

Benicio del Toro and Zoe Saldana Fight COVID-19 Misinformation Among Latinos [VIDEO]

The actors help debunk COVID-19 vaccine misconceptions in a new bilingual campaign.

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With most Americans now eligible for the [COVID-19 vaccine](#), the need to address vaccine misinformation among people of color—who have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus—has grown more urgent.

To that end, [Latino](#) actors Benicio del Toro and Zoe Saldana have teamed up for a new [bilingual campaign](#) encouraging more Latinos to get vaccinated, reports [NBC News](#).

For del Toro, the fight is personal. He lost his uncle to [COVID-19](#) last year, and his brother, a chief medical officer of a hospital in New York City, contracted the virus while fighting the pandemic.

The video campaign is a partnership with advocacy group [Momento Latino](#) and [SOMOS Community Care](#), a network of over 2,500 providers in New York City. In the video, del Toro and Zoe Saldana discuss COVID-19 misconceptions with del Toro's brother, Gustavo del Toro, MD. (Watch the video above.)

"We were discussing the concerns that exist right now in Latinx communities, African-American communities and other minority groups," Saldana says in the video. "The misleading information around the virus, around vaccination. Having someone like you provide scientific explanations to our concerns, I think would help our communities make better decisions around the vaccination process. "

According to [recent data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on race and COVID-19 vaccination, an estimated 12% of Latinos have been vaccinated against the virus, a stark contrast from the 64% of white people who've been vaccinated.

Latinos are two times more likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19, three times more likely to be hospitalized and 2.3 times more likely to die of the virus than white people, the [CDC](#) reports. Being vaccinated against COVID-19 could help save many Latino lives by reducing the number of cases and deaths among this community.

In addition to addressing COVID-19 misinformation, the campaign provides cultural content about vaccines and why it's important for Latinos to have access to vaccines, reports [The Hollywood Reporter](#).

“Our intention is not to tell people what to do,” said del Toro during a recent press briefing. “We just want to bring out the information about the vaccines and then let people make their own decisions.”

For related coverage, read “[‘Latino Anti-Disinformation Lab’ Will Combat COVID-19 Falsehoods](#)”

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