

## Meanings of COVID-19 vaccination to immunized elderly in southern Brazil

*Significados da vacinação contra a COVID-19 para idosos imunizados na região sul do Brasil*

*Significados de la vacunación contra COVID-19 para ancianos inmunizados en la región sur de Brasil*

*Jeane Barros de Souza<sup>1</sup> ; Tassiana Potrich<sup>1</sup> ; Daniela Savi Geremia<sup>1</sup> ; Bruna Panis Albani<sup>1</sup> ,  
Tatiana Gaffuri da Silva<sup>1</sup> ; Valéria Silvana Faganello Madureira<sup>1</sup> *

*<sup>1</sup>Universidade Federal da Fronteira do Sul, Chapecó, SC, Brazil*

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** to understand the meanings of COVID-19 vaccination to immunized elderly. **Method:** this qualitative, participant action study was based on the assumptions of Paulo Freire and approved by the research ethics committee. Sampling was by the snowball technique. The three stages of the Research Itinerary were: Thematic Research; Encoding and Decoding; and Critical Unveiling. A virtual Culture Circle was held in March 2021, with the participation of 11 elderly people without cognitive impairment, living in the south of Brazil and immunized against COVID-19. The first participant belonged to the social circle of one of the researchers. **Results:** two generator themes emerged: 1) COVID-19: birds trapped in their cages; and 2) COVID-19 vaccination: the time to fly again is coming. **Conclusions:** vaccination against COVID-19 for the elderly meant happiness, protection, hope, relief, tranquility and hope of returning to routine activities.

**Descriptors:** Pandemics; COVID-19; Nursing; Vaccines; Health of the Elderly.

### RESUMO

**Objetivo:** compreender os significados da vacinação contra a COVID-19 para idosos imunizados. **Método:** estudo qualitativo, tipo ação participante, fundamentado nos pressupostos de Paulo Freire e aprovado pelo comitê de ética em pesquisa. Para a amostragem foi utilizada a técnica de *Snowball*. O primeiro participante pertencia ao círculo social de um dos pesquisadores. Participaram do estudo 11 idosos imunizados contra a COVID-19, com capacidade cognitiva preservada e residentes no sul do Brasil. Percorreu-se as três fases do Itinerário de Pesquisa: Investigação Temática; Codificação e Descodificação; Desvelamento Crítico. Realizou-se um Círculo de Cultura virtual, em março de 2021. **Resultados:** emergiram dois temas geradores: 1) COVID-19: pássaros presos em suas gaiolas; 2) vacinação contra COVID-19: está chegando o tempo de voltar a voar. **Conclusões:** a vacinação contra a COVID-19 para os idosos significou felicidade, proteção, esperança, alívio, tranquilidade e esperança de retorno às atividades rotineiras.

**Descritores:** Pandemias; COVID-19; Enfermagem; Vacinas; Saúde do Idoso.

### RESUMEN

**Objetivo:** comprender los significados de la vacunación contra COVID-19 en ancianos inmunizados. **Método:** estudio cualitativo, tipo acción participante, basado en los supuestos de Paulo Freire, aprobados por el Comité de Ética en Investigación. Para el muestreo se utilizó la técnica *Snowball*. El primer participante pertenecía al círculo social de uno de los investigadores. Participaron en el estudio 11 ancianos inmunizados contra COVID-19, con capacidad cognitiva preservada y residentes en el sur de Brasil. Se recorrieron las tres etapas del Itinerario de Investigación: Investigación Temática, Codificación y Descodificación, Desvelamiento Crítico. Se realizó un Círculo de Cultura virtual, en marzo de 2021. **Resultados:** surgieron dos temas generadores: 1) COVID-19: aves atrapadas en sus jaulas; 2) vacunación contra COVID-19: llega el momento de volar de nuevo. **Conclusiones:** la vacunación contra el COVID-19 para los ancianos significó felicidad, protección, esperanza, alivio, tranquilidad y esperanza de volver a las actividades de rutina.

**Descriptores:** Pandemias; COVID-19; Enfermería; Vacunas; Salud del Anciano.

## INTRODUCTION

In December 2019, the first cases of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) were reported with a high rate of global spread and transmission, becoming a global public health problem<sup>1</sup>. The first cases recorded in Brazil were in February 2020, mainly infecting older adults, people with comorbidities and health care workers<sup>2</sup>.

