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Covid-19 vaccine beliefs and intentions, and the practice of prevention
behaviors among college students: In search of an integrative model of
determinants in an evolving pandemic**

Background and Aims: College students are a key population in the control of the Covid-19 pandemic since most cases in this age group are mild or asymptomatic, and adherence to Covid-19 preventive measures is relatively low. Substantial vaccine hesitancy has been reported in a sparse literature. With the appearance of new Covid-19 variants and “long Covid”, there is an urgent need to understand how college students are engaging with recommended Covid-19 prevention strategies so that targeted interventions may be developed. This proposed study aims to address this need among college students by: (1) describing attitudes, intentions and behaviors pertaining to vaccines and non-pharmaceutical interventions, and (2) developing an integrative, theory-based model identifying factors associated with Covid-19 vaccine acceptance.

Methods: Using a cross-sectional study design, 500 Pace undergraduate students will be recruited using in-class and email announcements to complete an online survey. Data will be analyzed using multivariable regression techniques to test hypothesized direct, indirect, and moderating effects.

Significance: As vaccine availability expands, our interdisciplinary team will integrate epidemiology (CHP) and psychology (Dyson) to provide insights into Covid-19 prevention among college students and inform multi-level interventions for promoting preventive health behaviors during the current pandemic and future health crises.