

DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative Minutes:

COVID-19 Relational Briefing and Community Conversation

December 1st, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:30pm

- I. Welcome from DOH & Land Acknowledgment - Fathiya Abdi
- II. Partner Spotlight – [WA West African Center](#), Pa Ousman Joof
 - WA West African Center connects West Africans in Washington State with local community resources and culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate COVID-19 educational information:
 - [COVID-19 Theme Song](#)
 - [Coronavirus Is Everyone's Business Skit](#)
 - [Do I Need To Be A Citizen To Get The Vaccine?](#)
 - [ICOPS Masjid - Spreading the COVID-19 Vaccine Word](#)
 - Visit [WA West African Center Youtube Channel](#)
- III. COVID-19 Relational Briefing + Conversation - SheAnne Allen, COVID-19 Vaccine Director; Kathy Bay, Clinical, Quality and School Section Manager
 - Current booster recommendations are for individuals 16 and older that received either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines more than 6 months ago, or received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine more than 2 months ago. Current recommendations for everyone 5 –15 years old are to get the initial Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine series.
 - The Omicron (**OH-muh-kron**) variant is a strain of the COVID-19 virus. The next few weeks will be critical in determining how it will spread compared to the Delta variant. The variant was detected in South Africa; they did not see an increase in the number of people being hospitalized or an increase numbers of death at this point. It is too early to know the kind of future implications this variant will have. What we do know is that the best ways to prevent spread of this new variant or any other variant is to get vaccinated, get a booster shot, and wear a mask in indoor public settings or in crowded environments. It is vital for us to continue to suppress potential for additional variants to arise.
 - Right now, it looks like COVID-19 cases are declining or plateauing in WA State, which is exciting but we still have to continue mask wearing, getting vaccinated, social distancing and other COVID-19 public health measures especially considering we are seeing an increase in cases in neighboring states.
 - As of November 29th, 80.8% of the population 12 and up have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 74.6% are fully vaccinated. