



## Immunization Awareness: Protecting Black Communities

July is Good Care Month, a time to honor the heart and hard work of social care professionals. They help our loved ones live with dignity, stay connected, and get the support they need. Their care makes a lasting difference and deserves our recognition.

### Immunization protects our health, supports our well-being, and helps us thrive together.

Immunization is a vital part of protecting loved ones and building healthier communities. Vaccines help prevent serious diseases that affect both children and adults. For Black communities, where health disparities are greater, staying informed and up to date on vaccinations is especially important.

Whether you're getting vaccinated or supporting someone else, ask questions, share concerns with a trusted provider, and keep your family's health records current. Protecting your health helps protect your entire community.

### Why It Matters

- Black Canadians had COVID-19 mortality rates twice as high as White Canadians.
- Only 56.4% of Black individuals reported vaccination, compared to 77.7% of White individuals.
- Health research often overlooks race-specific vaccine concerns (Cénat et al., 2022).

### What Can You Do

- Share trusted vaccine information within Black communities.
- Support policies that address racial health disparities.
- Encourage open conversations with care providers about vaccine concerns.
- Research vaccines using reliable, science-backed sources and decide what's best for your family's health.
- Have informed discussions with healthcare providers to weigh vaccine benefits and risks in a way that respects personal values and community health.



For more Information, visit [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)



The mission of **The Balm In Gilead, Inc.** is to improve the health of individuals who are most at risk for chronic and acute diseases by supporting faith and community organizations in areas that mobilize and strengthen their capacity to increase awareness in areas of prevention, treatment, and access to care through education, programming and advocacy. Learn more at [balmingilead.org](https://balmingilead.org)

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