

## COVID vaccine hesitancy vs vaccine refusal? Many nursing home staff take a wait-and-see position

In North Carolina, the health secretary has said more than half of nursing home workers are declining the vaccine. A [national survey](#) found that 15% of health care workers who had been offered the vaccine said no, with nursing home personnel more likely to refuse than hospital staffers.

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But some nursing home staffers say their reluctance is being misconstrued. Most are not saying they'll never take the vaccine, but simply that they have concerns about such a new product. They understand it went through months of clinical trials, but what about possible long-term side effects, for instance? Or how did politics play into the development process? For communities of color, their historical mistreatment by the medical system can also factor into the decision.

"We should stop saying that people are just saying no," said Dr. Kimberly Manning, a professor at Emory University School of Medicine who is participating in the Moderna vaccine trial. A Black physician herself, she has been speaking with many Black Americans about the vaccine and instead refers to people as "slow yeses."

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"It's important to not lump anybody into a group and say 'How dare you just not get vaccinated?' because you're a health care worker," she said. "You're still a person."

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