The fight against the pandemic caused by COVID-19 has led researchers from around the world to unite in the search for strategies to contain the disease, with emphasis on the vaccine<sup>3,4</sup>. It is noted that, until March 2021, there were 82 immunobiologicals in the clinical phase with registration and other 182 projects in the pre-clinical phase<sup>5</sup>. In Brazil, the National Health Surveillance Agency (*Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária*, ANVISA) authorized the use of four immunobiologicals: CoronaVac and Janssen for emergency use and AstraZeneca and Pfizer<sup>6</sup> with definite registration.

Corresponding author: Valéria Silvana Faganello Madureira. E-mail: [valeriamadureira2005@hotmail.com](mailto:valeriamadureira2005@hotmail.com)  
Scientific Editor: Cristiane Helena Gallasch; Associate Editor: Mercedes Neto

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Brazilian Ministry of Health (*Ministério da Saúde*, MS) started the National Vaccination Campaign with the CoronaVac and AstraZeneca immunobiologicals, both with a recommendation of two doses, according to the National Plan for Operationalization of Vaccination against COVID-19. This Plan was prepared by the National Immunization Program (*Programa Nacional de Imunização*, PNI), establishing priority groups for the first doses, according to the higher potential health risk<sup>6</sup>.

Among the priority groups is the aged population, which usually has some pre-existing disease, immunosuppression or associated comorbidity, which increases susceptibility to the development of severe cases of COVID-19 and even death<sup>7</sup>. In general, immunosenescence, characterized by the aging of the immune system in older adults, makes them more susceptible to developing diseases caused by infectious-contagious diseases, such as the most severe forms of COVID 19<sup>1</sup>. This is due to depression of the immune system, which is no longer so effective in fighting against external microorganisms<sup>1</sup>.

Thus, in times of uncertainty, loss of loved ones and social distancing, it is believed that being immunized against COVID-19 means, especially for older adults, greater protection, relief and hope<sup>2</sup>. Until mid-September 2021, the NIP recorded 55,526,280 doses applied to older adults aged 60 years old and over, with 29,478,615 who received the first dose and 25,998,182 having already been immunized with the two doses<sup>8</sup>. It is noted that 376,949 older adults were affected by the most severe form of the disease and evolved to death, representing 67.7% of the deaths until August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021<sup>7</sup>. Given the situation exposed, the study guiding question arises: Which are the meanings of vaccination against COVID-19 for older adults who were immunized?

This study is justified for being a recent phenomenon, developing in real time, even with gaps in scientific evidence, which lack the attentive look of nurses and other health professionals<sup>6</sup>. Thus, the objective of the study was to understand the meanings of vaccination against COVID-19 for older adults who were immunized.

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study had Paulo Freire's precepts as methodological theoretical foundation, which underlie the problematization of the reality experienced in order to promote meaningful learning, necessary for the transformation of people<sup>8</sup>.

The dialogical praxis with kindness and horizontality, which considers each person's knowledge and anchors learning, takes place in the Culture Circle, a space in which the Research Itinerary stages are also carried out<sup>9</sup>. The meeting provided by the circle promotes the establishment of a humanized relationship of care, affection, ethics and respect for human beings and their values, sharing experiences, encouraging autonomy and empowerment, seeking liberation of the oppressed<sup>8,9</sup>.

Thus, it is understood that the theoretical-methodological framework adopted enabled and facilitated production of information, since the scenario in question requires sensitivity and empathy from the researchers so that the real meanings and senses of the experience underwent by the older adults can emerge.

