sheet
    - [Customizable with agency logo](#)
    - [Customizable with agency logo and photos](#)

\*Adobe Reader is available at <https://get.adobe.com/reader> and can be used with Windows, Mac, and Android operating systems.

2. To place agency photos, hover your mouse in the top right corner to find the “image edit” message.
3. Select the desired space and insert your agency photo.
4. Place up to three agency/community images.
5. To place your agency logo, hover your mouse in the bottom left corner in the white space until you see the message, “Your agency logo goes here.”
6. Select this space and insert your logo.
7. Save the fact sheet.



Figure 2. Locations for customizing photos

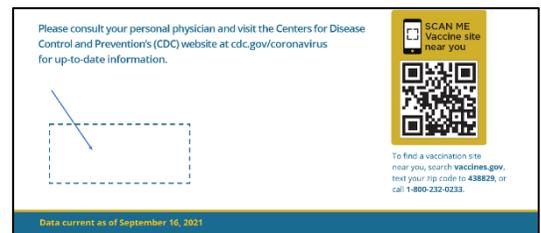


Figure 3. Location for including agency logo

Developing and distributing posters or other flyers can support vaccination efforts within your department or agency. For example, place posters of community and agency leaders and officers receiving the vaccine in your agency or community.



Figures 4–5. Sample poster images