

## AM I TOO OLD FOR IT?

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We were warned about the pandemic-potential of COVID-19, testing the durability of our healthcare system which unfortunately is already unstable from the start. The World Health Organization since the last quarter of 2019 has released information of the potency of SARS-CoV2 to cause a global pandemic. The turning point of how all the fiasco began is how policy makers ignored the signs and neglect the predictions of scientists and healthcare experts. Admittedly, we were quite caught off-guard too just like most countries. But how far could misinformation go deeper making citizens fear of science?

During the initial phase of the vaccination program of the Department of Health (RESBAKUNA), Healthcare workers, Senior Citizens and those with comorbidities were prioritized. Baseless opinions in social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram have slowed down this program. On March 2022, DOH already had the anniversary since the start of their vaccination program. However, only 62.82% of the population belonging in geriatric care are vaccinated (Department of Health 2022). Considering the duration and donations of vaccines, we have only come at almost half of the Senior Citizens to complete the vaccine shots. Speculations and misinformation about the vaccine have gone crippling inside the minds of people since the start of its development and trials. And an alarming concern is despite the data and proof backed-up by science, people continue to spread fear resulting to vaccination hesitancy specially to the vulnerable population like Senior citizens. Similarly, the prevalence of vaccination hesitancy is brought about by factors like low education, lack of confidence with the healthcare system and vaccine manufacturers (Thanapluetiwong,. 2021).

Among the population in geriatric care, healthcare workers and patients with comorbidities. Senior citizens have the lowest vaccination rate and highest in hesitancy. Contributing factors are of which rooted in misinformation and mistrust of the healthcare system in delivering quality care. Vaccines have been proven to help boost our immune system and prevent severe impact of diseases on our health for quite some time since its first development. From attenuated virus to as small as molecular level of RNA and DNA technology, the science of vaccine production have gone far preventing deadly diseases affecting our health. While hesitancy slows the progress, it is a challenge we need to overcome.

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