## METHOD

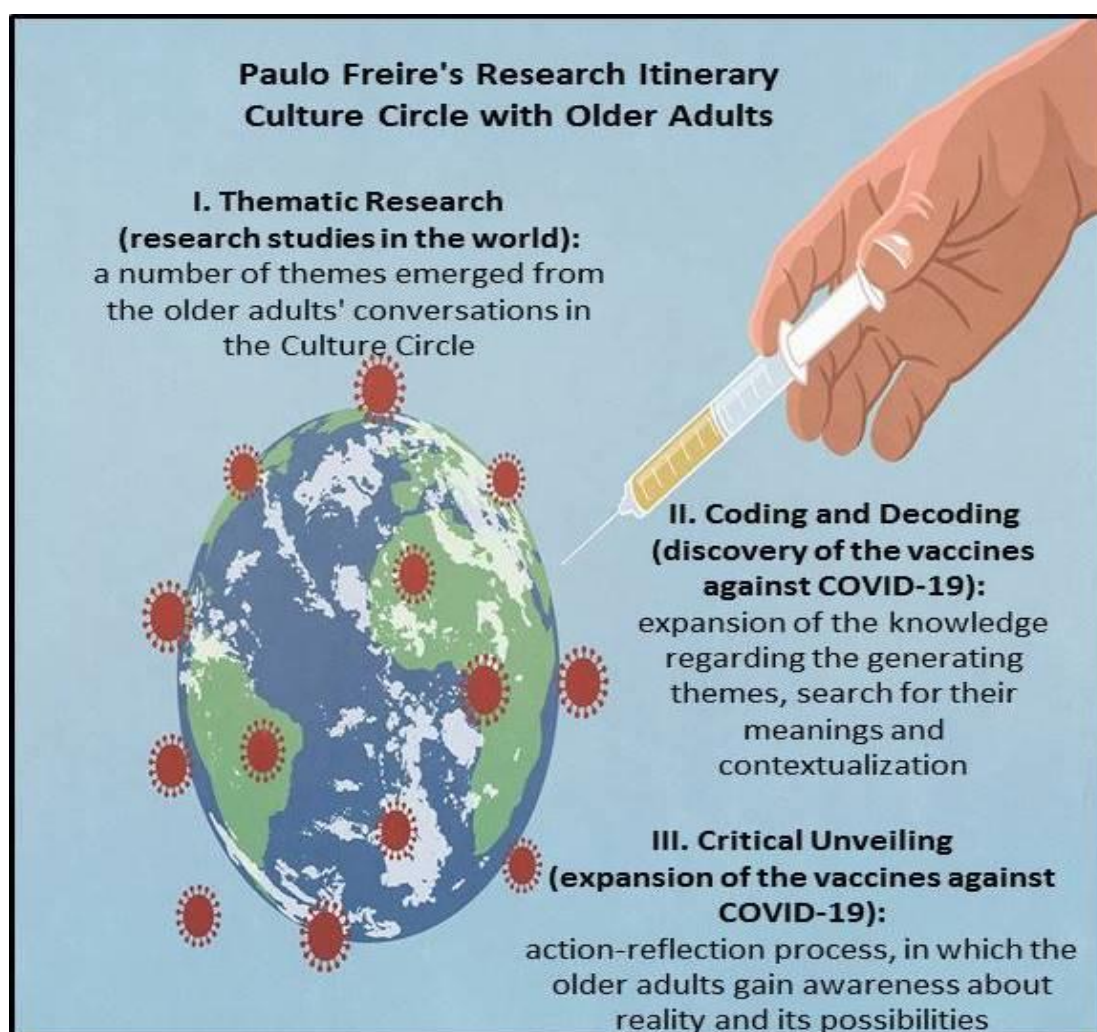
A qualitative study, of the action-participant research type<sup>10</sup>, which went through the Research Itinerary elaborated from Paulo Freire's philosophical theoretical framework and which is inscribed in the education field. Proposed to produce awareness raising and learning, it does not explain conceptual structures as a research strategy. The Itinerary has three phases that are dialectically intertwined: 1) Thematic Research: survey of the generating themes, which are extracted from the participants' reality in the Culture Circle; 2) Coding and Decoding: contextualization, with a critical and reflective view on the generating themes, in which the participants become aware of the world experienced; 3) Critical Unveiling: based on awareness of the reality, the participants unveil the inside of their ideas to foster transformation through knowledge<sup>8,9</sup>.

Given the pandemic situation, it was decided to develop the Culture Circle in a virtual environment. Thus, the Zoom<sup>®</sup> app was used, with the aid of cell phone or computer cameras, enabling the participants' interactive and simultaneous participation. It is emphasized that some participants already used the app in virtual meetings with family members, which assisted in the interaction during the Virtual Culture Circle (VCC).

The study participants were 11 older adults who lived in the Brazilian South region. The inclusion criteria considered were individuals over 60 years of age, immunized with both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and with preserved cognitive capacity. The exclusion criteria corresponded to older adults with no access to the Internet or to electronic devices to participate in the VCC.

