



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
TREASURER SHAWN T. WOODEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, December 11, 2020

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BREAKING THROUGH MISTRUST; STATE TREASURER SHAWN WOODEN CALLS ON BLACK AND BROWN LEADERS ACROSS CT TO JOIN HIM IN PUBLICLY TAKING THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Hartford, CT – On Friday, December 11, Connecticut State Treasurer Wooden released the following statement urging Black and Brown leaders across Connecticut to join him to help combat the mistrust of the COVID-19 vaccine by communities of color by publicly taking the COVID-19 vaccine, on camera.

Recent studies indicate widespread reluctance among many Americans to receive a vaccine for the novel coronavirus. This hesitancy is particularly prevalent among Black and Brown communities. A recent survey conducted by Langer Research Associates found that among Black Americans, only 14% trust that a vaccine will be safe, and among Latinx Americans, only 34% trust it will be safe. The same study found that only 18% of Black Americans and 40% of Latinx Americans trust the vaccine will be effective.

“Our nation’s history of systemic racism combined with the significant racial health disparities of our current reality, are very concerning for communities of color. As an African American, I understand why communities of color are skeptical of taking a COVID-19 vaccine. However, while understanding these realities, it is also critical to acknowledge the reality that this virus has had a disproportionate and devastating effect on communities of color. This effect includes higher infection rates, hospitalization rates and mortality rates.

This week, prominent medical experts and scientists - not politicians - have deemed a vaccine to be safe and effective. So, in addition to educating the public on the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine, I believe it is critical for leaders in communities of color to demonstrate, in our actions, that we know the vaccine will be the most powerful tool we have to protect our own health and the health of our friends and family.

Following the approval of the vaccine by the FDA and as soon as it is made available to me, I will take the vaccine publicly, on camera. I implore other Black and Brown leaders across our state to join me in doing the same. I know I am not alone when I share that I have not been able to hug one of my loved ones in a very long time. My 92-year-old mother is a resident of a nursing home in Connecticut, and I long for the moment when I can safely hug her again. As fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, grandparents, community leaders and more, it is our responsibility to stay healthy and safe and not let this pandemic further harm our communities. By working together and leading by example, we can reduce the level of mistrust of the vaccine, promote its usage and save lives.”

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