

# **EVALUATION REPORT FOR ANTHC COMMUNITY MASK MAKING PROJECT**

Prepared by

ACTIONABLE DATA CONSULTING, INC.

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Actionable Data Consulting

# Executive Summary

## Background

The ANTHC Community Mask Making Project, a collaborative project with the ANTHC Project Team and Alaska Native communities, is in its second year of providing programming. The main goal of the project is to encourage reflection and discussion on the impacts of COVID-19, and to improve knowledge about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health. Each event starts when the project team are invited to come to a community and meetings are held with local community members who work in health or tribal services. The ANTHC Team and local community coordinator(s) plan on how to promote, organize, and hold the event. The ANTHC project team arrives in the community the day before the event. The event is held on the following day and the large wooden community mask is finished by the Alaska Native carver by the end of the day. On the third day, the mask is presented to the community.

Each event is composed of the following elements:

1. An Alaska Native mask carver presents pictures and information on the role of mask making among different Alaska Native groups.
2. Using cardboard masks and markers, paints, beads and other adornments, participants make their own masks reflecting the stories and emotions of their experience during the pandemic.
3. An Alaska Native Elder and assistant lead a talking circle where participants share about their masks and the story behind them.
4. An ANTHC Team member presents on how vaccines work and how they can protect individuals and communities.
5. The mask carver takes all the stories that he has heard about the community's experience during the pandemic and creates a large wooden mask to be presented to the community on the last day of the team's visit.

There were three mask making events in 2024:

1. The Immunization Coordinator event held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Alaska Tribal Health Consortium offices in Anchorage with seventeen participants.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Utqiagvik event held at the local health clinic on June 14-16<sup>th</sup> with ten participants.
3. The Eagle event held on August 20-22 with twenty-three attendees.

## Findings

In total, fifty people attended these events, which were held in an urban area, a rural hub community, and a remote village. This evaluation is based on the 30 pre-event cards and 32 post-surveys that were collected at the events. Respondents were asked prior to the event what emotions they had about COVID-19. The top five most common emotions they expressed were being neutral, sad, worried/scared, overwhelmed and hopeful/optimistic.

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<sup>1</sup> The Immunization Coordinators Event was different from the other events because it was not held in a specific community. The coordinators lived and worked in different communities all over Alaska and were assembled in Anchorage for a larger gathering. The mask carver did not carve a large wooden community mask for this event.

Ninety-three percent rated the mask making experience as good or very good. Similarly, 92% rated their experience talking about COVID-19 as useful or very useful. Respondents had differing views on vaccines. Many were already vaccinated, and some did not believe in vaccines. Eighty-four percent of respondents agreed with the statement “I feel that vaccines are effective in protecting my health.”

At each event there was a presentation on how vaccines work and the benefits of receiving them for the individual and the community. Fifty-six percent of respondents who were surveyed agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “the event increased my knowledge about how vaccines play a role in my personal health.” The exact same percent of respondents reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that they had increased knowledge about the role vaccines play in the health of their community. Event participants were also asked if taking part in the event made them feel more comfortable with getting a vaccine. Forty-six percent said “yes,” 35% said “no” and 5% did not know. It is difficult to ascertain if the event changed people’s views or comfort level with the vaccine, because some people were already comfortable with getting vaccinated

Overall, the local community coordinators at the two community events, as well as staff at the Immunization Coordinators event were very positive in how they felt the event went and fit with the audience.

Attendees were asked about what they liked and didn't like about the event. The most common part of the experience that respondent liked was being able to share their story in a safe space and listen to other people’s stories. When responding to the question about what they didn’t like about the event, the most frequent answer pertained to wanting better art supplies. Other singular answers included that there was too much lecture, the event was too long, the presenters should practice more, and attendance should be increased.

### Suggestions and Recommendations

The following recommendations were made by participants, community coordinators, and the ANTHC Team. Many of the suggestions were implemented at the next event after they were received. The ANTHC Team debriefed with the evaluator after each event. They heard the participant and the community coordinator suggestions and used these, as well as their own suggestions to improve the event.

1. **Mask making activities:** Have art supplies that are in good condition and that are fun for participants to use. Suggestions included glue guns, better paints, wooden masks, and other decorations for the masks.
2. **Attendance:** Schedule the event when there are no other major community programs happening and advertise it early to improve attendance.
3. **Talking circle:** Continue to do the talking circle and create a safe environment for participants to be emotional, share their stories and not feel put on the spot.

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## Background

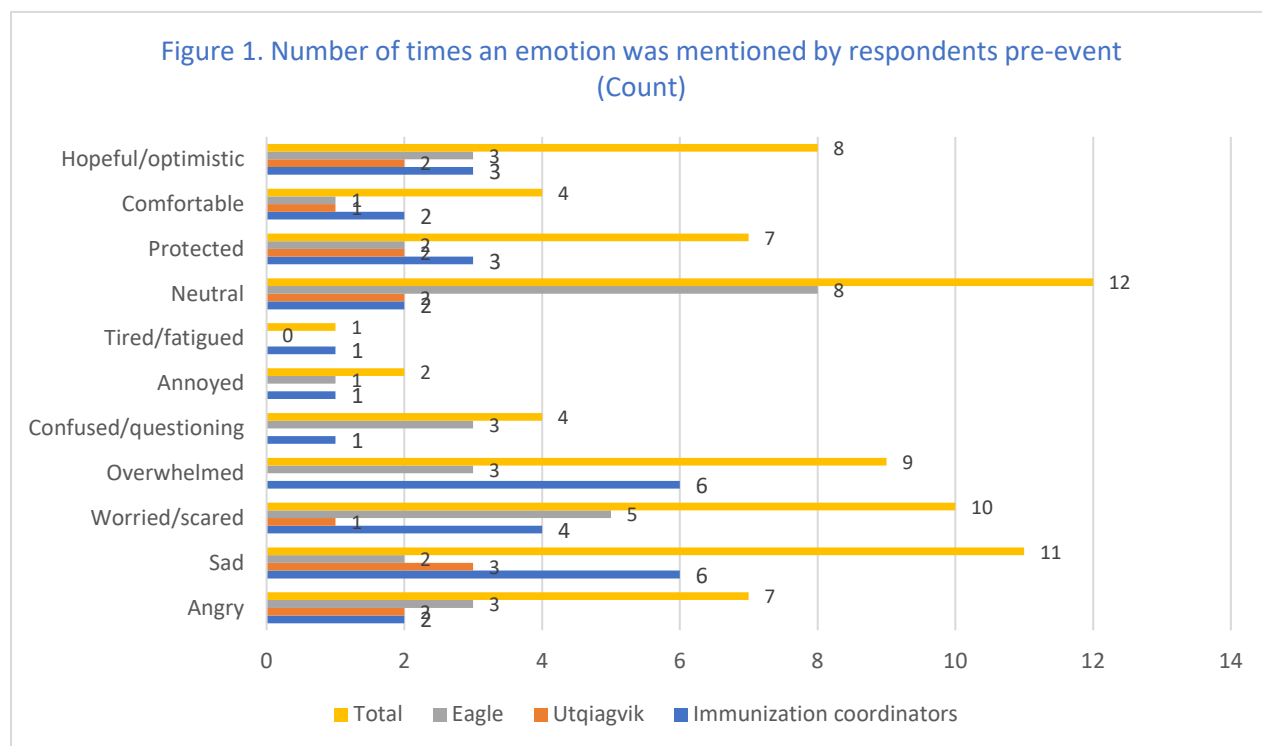
The ANTHC Community Mask Making Project, a collaborative project with the ANTHC Team and Alaska Native communities, is in its second year of providing programming. The main goal of the project is to encourage reflection and discussion on the impacts of COVID-19, and to improve knowledge about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health. Each event starts when the project team are invited to come to a community and meetings are held with local community members who work in health or tribal services. The ANTHC project staff and local community coordinator(s) plan on how to promote, organize, and hold the event. The ANTHC project team arrives in the community the day before the event. The event is held on the following day and the large wooden mask is finished by the Alaska Native carver by the end of the day. On the third day, the mask is presented to the community. While 50 participants attended the events, this evaluation is based on the 30 pre-event cards and 32 post-surveys that were filled out by participants.

The following three events were held in 2024:

1. Immunization Coordinators Event (17 participants)
2. Utqiagvik Event (10 participants)
3. Eagle Event (23 participants)

## Attitudes Towards COVID-19

Figure 1 shows the number of times a respondent selected an emotion on the pre-event evaluation card to describe how they felt about COVID-19. A single respondent could select multiple emotions. The top five most common emotions respondents expressed were being neutral, sad, worried/scared, overwhelmed and hopeful/optimistic. A post-event survey finding revealed that eighty-four percent of respondents agreed with the statement “I feel that vaccines are effective in protecting my health.”



## Methodology

During year one of the Community Mask Making Project (CMMP) a *Community Mask Making Evaluation and Performance Measurement Plan* was created by the evaluator, Melissa Toffolon MPH, PhD, of Actionable Data Consulting in Wasilla, Alaska. The evaluator and the project coordinator updated the plan in year two. The primary data sources for the evaluation are:

1. Pre-event question card
2. Post-event survey
3. Email questions for the community coordinator(s)
4. Event debrief meeting with the ANTHC Team

The pre-event question card is distributed to participants at the beginning of the event, and it has three questions. The respondent is asked to identify how they feel about COVID-19 right now, as well as if they have any questions or comments about COVID-19 and the vaccine/boosters.

The post-event survey asks a series of ten questions about the respondent's experience at the event and knowledge and beliefs about vaccines. The email for community coordinator(s) is sent by the evaluator to solicit their input on five questions pertaining to the event. The event debrief meeting with the ANTHC Team, which is held within two weeks after the event, reviews the pre and post event evaluation data and solicits input on what went well, what didn't go well, and any suggestions for future events. These measurement tools can be found in the appendix of this report.

## Findings- Research Questions

This evaluation will examine the following research questions and objectives.

1. What activities occurred during the mask-making event and how many people attended each component?
2. What was the "attendee experience?"
3. Did the participants report increased knowledge about vaccines due to their participation?

The first part of this report will evaluate all the events that took place in 2024, and the second part will look at each event separately. Table 1 describes the goal and objectives of the project.

*Table 1 Goal and Objectives for the Mask Making Project*

<b>GOAL:</b>	<b>To encourage reflection and discussion on the impacts of COVID-19, and to improve knowledge about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health.</b>
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b>	<i>Community members will rate their mask-making experience as good or very good.</i>
<b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b>	<i>Event participants will find the experience of talking about COVID-19 useful,</i>
<b>OBJECTIVE 3</b>	<i>Event participants will report they learned more about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health.</i>

Research Question 1: What activities occurred during the mask-making event and how many people attended each component?

