

Recruitment Email for Worker participants

Building Business Tools to Strengthen Vaccine Confidence in NH Workers

NH Occupational Health Surveillance Program, University of New Hampshire

Dear “Worker”

My name is Karla Armenti, an Assistant Research Professor in the Institute on Disability, Occupational Health Surveillance Program, at the University of New Hampshire. We are conducting a research study in collaboration with the NH Public Health Association (NHPHA) to learn more about vaccine hesitancy among workers at small local businesses in New Hampshire. The COVID-19 pandemic has manifested a rise of vaccine hesitancy, particularly among small businesses and certain worker groups. Our research frames this not as “an unprecedented crisis” but a renewed opportunity for dialogue, consensus-building, and education.

The study aims to conduct two sets of focus groups of small New Hampshire local businesses and employees to better understand: 1) successful workplace practices; 2) challenges for small businesses to support employees’ COVID-19 vaccination; and 3) workers’ perspectives regarding COVID-19 vaccination.

I am writing to invite you to participate in one of the focus group sessions focusing on workers to learn about your workplace safety and health experience during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as your perspectives on COVID-19 vaccination as a worker at a small local company in New Hampshire. To be eligible for this study, you should have worked (either temporarily or permanently) at a small local company in New Hampshire (with 10-100 employees) during the pandemic in the past three years.

The first step toward participation is to take a short survey about your company and your job at the company.

Follow this link to the Survey: https://unh.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8Dnxsth6ed2bsRU

The survey should not take more than a few minutes and at the end, you may provide your contact information to let us know you are interested in participating in our focus group sessions. If you do agree to participate in this study, we will reach out to invite you to one of the focus group sessions, using the Zoom platform, that will last approximately 60-90 minutes. The focus group session will likely take place in the following two months. Sessions will be audio recorded for notetaking purposes only. For your participation, **you will be given a \$50 gift card** (Visa or MasterCard) that will be digitally sent to your personal email within 10 business days of your participation in the session.

The study has been approved for human subjects research (UNH IRB # FY2022-177). We wish to note that taking part in this study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part at all. If you agree to participate, you may refuse to answer any question. If you change your mind, you may stop participating at any time. Any data collected as part of your participation will remain part of the study records. Your participation will have no bearing on your job, or any work-related activities.

If at any time you have questions about this study, contact Karla Armenti, Program Director of the NH Occupational Health Surveillance Program at UNH (karla.armenti@unh.edu) at 603-862-2923. If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, you may contact Melissa McGee in UNH Research Integrity Services at 603-862-2005 or Melissa.McGee@unh.edu to discuss them.

We thank you for your interest and hope to hear back from you soon.

Sincerely,
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