Inclusion of the participants was initiated with an invitation to an older adult from the researchers' social circle. This older adult invited another one and so on, according to the Snowball sampling method<sup>41</sup>. Initially, there were 14 older adults, but only 11 participated in the VCC, as three had not received the second dose of the vaccine. The total of 11 participants was considered appropriate since, in the Culture Circle, the discussions and exchanges continue until the theme in question is deeply explored, which requires a smaller number of participants to favor dialog.

The VCC was conducted on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, lasting approximately three hours and mediated by a nurse with experience in leading Culture Circles. With the intention of establishing greater interaction with and among the participants, it was decided to go through the Research Itinerary stages by means of an analogy involving the itinerary of the vaccine against COVID-19 (Figure 1).



**FIGURE 1:** Research Itinerary: Analogy with the itinerary of the vaccine against COVID-19. Chapecó, SC, Brazil, 2021.  
Source: Image adapted by the authors from <https://exame.com/ciencia/o-que-falta-para-uma-vacina-contra-a-covid-19-ser-aprovada/>

For the Thematic Research, the VCC mediator introduced the theme addressing that the world was waiting for the researchers to study the possibilities of vaccines against COVID-19 and invited them to reflect on the following question: Which are the meanings of the vaccination against COVID-19? After intense dialog and reflection, the older adults chose two Generating Themes (GTs): 1) COVID-19: Birds trapped in their cages; and 2) Vaccination against COVID-19: Time to fly again.

In the Coding and Decoding stage, the mediator pointed out that, after many research studies, several vaccines started to be produced both in Brazil and worldwide. Thus, the older adults were requested to reflect on the two GTs selected, inviting them to answer two questions: Which is the meaning of being vaccinated and feeling trapped in your cage? Did the time to fly again come, after vaccination against COVID-19? While listening to '*Emoções*' ('Emotions'), by Roberto Carlos, the older adults recorded their answers on a sheet of paper, in which they wrote a representative term or phrase. Subsequently, everyone shared their meanings, while the mediator recorded the representative terms shared (Figure 2).



**FIGURE 2:** Representation of the Coding and Decoding of the two GTs Chapecó, SC, Brazil, 2021.  
Source: adapted by the authors from <https://www.pinterest.es/pin/846747167431331385/>

In the Critical Unveiling, the records in Figure 2 were presented on the shared screen of the computer, for validation by the participants, while the mediator encouraged them to reflect on the GTs to seal the of action-reflection process<sup>9</sup> and promote thinking about the themes discussed. The older adults (re)signified the themes about vaccination against COVID-19, becoming aware of their situation of feeling “caged” inside their houses, with the desire to go out and “fly again”. To end the process, the mediator asked the older adults about the meaning of having participated in the VCC during this vaccination period in the face of the pandemic, asking the following question: What was it like for you to participate in this virtual meeting? The older adults discussed the relevance of the virtual meeting and of the discussions generated for their lives and health.

The conversations were recorded, with the participants' authorization, transcribed and organized according to the two GTs selected for discussion. The analysis of the themes (data) took place concomitantly with the development of the VCC, according to the Research Itinerary assumptions, which provides the analytical process with participation of all those involved<sup>9</sup>.

The research followed the precepts of Resolution 466 of 2012. Two days before the VCC, a virtual meeting was held with the participants to explain the research objectives. The Free and Informed Consent Form (FICF) was read, with clarification of doubts, including those about use of the app at the time they wished to make comments. The FICF was sent via email, signed and returned to the researchers. The older adults verbally authorized their participation in the study. To ensure anonymity, all were identified with names of birds. The research was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of a Public University from southern Brazil.



## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The 11 older adults who took part in the study were aged between 76 and 83 years old; six were female and five were male. Ten were married and there was one widow. All were retired and lived in the Brazilian South region: six in Santa Catarina, three in Paraná and two in Rio Grande do Sul.

Older adults represent an important part of the population with greater vulnerability in the COVID-19 pandemic due to their aging process, insufficient policies ensuring their social rights and difficulties in loss of purchasing power, a situation aggravated by the acute economic crisis<sup>12</sup>. Under normal living conditions, these people already present weaknesses in relation to their health and disease process, with reduced social support, which was worsened with social distancing<sup>13</sup>.