- a. Pre-event:
  - a. Community invites the ANTHC Team and the local coordinator(s) is identified.
  - b. Meeting(s) are held with the community coordinator(s) and other local leaders virtually and when the team arrives in the community.
  - c. The team and community coordinators work to recruit participants.
- b. At the gathering:
  - a. Team members give the participants the pre-event evaluation card to fill out.
  - b. The ANTHC team provides coloring activities for children during the event.
  - c. The mask carver presents on mask-making history and meaning in Alaska.
  - d. The mask-making activity takes place, and each participant creates a mask that reflects their experience during the pandemic.
  - e. The Elder and her assistant lead a talking circle where participants share the story of their mask.
  - f. The team coordinator gives a presentation on vaccines, in general and the COVID and Flu vaccine, specifically. Prior to this presentation the post-event survey is distributed to all participants.
  - g. The gathering ends with team members collecting post-event surveys.
  - h. After the gathering, the mask carver finishes creating the large wooden community mask.
  - i. The day following the event, the completed mask is presented to the community.
- c. Post-event:
  - a. The evaluator sends the community coordinator(s) an email to solicit their feedback.
  - b. The evaluator leads a debrief meeting with the ANTHC Team.

Fifty people attended some part of the three events. Data was not collected on how many people attended each component of the event. Most of the expected activities occurred in all three communities. The Immunization Coordinators Event was different because although the coordinators gathered in Anchorage, they lived and worked in different communities all over Alaska. At this event, the mask carver did not carve a large wooden mask.

Research Question 2: What was the attendee experience?

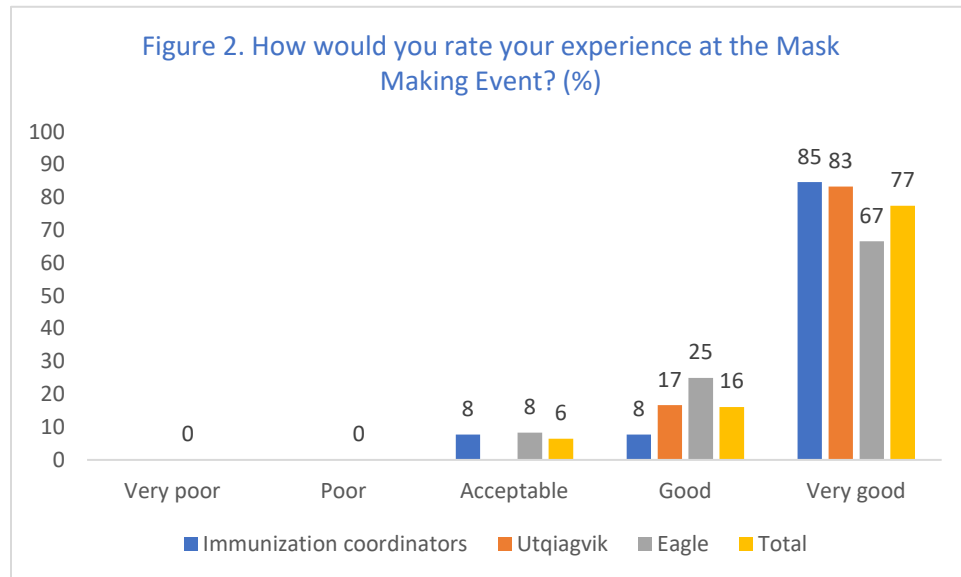
Research Question 3: Did the participants report increased knowledge about vaccines due to their participation?

Research questions 2 and 3 will be answered in the following section when examining if the objectives were reached.

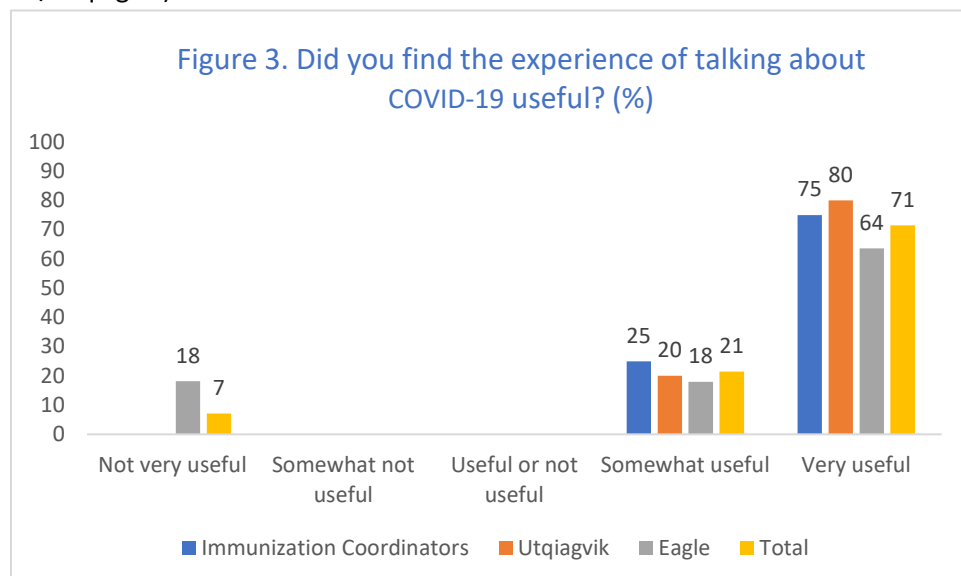


## Findings-Objectives

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Community members will rate their mask-making experience as good or very good. Ninety-three percent of respondents reported that the event was good (16%) or very good (77%). The range of surveyed participants from the three events who rated their experience as good or very good was 92% (Eagle) to 100% (Immunization Coordinators)

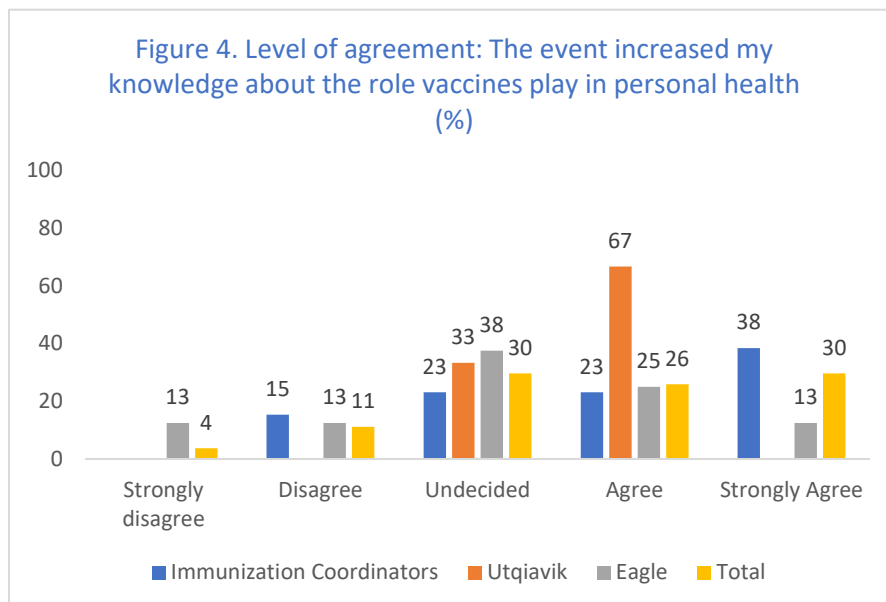


**OBJECTIVE 2:** Event participants will find the experience of talking about COVID-19 useful. Ninety-two percent of respondents rated their experience talking about COVID-19 as useful (21%) or very useful (71%). Those at each event who found their experience useful ranged from 85% (Eagle) to 100% (Immunization/Utqiagvik).

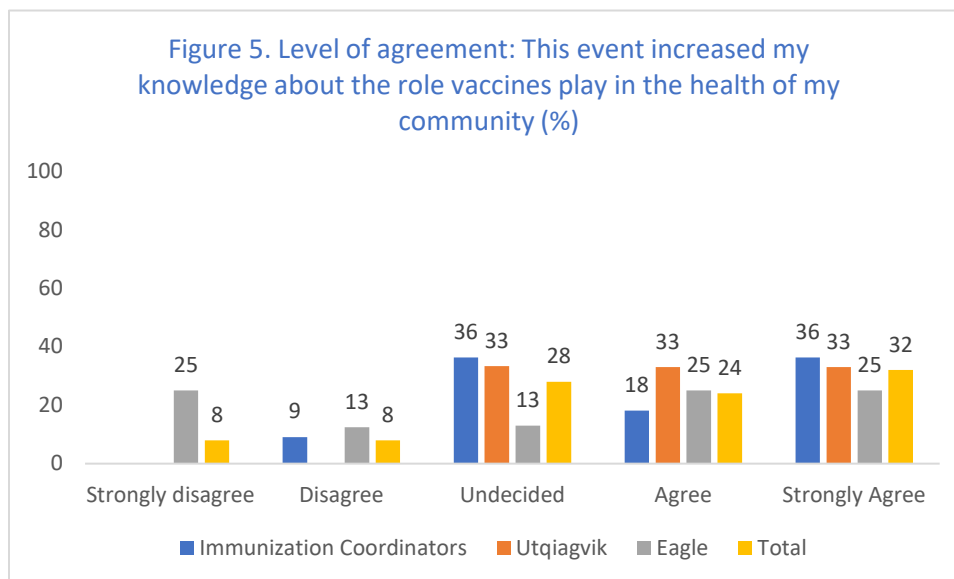


OBJECTIVE 3: Event participants will report they learned more about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health.

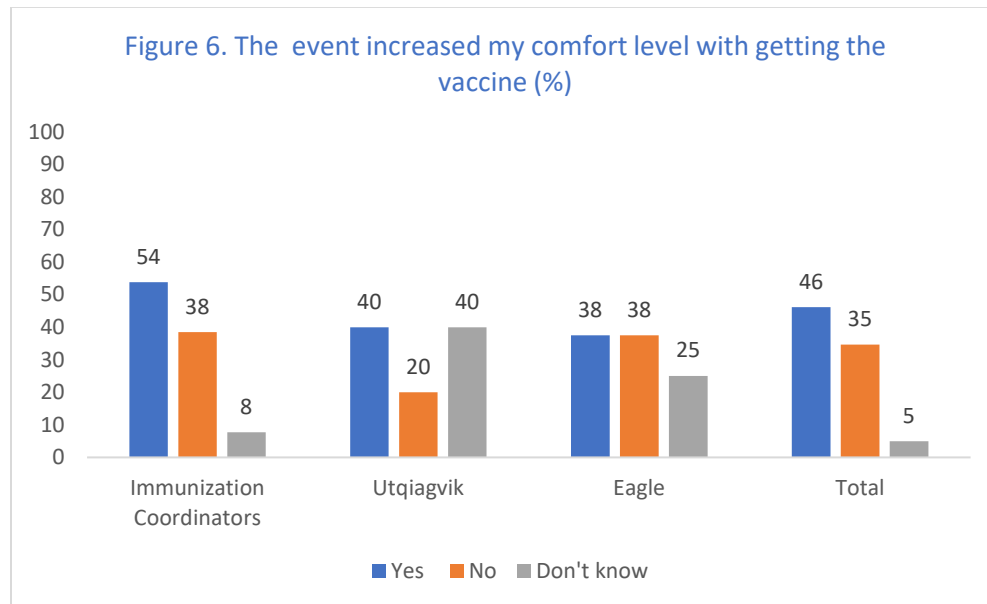
Fifty-six percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, “the event increased my knowledge about how vaccines play a role in my personal health.” At the individual events, those surveyed who agreed with this statement ranged from 38% (Eagle) to 67% (Utqiagvik).



