

On September 2, we shared that we had participated in the Pfizer phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine trial. Our participation as individuals was offered as an example of two black men entering the trial at this moment of great peril for the larger community.

We asked others to consider whether they too might participate. It is an individual and voluntary choice.

The letter's release has provoked a mixed reaction, some based on misinformation and fabrication that we clarify here:

- First, the vaccine trials are voluntary as was stated in the original letter.
- Second, neither institution nor president is receiving any form of compensation.
- Third, public health must be guided by the science, not by the politics of the moment.

Our institutions are honest brokers of information and knowledge. It is important to engage in the painful conversations about health disparities and the troubling history of unethical care and harm to communities of color. It is also necessary that our communities be well-informed and be protected by a beneficial vaccine.

We are committed to these important conversations in our respective communities.

We are immensely thankful for those in the public who have been supportive of our missions of service and education. For others, we understand your ambivalence. We hope that we have provided clarity.

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