During the discussion of the first generating theme, they reflected that they felt like birds, trapped in their cages, without being able to go out of their houses due to the need for social distancing imposed by the pandemic, but with gratitude for having a house and feeling safe:

*I feel like a bird, who wishes to fly, but can't get out of his cage (Canary)*

*I feel safe in my cage (house) (Parakeet)*

*Although I feel trapped, I'm immensely grateful for having a house, this cage to shelter us, for having food and conditions to survive in this tough period (Cockatiel)*

It is known that the aged population is more likely to develop severe forms of the disease, as they have a weaker immune system or because they are more susceptible to the development of chronic diseases<sup>14</sup>. The pandemic pathway is unveiled daily; however, older adults and those with comorbidities such as systemic arterial hypertension, cardiac and pulmonary problems, diabetes mellitus or cancer have a higher risk of worsening in COVID-19 cases. For this reason, abrupt social distancing became necessary, especially in this population, in order to preserve their health and avoid possible infections by coronavirus.

Despite the dissatisfaction for staying away from their family members, friends and their activities, they seem to understand that, in spite of their displeasure, social distancing is an effective measure that leads them to feel grateful for maintaining their health and life. In this scenario, the importance of the feeling of citizenship, responsibility and commitment to the other and to the world itself is emphasized<sup>15</sup>. Thus, maintaining distance at their homes, the older adults pointed out that, while anxiously waiting for vaccination, fears such as falling ill and dying and longing for loved ones emerged, as well as doubts about the efficacy of the immunobiologicals:

*I was very anxious about the vaccine. I even cried when I got the second dose (Hummingbird)*

*I was afraid of catching the disease, fear of dying alone in the hospital, without being able to say goodbye to my children and grandchildren. It's really sad (Toucan)*

*I missed and still miss my family, to gather everyone in that delicious lunch... (Dove)*

*I still have doubts about this vaccine I took: will it really immunize us? It looks like a placebo sometimes... (Ovenbird)*

The needs, wishes, fears and uncertainties that emerged in the everyday life of these older adults instigates reflection to search for strategies that minimize such situations. In addition to the possibility of contamination, the older adults in social distancing have an increased risk of other consequences imposed by COVID-19, such as loneliness, stress and anxiety, potentially affecting their health<sup>14</sup>. Thus, it becomes urgent to think of strategies that reduce the impact of loneliness, mobilizing family groups, with the creation of support networks, instrumentalization of the health professionals and development of actions through Telehealth, in order to assist in the mitigation of these consequences<sup>14</sup>.

The speeches and their meanings also show the doubts regarding efficacy of the vaccine. Currently, the advent of social networks and the use of tools such as WhatsApp, widely used by older adults for being easy to handle and allowing the recording of audios, has accelerated the spread of diverse information, including fake news. This fake news has exerted a negative impact for devaluing the work of science for vaccine production, contributing to weakening its coverage<sup>16</sup>. However, it is opportune to highlight the relevance of the appropriate use of information, which deserves attention from the entire society in view of the negative effects it can exert and which represent a complex public health issue<sup>17</sup>.

During the conversations, the participants reflected about comprising the priority group to receive the vaccine against COVID-19. They also revealed doubts regarding how society will be after the vaccination period, with the hope that everything is going to be fine:

*Society honored the oldest ones and allowed us to receive the vaccine first (Swallow)*

*I have doubts about how it will be after this vaccination time. Will we win over this COVID-19? (Sabiá)*

*I have hopes that the vaccine is going to help a lot for the world to reestablish and go back to normal (Parrot)*

The participants stated gratitude for being a priority population in the vaccination against COVID-19. However, it was discussed that this fact represents more than respect, as this is a population at an increased risk of worsening in COVID-19 cases. Vaccination for these people involves technical, scientific, financial and human factors that benefit the entire society. In addition to that, in our society there is little appreciation of older adults, and old age is seen with prejudice, stigmatized, stereotyped and often exposed to situations of ridicule<sup>18,19</sup>. Consequently, being prioritized in the health crisis scenario generated a positive meaning in their lives.