On the post-event survey, participants were asked about their level of agreement with a similar statement related to the role of vaccines in the health of the community. Fifty-six percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had increased knowledge about the role vaccines play in the health of their community. This statistic for the three events ranged from 50% (Eagle) to 66% (Immunization Coordinators).



Event participants were asked if taking part in the event made them feel more comfortable with getting a vaccine. The answers to this question are not straight forward because many attendees, before they attended the event, were already comfortable getting the vaccine. To fully interpret these answers please see the comments below that correspond to an answer of “yes,” “no”, or “don’t know.”



*Table 2. Comments from question: Did the event increased your comfort level with getting the vaccine?*

Comments from those who answered “no”	Comments from those who answered “yes”
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I do not do vaccines. I believe our bodies are created to fight viruses, and I trust that my body will do what's necessary to protect me.</li> <li>2. I don't think vaccines are safe.</li> <li>3. I should not be forced into a vaccine.</li> <li>4. I got the vaccine and still got COVID-19.</li> <li>5. I'm not sure it achieved that, but it was good to talk about experiences. I feel like the process of vaccination had a lot of negative stories and I needed some happy ones.</li> <li>6. I am fully vaccinated.</li> <li>7. I am already comfortable with vaccination.</li> <li>8. Already comfortable with vaccines.</li> <li>9. I already felt very comfortable; this was great to because it allowed me to hear more perspectives.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat.</li> <li>• Good job people!</li> <li>• I feel comfortable about decisions to vaccinate and to continue receiving the booster.</li> <li>• I was comfortable getting a vaccine.</li> <li>• I am already an advocate, but I feel renewed energy to promote vaccines.</li> <li>• Scientifically produced.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Comments from those who answered “don’t know”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have no opinion on the vaccine or boosters at this current time.</li> <li>• I had COVID 3 times and am not vaccinated. I believe everyone has a choice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I have always been comfortable getting vaccines. I am not sure any part of this event changed that. I get vaccinated.</li> </ul>

## Community Coordinator and ANTHC Team Feedback

Feedback from the Immunization Coordinators included a comment from a coordinator who said that it gave professionals permission to tell their stories. Another coordinator said “I can get out of my box and express things that maybe had bothered me for so long.” A team member said that, at the event, she was approached by medical professionals from two other tribal organizations who would like to host similar events for their clinics.

The local coordinators at the two events that were held in a hub community and a rural village were both very positive in how they felt about the event. The coordinator from Utqiagvik said that the event fit well with their community and that participants gave positive feedback. Personally, she felt that it was a good way to “process,” and it taught her more about the culture. She wished there was better attendance and wondered if people didn’t understand that it was about mask making not COVID-19 protective masks.

In Eagle, the coordinator said it went very well, and that the ANTHC Team were organized and did a great job. They noted that many people were reluctant to talk about their feelings, but she saw many very artistic people and that they all had something in common – having faced the COVID-19 virus. She said she enjoyed the event more than she thought she would and that it should be conducted in the schools to “decompress” the children.

After each event, the evaluator debriefed with the ANTHC Team. This created an iterative process where each event was improved by addressing the suggestions from the previous event. A lot of these improvements focused on logistics such as food and types of art supplies. Some more substantive changes involved improvements to the content of the vaccine presentation and improving attendance by doing more advertising/invitations in the community and not scheduling the event when other community programs were scheduled. The success of this type of review and integration of suggestions resulted in the last event, at Eagle, having a very high attendance (23 participants) and great community relationships were developed.

## Participant feedback

Attendees were asked about what they liked and did not like about the event. The most common part of the experience that at least fourteen participants liked was being able to share their story in a safe space and listen to other people’s stories. Five participants mentioned liking the opportunity to be creative and express themselves through art. Five participants enjoyed feeling connected to others during the talking circle. Other themes that came up that were mentioned by three people each were having a chance to reflect on what happened during the pandemic and enjoying the presentation that was given. Two or less participants mentioned liking that it was an opportunity for healing and enjoying the food.

There were ten comments on what respondents didn’t like at the event. These comments focused on the logistics of the event or the emotionality of the talking circle. As far as logistics, comments included that it was “lecture heavy” at the beginning, that it was too long, that there were not enough participants, that the paint was not good, and that dessert should have been provided. The comments about the talking circle were that participants felt like they were not in control of their emotions, that it was hard for them to share because of their anxiety, and sometimes they felt “put on the spot. All the comments mentioned above occurred just once which the exception that two individuals thought the event was long.

Suggestions that were given by participants to improve the event included providing more materials to decorate the masks, having wooden masks, and allowing more time to make the masks. Suggestions also included practicing and streamlining the presentation for more effective use of time, and advertising for the event earlier to increase attendance. One participant suggested modeling the sharing of healthy responses in the talking circles. A few participants had no suggestions or asked that the team keeps offering the event.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on the recommendations made by participants, community coordinators, and the ANTHC Team. Many suggestions were implemented throughout the year at the event after they were received.

1. **Mask making activities:** Have art supplies that are in good condition and that are fun for participants to use. Suggestions included glue guns, better paints, wooden masks, other decorations for the masks.
2. **Attendance:** Schedule the event when there are no other major community programs happening and advertise it early to improve attendance.
3. **Talking circle:** Continue to do the talking circle and create a safe environment for participants to be emotional, share their stories and not feel put on the spot.

## Project evaluation summary- years one and two

A true comparison of year one and two for this grant project is not possible because the evaluation objectives and survey questions were changed after year one. The major changes to activities from year one to two included eliminated the question box which was put in the community prior to the event with the goal of getting questions to be answered at the event. This was not successful in year one so it was eliminated in year two. An addition, in year two was an educational presentation on vaccines that is given at each event. Also, the gifting of the large wooden mask on the third day became more of a formal ceremony in the second year.

Table 3 presents similar evaluation data for both years. Two of the top three emotions about COVID-19 cited by respondents prior to the event were the same in both years. One clear difference between the emotions in year one and year two is that the third most selected year two emotion was being overwhelmed as compared to being hopeful/optimistic in year one. In year two there was an event with tribal immunization coordinators from around the state. From that group, six individuals selected that emotion.

The rating of the event as good or very good was high for both years. A higher percent of respondents thought it was useful to talk about COVID-10 (92%) as compared to the percent who felt it was helpful (88%) in 2023. The reported knowledge gain from the talking circle about COVID-19 in 2023 was 60% and the reported knowledge gain about the role of vaccines in personal/community health was 56% each in 2024. In 2023 only 7% of respondents noted a change in their feelings about acceptance of the vaccine, while in 2024, 43% said they had increased comfort with getting the vaccine.

Table 3. A comparison of evaluation data for the year one and two

Data Indicator	2023	2024
Number of events	4	3
Top three emotions about COVID	Neutral Worried/scared Hopeful/optimistic	Neutral Worried/scared Overwhelmed
Rating of event as good or very good.		93%
Rating of mask making activity/talking circle	96% mask making 98% talking circle	
It was helpful to talk about COVID-19.	88%	
It was useful to talk about COVID-19.		92%
Information from the talking circle improved my knowledge about COVID-19.	60%	
The event increased my knowledge about the role vaccines play in personal health/community health.		56%/56%
My feelings of acceptance about the vaccine/booster changed from my event experience.	7%	
The event increased my comfort level with getting the vaccine.		46%

## Immunization Coordinators Event

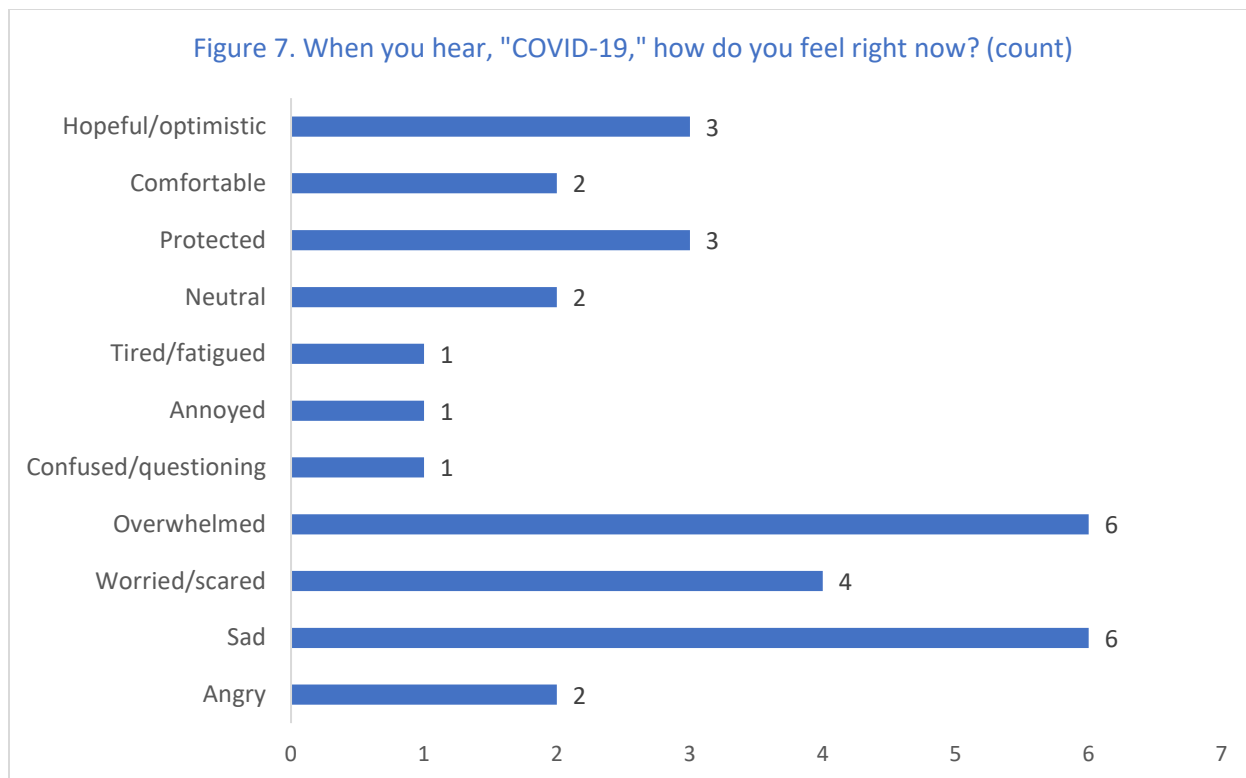


### Overview

On March 18, the ANTHC Immunization Program (a division of Community Health Services) hosted a Regional Immunization Coordinator gathering on the Alaska Native Medical Center campus in Anchorage. This gathering is the first of its kind for the Immunization Program. Ten Immunization Coordinators from throughout the state from Kotzebue to Ketchikan attended as well as, seven colleagues from the Indian Health Services, the State of Alaska, and Pfizer. A total of eight Tribal Health Organizations had a representative present, and a ninth one joined via Zoom. This mask making event evaluation is based on the ten pre-event cards and thirteen post-event evaluations that were collected at the event.

