

## **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, community pharmacists have had to adapt significantly due to their essential worker status and have shown able to take on more responsibilities to assist in public health and alleviate pressure from other areas of health services. The purpose of this study is to understand the impact of COVID-19 vaccines on the mental health of community pharmacists, identify barriers, and identify practices which could be implemented or improved.

**Methods:** An anonymous survey was sent out to community pharmacists throughout various practice sites. The survey consisted of demographic questions, ranking your level of agreeance to various statements, and select all that apply questions identifying barriers and improvements to reduce barriers to increase community pharmacist mental health while administering COVID-19 vaccines.

**Results:** At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, 62% of participants strongly agreed that they felt overwhelmed with the amount of COVID-19 vaccines being administered, 86% strongly agreed that COVID-19 vaccine administration disrupted pharmacy workflow, and 60% strongly agreed that they worried about making a mistake administering COVID-19 vaccines.

Participants then identified the most common barriers they experience when administering COVID-19 vaccines, such as time (90%), proper staffing (84%), and number of COVID-19 vaccines being administered (76%) and solutions to combat these barriers.

**Conclusion:** COVID-19 vaccine administration has led to increased workload for community pharmacists. Overall, a number of barriers were identified that come up while administering COVID-19 vaccines and this requires the need for improvement and/or new implementation.

The community pharmacist is at the forefront of patient health and it is important for them to feel as though they have adequate staffing and resources to administer COVID-19 vaccines on top of their normal workload in order to provide patients with the best practices and care.