The meaning of hope and, at the same time, uncertainty about the resumption of normality are elements highlighted by the older adults. Availability and access to the vaccine have sustained this positive expectation and generated feelings of possibilities to overcome the pandemic. In relation to the health sector, it is expected that the links with the SUS users and the attitudes of collective cooperation are strengthened and that health surveillance regarding any and all symptoms is maintained, acting with strong prevention measures<sup>18</sup>. These strategies can contribute to the resumption of life in society.

In the reflections on the second generating theme, the older adults discussed about the meaning of vaccination, comparing it with the arrival of a time to fly again, which awakens feelings of happiness, protection, hope, relief and tranquility:

*The time is coming to fly again, to go out of the house. It makes me so happy (Nightingale)*

*Now I feel more protected (Sabiá)*

*I feel with more hope, with a feeling of relief and more tranquility to move on (Ovenbird)*

The search for a vaccine is the hope of winning over the pandemic although, even after immunized, it is necessary to maintain some care measures<sup>1</sup>. The immunization process represents of the most effective and safe health actions, generating benefits of individual and collective protection<sup>17</sup>. After receiving the second dose of the vaccine, the older adults revealed that they are already planning resuming their usual activities:

*I'm already planning with my wife to go to church because we have already received both doses of the vaccine (Swallow)*

*I've already gone to the supermarket and it was good to shop again (Ovenbird)*

*Now I will be able to visit my grandchildren, my children and hug them (Nightingale)*

However, some older adults highlighted the danger of people starting to leave their homes, returning to their previous normal life with the possibility of increasing the COVID-19 cases.

*I think it's dangerous for people to start coming out of their cages, flying to every place, because the pandemic is not over yet (Cockatiel)*

*I think that we must still keep these prevention measures for a long time... (Parakeet)*

*It is necessary to go out of the house, of our cage, little by little, to avoid problems (Canary)*

Trust in the immunization programs depends to a large extent on how the health professionals and services organize this demand with the population and conduct dialog with these subjects in society. Health programs should be broader than the mere delivery of the vaccine technology itself<sup>20</sup>. To answer questions and reassure users of the health system, it becomes necessary to think about reshaping communication with society in order to clarify risks and benefits related to vaccination, based on scientific evidence and neutralizing anxieties and uncertainties<sup>20</sup>.

The health information provided to the population should be as complete as possible, so that they understand the side effects, composition of the vaccine, dosages, conservation and administration routes, aiming at the greater safety of users when receiving the vaccine. Thus, the educational measures in health should be the main strategy to reduce fears, anxiety and strengthen the PNI in the country<sup>17</sup>.

Despite initiation of the vaccination against COVID-19, social distancing continues to be the main strategy to prevent spread of the disease. It is necessary to consider the particularities of each group of people, those most vulnerable in their socioeconomic, physical and mental health conditions, environment and perception of comfort in their homes<sup>21</sup>. These factors exert a direct impact on health and well-being conditions and therefore deserve to be analyzed with caution, valuing the individuals' specificities and their collectivities<sup>21</sup>.

It is worth noting that the older adults who have few social support networks do not necessarily feel lonely, as they can be surrounded by family members and friends and feel lonelier than others<sup>22</sup>. That is, they can be isolated without feeling lonely<sup>22</sup>. Some consequences of social isolation are pointed out in a number of studies, such as: risk of

general health problems, increased mortality, impaired cognitive health, increased risk of mental illness and greater chances of developing cardiovascular diseases<sup>23-25</sup>.

It was evident that the older adults enjoyed the moments shared in the VCC, in which they were able to exchange knowledge and experiences with each other, in a horizontal and respectful way, in which they were sensitized and were transformed through the conversations:

*I really loved having participated. Thank you very much for the invitation! It was good to exchange these experiences, hearing voices and speaking. I'll leave here happy today because I'm going to reflect on everything that we talked about (Parakeet)*

*I needed this, talking to people with respect. Thank you for listening to me and for learning with me today. It was really good! (Sabiá)*

The VCC proved to be an important strategy for strengthening interpersonal relationships, exchanging experiences, understanding the pandemic moment and the need to maintain care measures even after the second dose of the vaccine. In this sense, the VCC unveils itself as an instrument for Nursing to develop research studies, especially in the pandemic situation, as well as to promote the health of various populations<sup>26</sup>. As a study limitation, we must mention the need for the participants to have access to electronic devices and to the Internet, which was a challenge, as many older adults have difficulties handling such technologies, requiring the support of family members to access them.

## FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The main meanings of vaccination against COVID-19 for the older adults already immunized are related to feelings of being home, fear and nostalgia, as well as doubts, concerns and social distancing, to which gratitude for being alive and healthy is added. In addition to that, when immunized with the second dose of the vaccine against COVID-19, feelings full of meanings arising from the experience with the COVID-19 pandemic emerged, such as: happiness, protection, hope, relief, tranquility and hope of resuming the routine activities.

The pandemic has been responsible for the resignification of behaviors and knowledge, transforming itself into a social process that challenges everyone to survive and stay healthy, facing an agent that cannot be seen. It also challenges the health system and Nursing in particular, which needed to reinvent and overcome itself to face COVID-19 in all the health care spaces.

In this sense, technologies such as cell phones and computers, combined with methodologies such as the VCC, emerge as possibilities to expand care, innovating in the follow-up of users who, uncontaminated, can no longer go to the health unit and have restrictions to receive team members at their homes. The ongoing health crisis has brought, among many others, the need to incorporate communication and care technologies into the daily life of the work in health, which promotes approximation with users even in a period of social distancing.

In the meantime, life unfolds and the birds in their cages seek freedom, the same one that is expected by trust in the science and performance of the vaccination campaign for society to fly and smile again safely, without wearing masks.

## REFERÊNCIAS

1. Couto MT, Barbieri CLA, Matos CCSA. Considerations on COVID-19 impact on the individual-society relationship: from vaccine hesitancy to the clamor for a vaccine. *Saúde soc.* [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 May 5];30(1): e200450. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/S0104-12902021200450>.
2. Oliveira AC, Lucas TC, Iquiapaza RA. What has the covid-19 pandemic taught us about adopting preventive measures? *Texto contexto enferm.* [Internet]. 2020. [cited 2021 May 5]; 29:e20200106. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/1980-265X-TCE-2020-0106>.
3. Guimarães R. Anti-Covid vaccines: a look from the Collective Health. *Ciê. saúde coletiva* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 Apr 8]; 25(9):3579-3585. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/1413-81232020259.24542020>.
4. World Health Organization. Draft landscape and tracker of COVID-19 candidate vaccines. [cited 2021 Apr 8]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/draft-landscape-of-covid-19-candidate-vaccines>.
5. Ministério da Saúde (Br). Secretaria de Vigilância em Saúde Departamento de Imunização e Doenças Transmissíveis Coordenação-Geral do Programa Nacional de Imunizações. Plano Nacional de Operacionalização da vacinação contra a COVID 19. ed. 5. MS: Brasília, 2021. [cited 2021 Apr 8]. Available from: <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/coronavirus/publicacoes-tecnicas/guias-e-planos/plano-nacional-de-vacinacao-covid-19/view>.
6. Ministério da Saúde (Br). Secretaria em Vigilância em Saúde. Boletim Epidemiológico Especial: Doença pelo Coronavírus COVID-19. n.59. Available from: [https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/media/pdf/2021/abril/22/boletim\\_epidemiologico\\_covid\\_59.pdf](https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/media/pdf/2021/abril/22/boletim_epidemiologico_covid_59.pdf).
7. Brasil. Ministério da Saúde. Conselho Nacional de Saúde. Vacinômetro. Brasília: Ministério da Saúde; 2021. Available from: <http://conselho.saude.gov.br/vacinometro>.
8. Freire P. *Pedagogia do Oprimido*. 67 ed. Rio de Janeiro: Paz e Terra; 2019. 256 p.