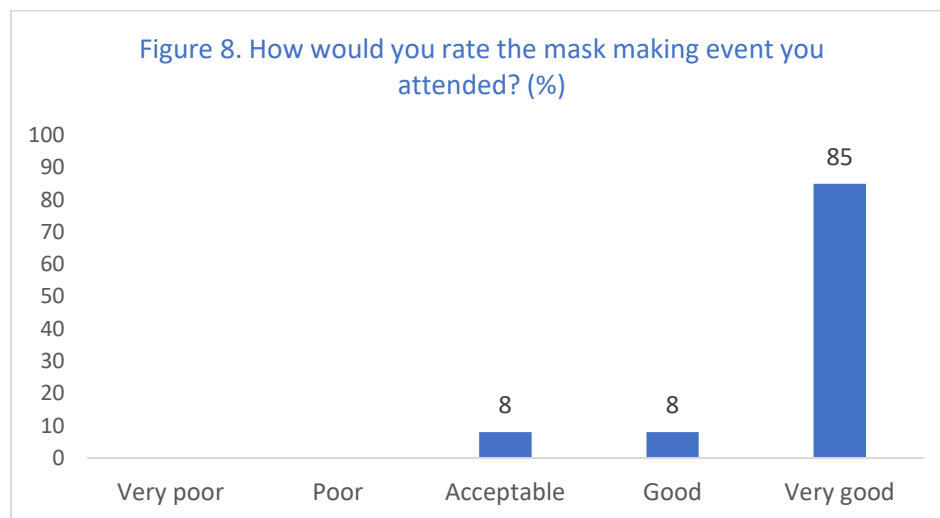
### Attitudes Towards COVID-19 prior to the event

At the beginning of the event, participants were given cards to indicate their emotions about COVID-19. This measurement was to "take the temperature" of the group regarding how they were feeling about COVID-19. Participants could check off more than one emotion (see Figure 7). The most common emotions were feeling overwhelmed (6 individuals), sad (6), and worried/scared (4). The next most common emotions, mentioned by three individuals each, were feeling hopeful/optimistic and protected. Respondents were asked in the post-survey if they agreed with the statement, "I feel that vaccines are effective in protecting my health," all surveyed participants answered affirmatively.



## Evaluation Objectives

Objective 1: Community members will rate their mask-making experience as good or very good. Ninety-three percent of respondents rated the mask making event as good (8%) or very good (85%).



The respondents were asked what they liked about the event, and they said the following:

*Mask making comments:*

- *I loved the cheat sheet of meanings (related to masks).*



Talking circle comments:

- *Talking circle*
- *Good to hear other's stories.*
- *I loved that I've been able to connect with other people who share the same goal of knowledge and information sharing.*
- *The opportunity to debrief on an impactful experience. Safe space to share.*
- *Learning other's perspectives and experiences with COVID-19.*
- *Talking about my own experience.*
- *The openness of all who shared.*

General comments:

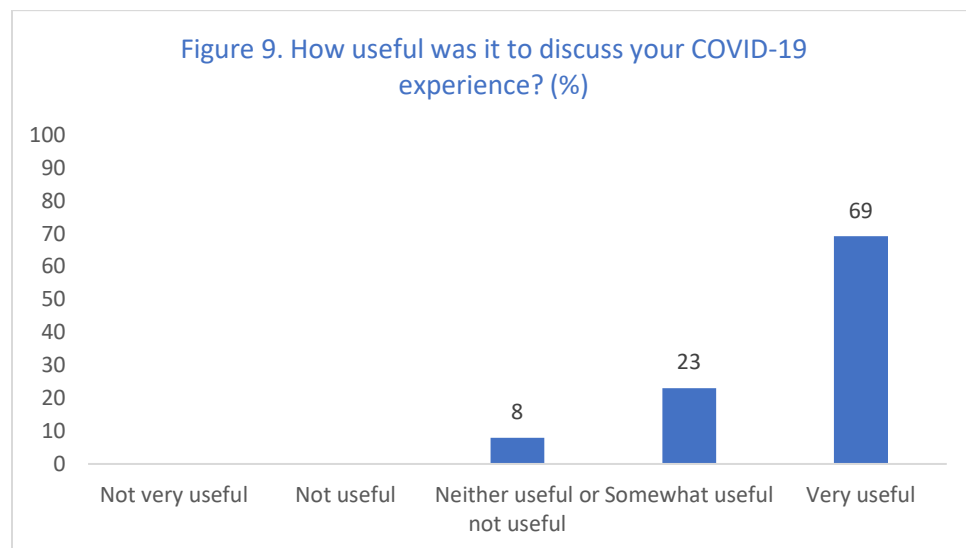
- *All of it! The art, the sharing. The love in the room. So, healing!*
- *The ability to be creative and the ability to talk about our experiences.*
- *I enjoyed getting to connect with others at the end.*
- *Meeting all the people I work with in the community and pharma coordinators, leaders. [It was] good to meet in person, makes it easier to talk with people.*

Participants were also asked about what they did not like, and the following were their comments.

- *It was very lecture heavy at the beginning.*
- *That I got emotional but that was not in my control.*
- *Sometimes you could feel put on the spot.*
- *[I am] not good with sharing because of anxiety*
- 

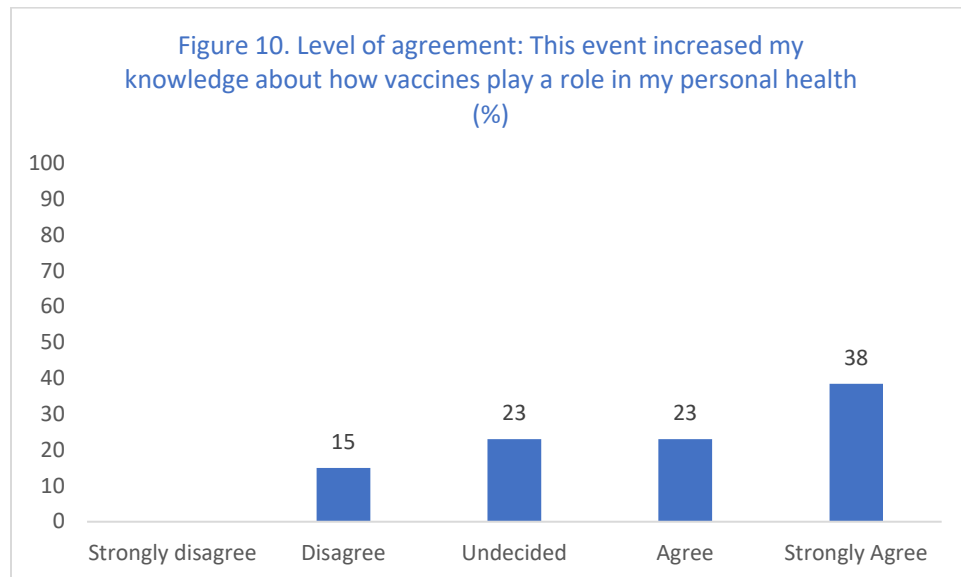
**Objective 2:** Event participants will find the experience of talking about COVID-19 useful.

Ninety-two percent of respondents found that discussing their COVID-19 experience was useful.

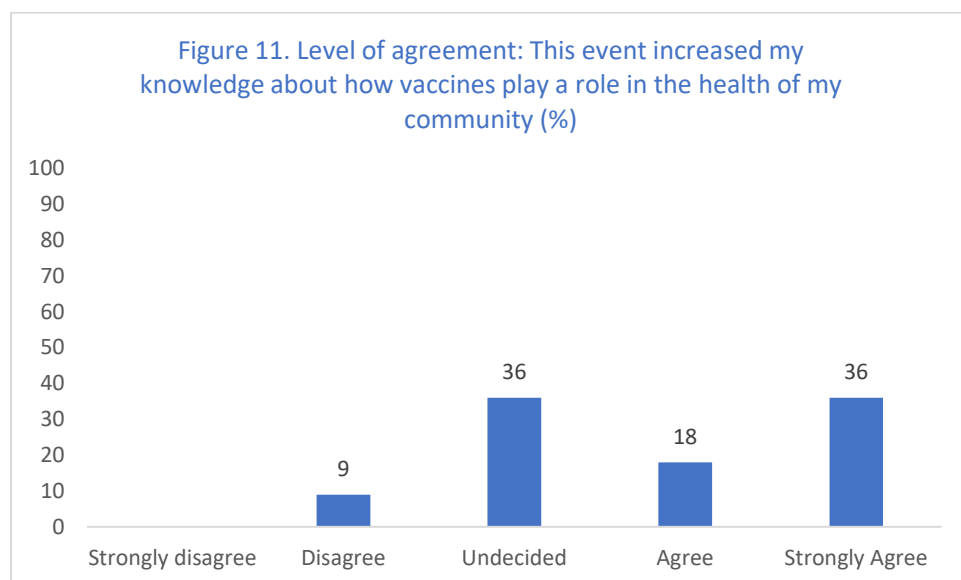


**Objective 3:** Event participants will report they learned more about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health.

Sixty-one percent of respondents reported knowledge gain after the event related to how vaccines play a role in their personal health. The remainder were undecided (23%) or did not agree with the statement that the event increased their knowledge (15%).



There was a similar pattern in terms of knowledge gain on how vaccines play a role in community health. Fifty-four percent of respondents related that their knowledge had increased, 36% were undecided and 9% disagreed.



When respondents were asked if their comfort level with getting the vaccine had increased due to the event. Fifty-four percent said yes, 38% said no and 8% didn't know. It was noted earlier in the report that

a negative answer may indicate that the participant was comfortable with the vaccine already and may not reflect on their participation in the event. In order to understand the answers to this question, it is important to look at the comments that were submitted to explain the answer (see Table 4).

