

# WHY ARE YOU ASKING FOR MY RACE AND ETHNICITY?

## We care about equity.

Maine is committed to distributing COVID-19 vaccines equitably to all Mainers. The pandemic has disproportionately affected Black, Latinx, Asian and Indigenous populations and we want to ensure that vaccines reach those communities.

## We want to serve your needs.

Like other demographic data, this information helps state and local organizations understand how programs and policies are working for various groups. We use the data to make sure those programs and policies are tailored to communities' cultures and languages. It holds us accountable and helps us to better serve your needs.

## We want equal opportunity.

We want to detect and deal with apparent inequity. Government, policy makers, and advocates use this data to identify potential gaps and make changes that improve the lives of communities.

## What about privacy? Race v. ethnicity?

This information is used to create statistics for groups of people that share particular answers. We do not disclose personally identifying information. We are legally bound to strict confidentiality requirements. Vaccination records are seen only by medical providers and the Maine CDC, but are not shared with other state agencies and enforcement entities.

Race describes real or perceived differences between groups of people.

Ethnicity describes nationality, or shared custom or culture.

We use standard categories that allow us to compare across other systems and states. We understand the categories may not be the way you would normally describe yourself.