9. Schmitt HBB, Heidemann ITSB. Paulo Freire's culture circles: contributions to nursing research, teaching, and professional practice. *Rev. Bras. Enferm.* [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 Apr 20]; 74(1): e20190626. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/0034-7167-2019-0626>.
10. Felcher CDO, Ferreira ALA, Folmer V. From action-research to participant research: discussions from an investigation developed on the Facebook. *Experiências em Ensino de Ciências* [Internet]. 2017 [cited 2021 May 5]; 12(7):1-18. Available from: [https://if.ufmt.br/eenci/artigos/Artigo\\_ID419/v12\\_n7\\_a2017.pdf](https://if.ufmt.br/eenci/artigos/Artigo_ID419/v12_n7_a2017.pdf).
11. Ghaljaie F, Naderifar M, Goli H. Snowball sampling: a purposeful method of sampling in qualitative research. *Strides in Development of Medical Education* [Internet]. 2017 [cited 2021 Mar 25]; 14(3):e67670. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5812/SDME.67670>.
12. Moraes CL, et al. Contributions to address violence against older adults during the Covid-19 pandemic in Brazil. *Ciênc. saúde coletiva* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 Mar 14]; 25(Suppl 2):4177-4184. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/1413-812320202510.2.27662020>.
13. Alcântara AO, Camarano AA, Giacomini KC. Política nacional do idoso: velhas e novas questões. Rio de Janeiro: IPEA; 2016. Available from: [https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=28693](https://www.ipea.gov.br/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=28693).
14. Wu, B. Social isolation and loneliness among older adults in the context of COVID-19: a global challenge. *Global Health Research and Policy* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 May 12]; 5(1):154-6. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s41256-020-00154-3>.
15. Hammerschmidt KSA, Bonatelli LCS, Carvalho AA. Path of hope in relationships involving the elderly: look at complexity under Covid-19 pandemic. *Texto contexto enferm.* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 May 12]; 29:e20200132. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/1980-265X-TCE-2020-0132>.
16. Magalhães CR, Velasco FZB, Pedroza GGO, Rosa GA, Silvestre MGP, Batista IGS. Research on the anti-vaccine movement, carried out in the extension projects of the nursing technician of cefet-rj, during the pandemic. *Expressa Extensão* [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 May 5]; 26(1):400-410. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15210/ee.v26i1.19613>.
17. Costa BB, Viegas DJ, Moreira TA, Abreu PA. Anti-vaccine movement in YouTube at post true times: Health education or disinformation? *Mídia e Cotidiano* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 May 2]; 14(1):220-239. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22409/rmc.v14i1.38210>.
18. Hammerschmidt KSA, Santana RF. Health of the older adults in times of the Covid-19 pandemic. *Cogitare enferm.* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 May 2]; 25:e72849. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5380/ce.v25i0.72849>.
19. Goldani AM. "Ageism" in Brazil: what is it? who does it? what to do with it? *Rev. bras. estud. popul.* [Internet]. 2010 [cited 2020 Abr 5]; 27(2):385-405 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/S0102-30982010000200009>.
20. Harrison EA, Wu JW. Vaccine confidence in the time of COVID-19. *Eur. J. Epidemiol.* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 Apr 10]; 35(4):325-30. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10654-020-00634-3>.
21. Coyle CE, Dugan E. Social isolation, loneliness and health among older adults. *J. Aging Health* [Internet]. 2012 [cited 2020 May 10]; 24(8):1346-63. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0898264312460275>.
22. Romero DE, Muzy J, Damascena GN, Souza NA, Almeida WS, Szwarcwald CL, et al. Ancianos en el contexto de la pandemia de COVID-19 en Brasil: efectos en las condiciones de salud, renta y trabajo. *Cad. Saúde Pública* [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021 May 02]; 37(3):e00216620. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1590/0102-311X00216620>.
23. Schrempft S, Jackowska M, Hamer M, Steptoe A. Associations between social isolation, loneliness, and objective physical activity in older men and women. *BMC Public Health* [Internet]. 2019 [cited 2020 Jun 05]; 19(1):74. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-6424-y>.
24. Shankar A, McMunn A, Banks J, Steptoe A. Loneliness, social isolation, and behavioral and biological health indicators in older adults. *Health Psychol* [Internet]. 2011 [cited 2020 Jun 5]; 30(4):377-85. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0022826>.
25. Shankar A, Rafnsson SB, Steptoe A. Longitudinal associations between social connections and subjective wellbeing in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing. *Psychol Health*. 2015 [cited 2020 Jun 5]; 30(6):686-98. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/08870446.2014.979823>.
26. Souza JB, Conceição VM, Araújo JS, Bitencourt JVOV, Silva Filho CC, Rossetto M. Cancer in time of COVID-19: repercussions in the lives of women undergoing oncological treatment. *Rev. enferm. UERJ* [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2021 Feb 15]; 28:e51821 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.12957/reuerj.2020.51821>.