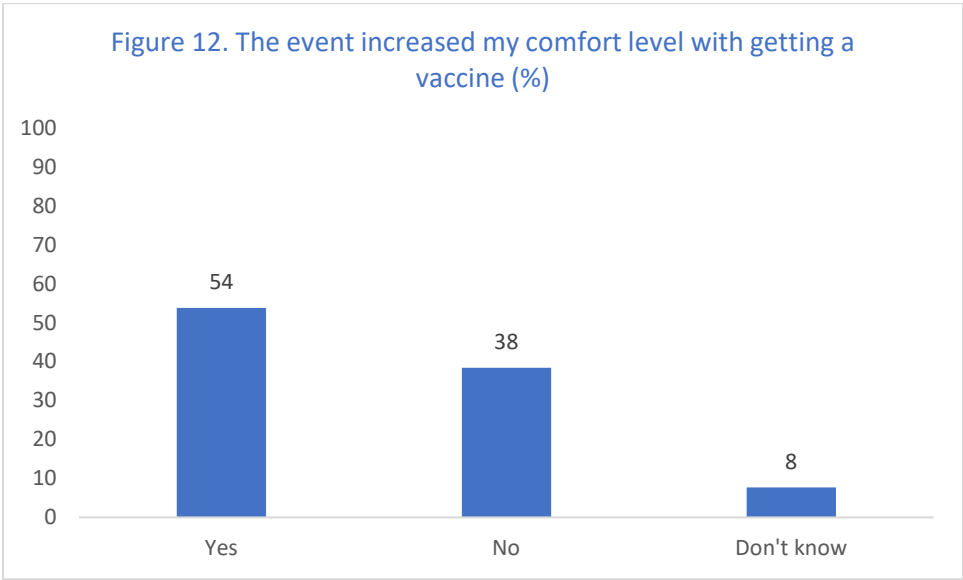


Table 4. Comments from question: Did the event increased your comfort level with getting the vaccine?

Comments from those who answered “no”	Comments from those who answered “yes”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I should not be forced to get the vaccine.</li><li>• I am already comfortable with vaccines.</li><li>• I already felt very comfortable.</li><li>• This was great because it allowed me to hear more perspectives.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I am already an advocate, but I feel renewed energy to promote vaccines.</li><li>• Not sure if it achieved that, but good to talk about experiences.</li><li>• I feel like the process of vaccination had a lot of negative stories and needed some happy ones.</li><li>• I feel somewhat “yes” and somewhat “don’t know.”</li><li>• This event was scientifically produced.</li></ul>

Other participant feedback

The ANTHC Team was asked how they thought the event went and if it was a good “fit” for the participants. Overall, the team felt it was a good fit. They felt that it gave the immunization coordinators time to tell their story. One coordinator said, “I can get out of my box and express things that maybe had bothered me for so long.” Two of the attendees from Southcentral Foundation and the Alaska Native Medical Center approached the ANTHC coordinator after the event and said they would like to host similar events for their clinics.

Participants proposed the following questions and comments on the pre-event question card about COVID-19. It is not surprising that only one question on COVID-19 was submitted from the immunization coordinators. That one question was answered during the rest of the conference.

#### Questions

- *Out of all vaccines, what COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for today's type of COVID-19 virus?*

#### Comments

- *My concern is that there is knowledge of how impactful COVID-19 was/is, but little time to process it intentionally.*
- *My concern is how to stay engaged and not shy away because there are a lot of "layers" we've picked up during COVID-19.*
- *I am concerned about the long-term effect of COVID-19 on our communities and children.*
- *I am concerned about the division that the vaccine has created in our communities and country.*
- *As a nurse I don't want to experience that again.*
- *I appreciate that the vaccines were effective.*
- *Things are constantly changing, and it is hard to keep up.*

#### Explaining their masks

Participants were asked about the story told by their masks. These were their responses expressed in word cloud form.



#### Suggestions for Improving the Event

The event participants offered just a few suggestions for improving the event. They requested more time for the event. It should be noted that this event was shorter than the other community events because it was held during a larger work gathering. They also requested more materials to decorate the masks. Regarding the talking circle, they suggested having healthy responses modeled by the ANTHC Team.

The suggestions from the ANTHC Team for improving the event as far as logistics focused on having more time allotted for future events and to plan out estimated times for different sections of the event, make a script for starting off sharing the masks, take notes on the stories that were told, and do not use the papers with the mask drawing. Additionally, have an Alaska Native Elder present (the Elder who usually attends was not able to attend this event). They also wanted to reexamine having behavioral health support at the events.

## Utqiagvik Mask Making Event

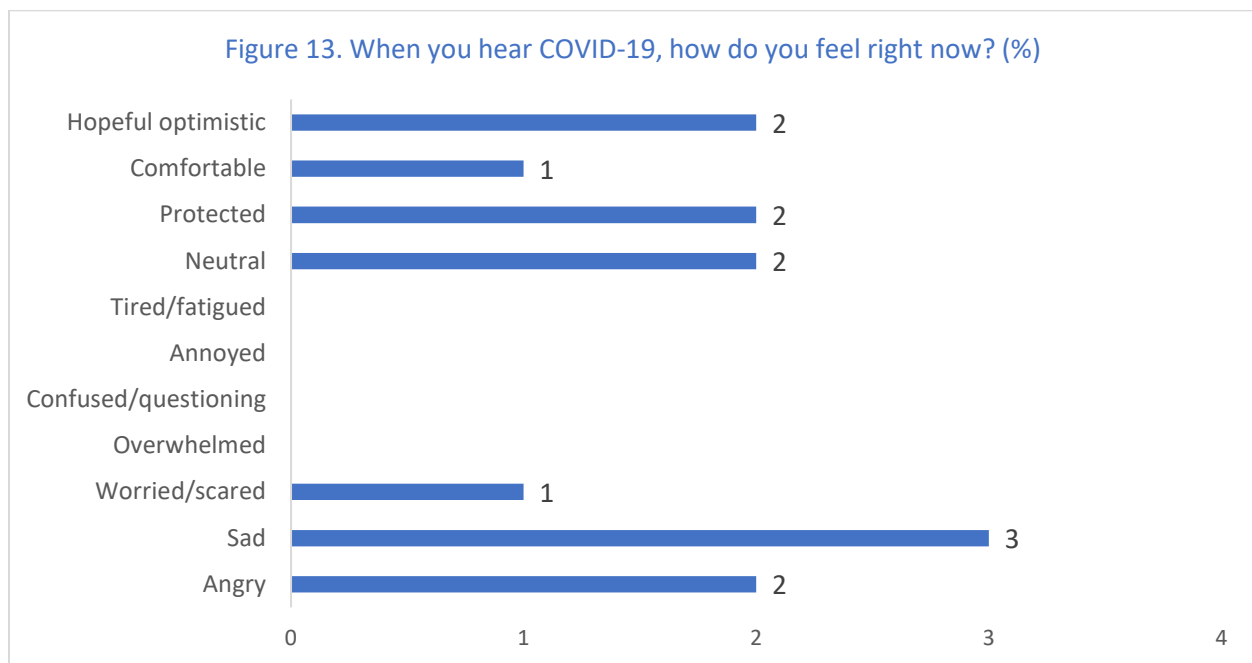


### Overview

The ANTHC Team flew out to Utqiagvik on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The first evening they had dinner with the two community coordinators with whom they had been planning the event. The next day, the three team members and one of the community coordinators gathered with nine community members for the event. All components of the event were conducted, and the mask carver created a large wooden community mask based on the stories that he heard from the community members. The next day, the mask was given to a faith leader in the community in a ceremony at the community's Wellness Center. The minister accepted the mask and prayed over it as a symbol of healing that the community can cherish and learn from. The mask will be hung at the front entrance of the public health clinic (Wellness Center). This event evaluation is based on the nine pre-event cards and six post-event survey evaluations that we received.

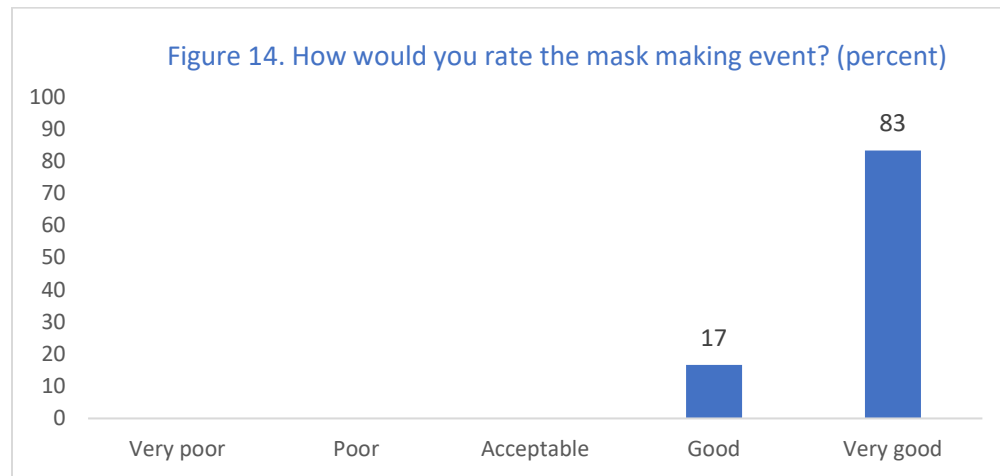
### Attitudes Towards COVID-19 prior to the event

At the start of the gathering, participants were given cards to indicate their emotions about COVID-19. This measurement was to "take the temperature" of the group regarding how they were feeling about COVID-19. Participants could check off more than one emotion. Figure 13 shows the group emotions. The most common emotion was feeling sad (3 individuals), followed by being hopeful/optimistic (2), protected (2), neutral (2), and angry (2). When asked on the post-event survey if they agreed with the statement, "I feel that vaccines are effective in protecting my health," all respondents answered affirmatively.



## Evaluation Objectives

Objective 1: Community members will rate their mask-making experience as good or very good. All participants rated their mask making experience as good (17%) or very good (83%).



The participants were asked what they liked about the event, and they said the following:

*Mask making comments:*

- *Doing art to express my experience with COVID-19.*
- *I like being creative and seeing other people's creativity.*

*Talking circle comments:*

- *I like the activity because it serves as an opportunity to interact and be able to share stories about COVID-19.*
- *Talking circle*
- *To hear the experience and perspective of others.*

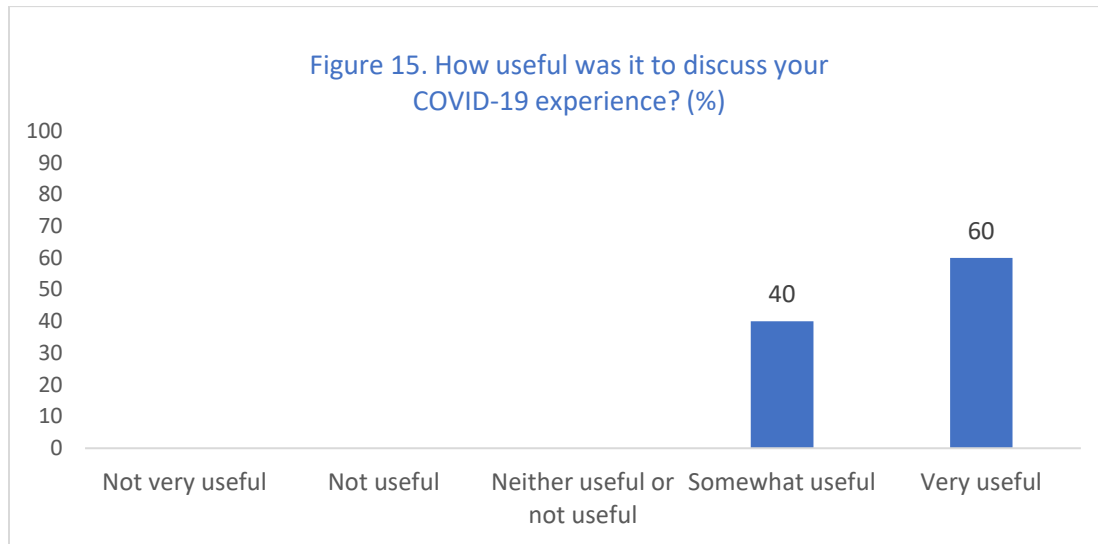
*General comments:*

- *The activity had a healing effect on the attendees.*
- *Food*
- *Interesting*

Participants were also asked about what they did not like, and two people responded saying they didn't like that there were so few attendees and that the event was a little long.

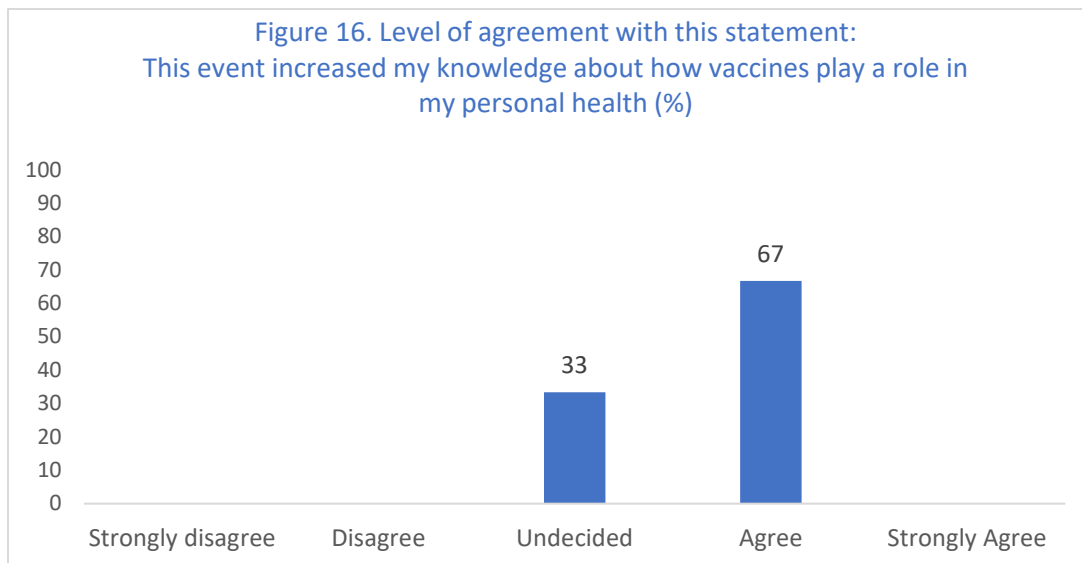


OBJECTIVE 2: Event participants will find the experience of talking about COVID-19 useful.  
A hundred percent of respondents felt that it was useful to discuss their COVID-19 experience.

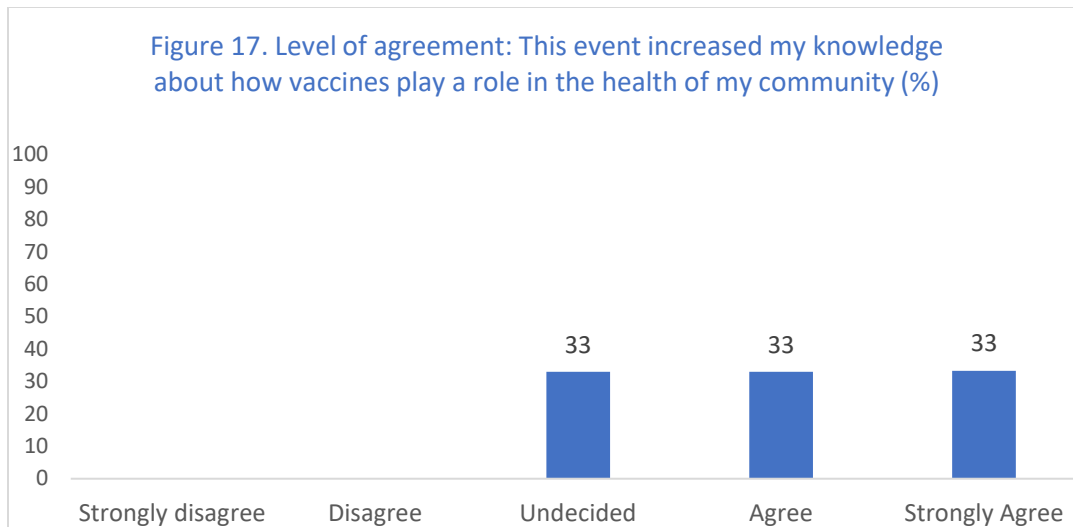


Objective 3: Event participants will report they learned more about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health.

Sixty-seven percent of respondents reported knowledge gain after the event related to how vaccines play a role in their personal health. The remainder were undecided (33%) about whether they gained this type of knowledge.



There was a similar pattern in terms of knowledge gain on how vaccines play a role in community health. Sixty-six percent of respondents related that their knowledge had increased and 33% were undecided.



When asked if their comfort level with getting the vaccine had increased due to the event. Forty percent said yes, 20% said no and 40% didn't know. It was noted earlier in the report that a negative answer may indicate that the participant was comfortable with the vaccine already and may not reflect on their participation in the event. In order to understand the answers to this question, it is important to look at the comments that were submitted to explain the answer (see Table 5).

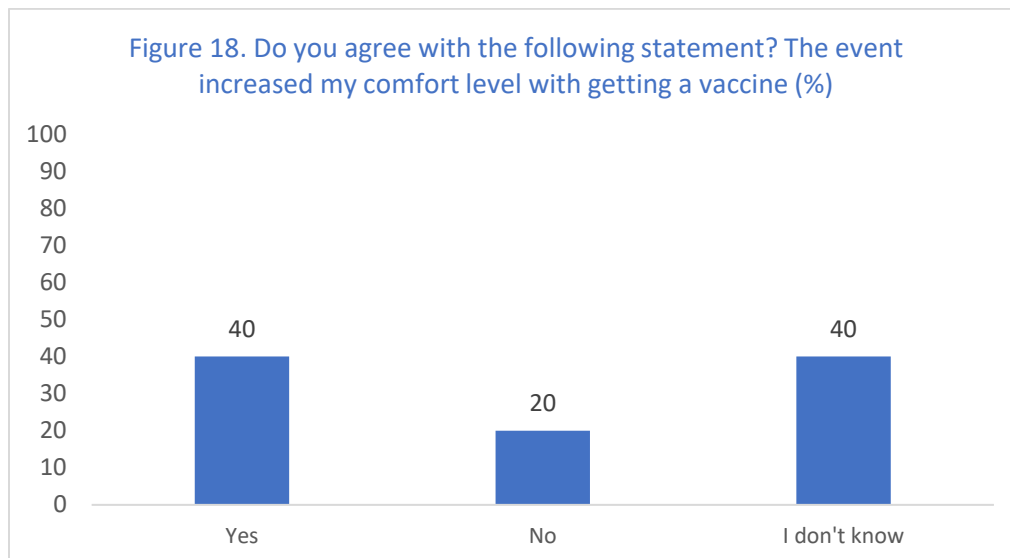


Table 5. Comments from question: Did the event increased your comfort level with getting the vaccine?

Comments from those who answered “no”	Comments from those who answered “yes”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I am fully vaccinated.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I was comfortable getting a vaccine</i></li> </ul>
<b>Comments from those who answered “don’t know”</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>I have always been comfortable getting vaccines. I am not sure any part of this event changed that.</i></li> <li><i>I get vaccinated</i></li> </ul>	

### Other participant feedback

The community coordinator from Utqiagvik thought the event went well and it was a good fit for the community. She said that participants gave positive feedback. She said it provided a good way to “process” and she learned more about the culture of the community. She liked the mask-making, the talking circle, and the presentation. When asked what she wished had gone differently she said that there could have been better markers and she had wished more people attended. The coordinator wondered if people didn’t realize it was about artistic mask making and may have thought it was about the kind of masks that prevent the spread of infection. The ANTHC Team noted that there was a large bird watching event at the same time as the mask making event.

Participants proposed the following questions and comments on the pre-event question card about COVID-19. The questions that were submitted were answered at the event with the assistance of the two community coordinators who were also nurses.

### Questions

- What are the long-term effects of COVID-19 (not just long COVID)?*
- My questions are related to the possible effects of any vaccines and whether there is truly that it causes cancer and other diseases?*

### Comments

- I have gotten every booster available.*
- I feel OK, I know what I need to do.... the next pandemic though – who knows how it will be transmitted – so big questions there.*
- The concerns about COVID-19 are related to vaccines.*

Participants were asked about the story told by their masks. These were their responses expressed as a word cloud.



The event participants offered just a few suggestions for improving the event. One participant said to keep doing more events. Another suggested having hot glue guns available for decorating the masks. A third participant suggested that announcing the event in the community earlier could have improved the attendance.

## Eagle Mask Making Event



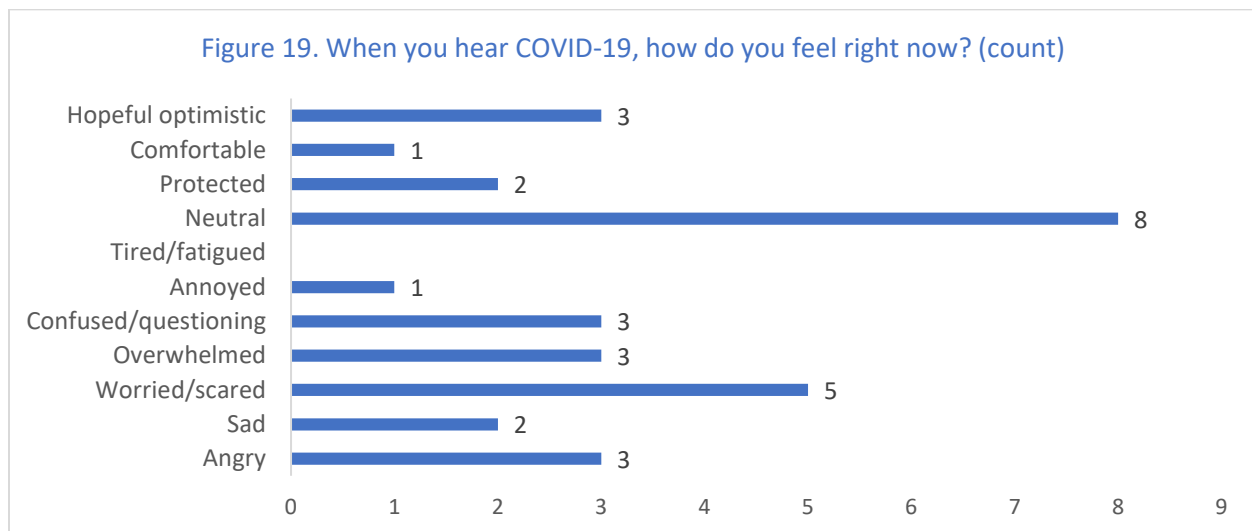
### Overview

ANTHC staff arrived in Eagle August 20<sup>th</sup>, dropped supplies at the Tribal Hall and met the two community coordinators, one of whom was the village chief. They all had lunch and the team was taken on a tour of the community where they learned about the history and demographics of the area and were told the story of what happened during the pandemic. The community coordinators said that the village was very careful at that time and most of the tribal members were vaccinated, while the level of vaccination in the larger area surrounding the village was lower. During the community tour, the team was introduced to people in the community who were invited to the event the next day.

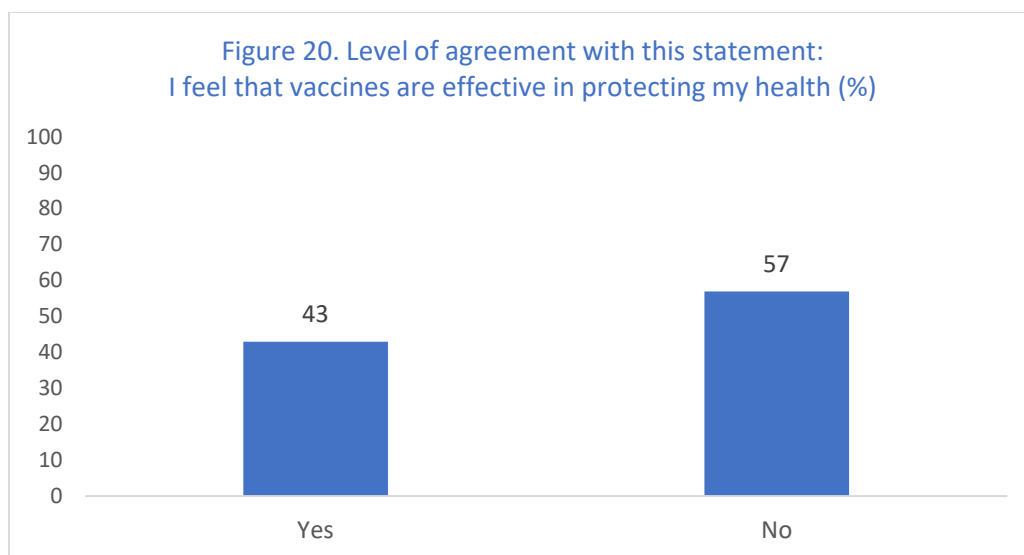
The next day, the event held in the village Tribal Hall and was attended by twenty-three community members and lasted over three hours. After the event, the large wooden community mask was completed. The next day, the mask was presented by the carver to the village chief. On that day, the ANTHC Team's flight home was canceled, and they had to stay another night in the community. That evening the chief had a bonfire at their house and invited the team, some of the event participants and others. This evaluation is based on the eleven pre-event cards and thirteen post-event evaluations.

## Attitudes Towards COVID-19 prior to the event

At the beginning of the gathering, participants were given cards to indicate their emotions about COVID-19. This measurement was to "take the temperature" of the group regarding how they were feeling about COVID-19. Participants could check off more than one emotion. Figure 19 shows the group emotions pre-event. In Eagle, the most common emotions were feeling neutral (8 individuals), and worried/scared (5). The next emotions that were mentioned by three individuals each were being hopeful/optimistic, confused/questioning, overwhelmed, and angry.

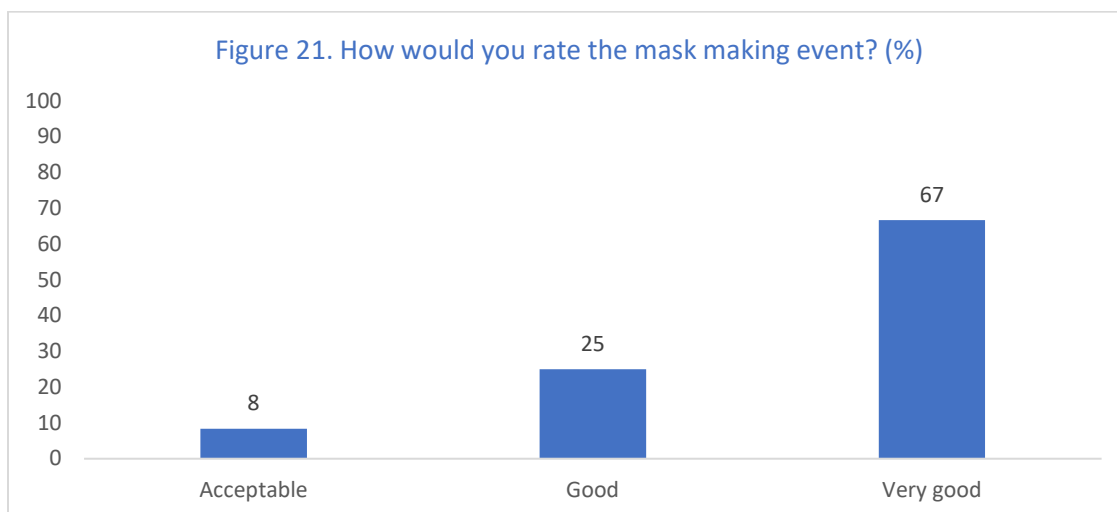


The participants had varied opinions about vaccines. When asked in the post-survey if they agreed with the statement, "I feel that vaccines are effective in protecting my health," 43% of respondents answered affirmatively.



## Evaluation Objectives

Objective 1: Community members will rate their mask-making experience as good or very good. Ninety-two percent of respondents rated the mask making event as good (25%) or very good (85%).



The participants were asked what they liked about the event, and they said the following comments.

*Talking circle comments:*

- *I loved sharing and learning how others felt in our community, it was nice to talk about it.*
- *I liked that I got to hear everyone's story.*
- *So fun! It was nice to open up and share and hear about others' experiences. Everybody really does have a different story. I liked how interactive this event was. 10/10 recommend.*
- *The openness and different views opened many eyes.*
- *Openness of the participants willingness to share COVID-19 experiences.*
- *People were respectful and opened themselves up to how they felt. They listened and we could talk about how hard it is. Thanks for the food and coming to Eagle.*
- *People heal by expressing their feelings, so healing is good.*

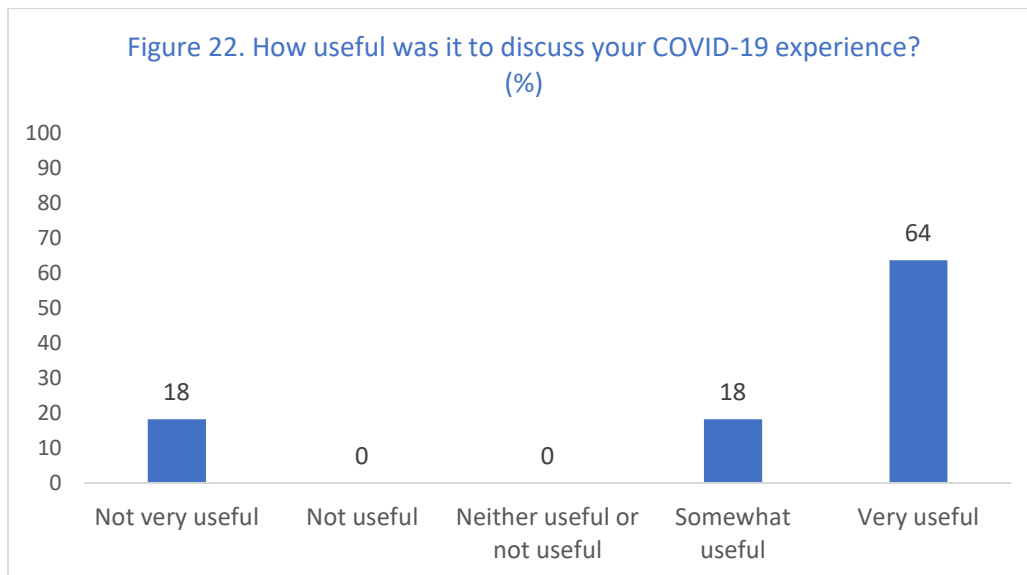
*General comments:*

- *Opportunity to express myself. Fun experience.*
- *The creativity and overall participation of individuals. A gathering and art are always nice.*
- *Drew, Mariah, and Kerri were a great team to talk to, and they shared a lot of great information. I loved the community feel- talking about their personal stories and being respected and heard.*
- *Speaker and presenters were awesome.*
- *Everything they did was very interesting and important.*

Participants were also asked about what they did not like, and the following were their comments.

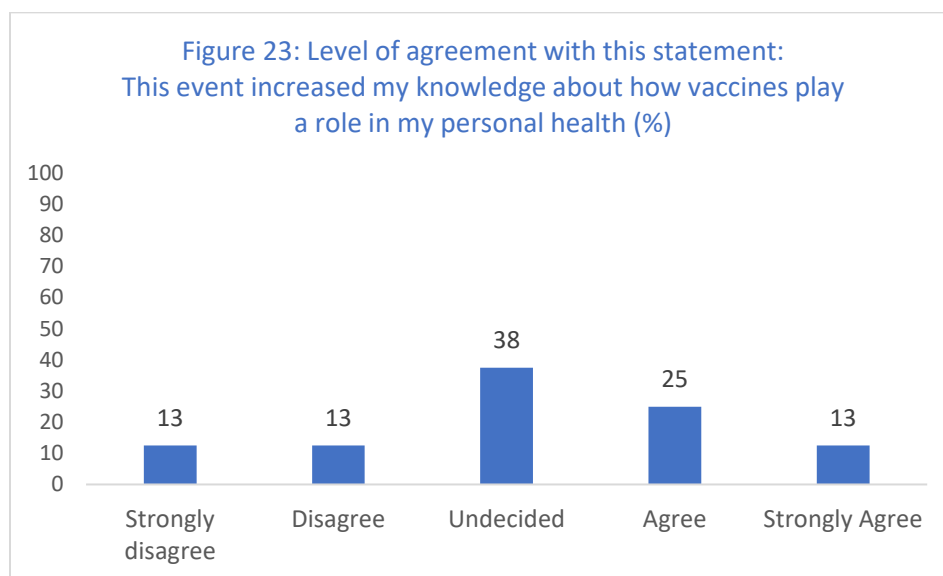
- *The paint kind of sucked.*
- *There was no dessert.*
- *I didn't like how long it was, but it was worth it.*

Objective 2: Event participants will find the experience of talking about COVID-19 useful  
Eighty-two percent of surveyed respondents said that talking about COVID-19 was useful.



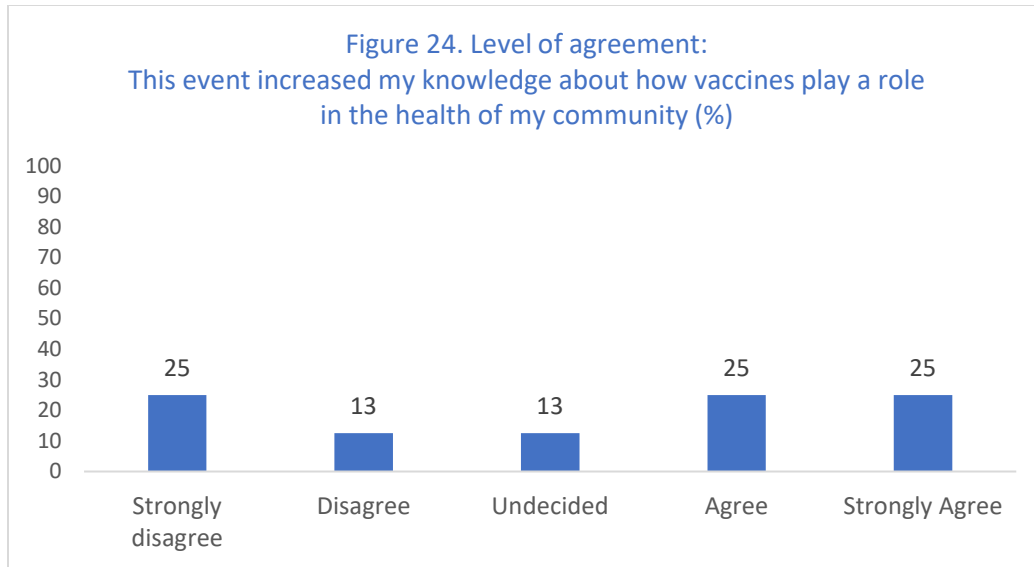
Objective 3: Event participants will report they learned more about how vaccines play a role in personal and community health.

Thirty-eight percent of respondents reported knowledge gain after the event related to how vaccines play a role in their personal health. The remainder were undecided (38%) or did not agree with the statement that the event increased their knowledge (26%).



There was a similar pattern in terms of knowledge gain on how vaccines play a role in community health. Fifty percent of respondents related that their knowledge had increased, 13% were undecided and 38% disagreed.





When asked if their comfort level with getting the vaccine had increased due to the event. Thirty-eight percent said yes, 38% said no and 25% didn't know. It was noted earlier in the report that a negative answer may indicate that the participant was comfortable with the vaccine already and may not reflect on their participation in the event. In order to understand the answers to this question, it is important to look at the comments that were submitted to explain the answer (see Table 6).

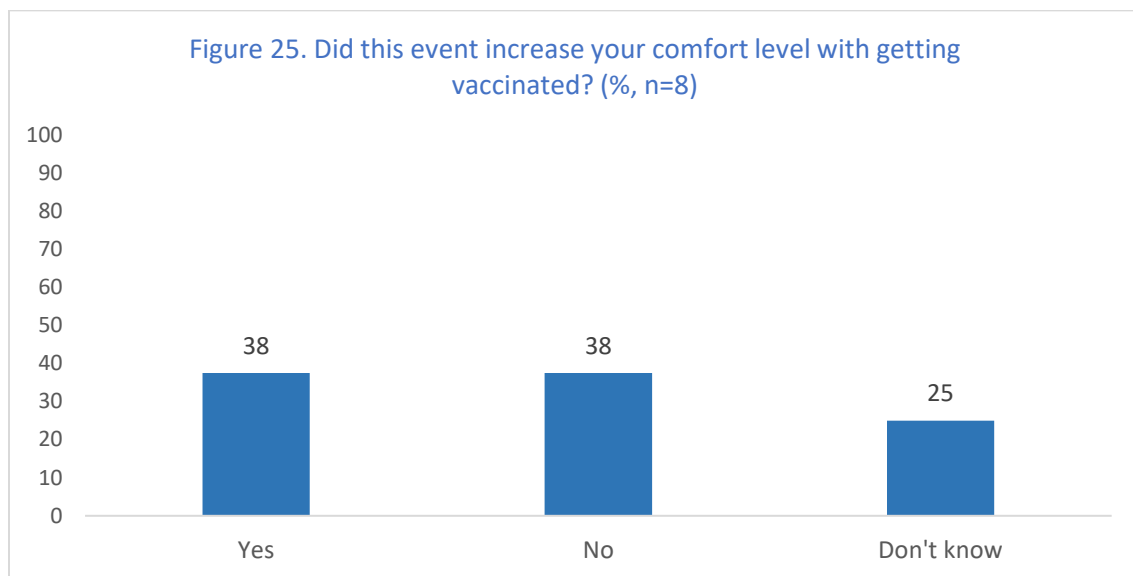


Table 6. Comments from question: Did the event increased your comfort level with getting the vaccine?

Comments from those who answered “no”	Comments from those who answered “yes”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I do not do vaccines. I believe our bodies are created to fight viruses, and I trust that my body will do what’s necessary to protect me.</i></li> <li>• <i>I don’t think vaccines are safe.</i></li> <li>• <i>I got the vaccine and still got COVID-19.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Good job people!</i></li> <li>• <i>I feel comfortable about decisions to vaccinate and to continue receiving the booster.</i></li> </ul>
Comments from those who answered “don’t know”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I have no opinions on the vaccines or boosters at this current time</i></li> </ul>	

## Other participant feedback

### Feedback from community liaison

One of the community coordinators reported that they thought the event went well and that the ANTHC Team did a great job and were organized. She said that she really enjoyed it more than she thought she would. She said, *“Many people were reluctant to talk about their feelings but when it came down to it, there were some very artistic people and we all had something in common - the COVID virus.”* She had no suggestions for improving the event and suggested that it could be a great thing to do in the schools to “decompress” the children.

Participants proposed the following questions and comments on the pre-event question card about COVID-19. The questions were answered by the ANTHC Team after the event and the answers were emailed to the community coordinator.

### Questions

- *Is there anything important I should know?*
- *Does the vaccine last in your body forever or does it eventually eliminate out and are boosters still helpful?*
- *How long after getting symptoms am I contagious and how long after they go away?*
- *Why is it still here?*
- *Will there always be more boosters coming out – is the virus always changing?*
- *Why is this still happening- make it stop – for the love of God?*
- *How do people who are unvaccinated react?*
- *How safe are the vaccines?*
- *Is it getting to be a milder infection with less symptoms or deaths?*

### Comments

- *I’m concerned about people with existing poor health.*
- *I hope I don’t get it and the vaccine works.*
- *I treat it the same as every virus – standard precautions or proper hygiene and hand washing.*

- *I believe we are all doing what we can do to be aware of COVID-19.*
- *I have no opinion of vaccines or boosters.*
- *They should have a good cure for it.*
- *That it will never go away.*
- *I have concern about the aftermath of the symptoms.*
- *Glad it's over.*
- *People's vulnerability to media and paranoia.*
- *They haven't tested the vaccine long enough.*
- *When I had COVID I didn't know I had it.*
- *I'm worried about all our young kids, elders, and our beautiful community health and safety.*

### Explaining their masks

Participants were asked about the story told by their masks. These were their responses:



### Suggestions for Improving the Event

The event participants offered just a few suggestions for improving the event. One person requested that all people present share in the talking circle. Another suggested that they be taught natural ways to protect oneself rather than relying on a vaccine and to discuss the vaccine side effects and people can make an informed choice rather than vaccinate out of fear. A respondent also suggested that the presenter practice their presentations more so they could be streamlined and use time more efficiently. Finally, a respondent requested more art supplies and more time to make crafty masks (wooden masks).

## Appendix A : Pre-event evaluation card

When you hear, "COVID-19," how do you feel right now?

Check all that apply:



angry



sad



worried/  
scared



overwhelmed



neutral



protected



confused/  
questioning



comfortable



hopeful/  
optimistic



Other - draw and describe your own expression

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---



I don't believe  
in COVID-19

What questions or concerns do you have about COVID-19?

---

---

---

What questions or concerns do you have about the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters?

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---

---



**What story does your mask tell**



**Do the materials  
and colors  
you've used give  
meaning to your  
design.**

**May we share a photo of your mask and story? Circle one.**

Yes

No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Community \_\_\_\_\_

**If yes, would you prefer to have your mask and story be anonymous?**

Yes

No

## Appendix B: Post-event survey

# POST EVENT SURVEY

*We would like to know what parts of the event you participated in, what you thought, and any suggestions you have for improvement.*

**Please check the activities that you participated in:**

☐ I participated in the mask-making activity

☐ I participated in the talking circle

☐ I participated in vaccine knowledge sharing<sup>1</sup>

**Overall, how would you rate your experience with the event?**

Very poor      Poor      Acceptable      Good      Very good      I didn't attend this

**How useful was it to discuss your COVID-19 experience with the event?**

Not very useful      Not useful      Somewhat useful      Very useful

**What did you like about the event?**

---

---

**What did you not like about event?**

---

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**What suggestions do you have for improving this event?**

---

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*We would like to understand if participating in this event changed your knowledge. Please circle the level of agreement you have with the following statements.*

**This event increased my knowledge about how vaccines play a role in my personal health.**

Strongly disagree      Disagree      Undecided      Agree      Strongly agree

---

<sup>1</sup> Not all event sessions will have a knowledge sharing session



# POST EVENT SURVEY

**This event increased my knowledge about how vaccines play a role in the health of my community.**

Strongly disagree

Disagree

Undecided

Agree

Strongly agree

**Please check which statement best reflects your views.**

☐ I feel that vaccines are effective in protecting my health.

☐ I feel that vaccines are not effective in protecting my health.

**Did this event increase your comfort level with getting a vaccine?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ I don't know

Please explain

---

---

## Appendix C: Community coordinator email questions

- 1.How do you feel the Mask Making event went?
- 2.What did you think when well?
- 3.What do you wish had gone differently?
- 4.What kind of impact do you think the event had on participants?
- 5.Do you feel that this event fit well with the community? Why or why not?

## Appendix D: ANTHC Team debrief meeting questions

1. What are your thoughts about how the event went?

Probes:

- a) Planning for the event?
- b) The mask making?
- c) The talking circle?
- d) The knowledge sharing?

2. How do you think the event fits with the group/community that attended?

3. Is there anything you would recommend doing differently when holding this event with another group/community?

4. What did you like the best about the event?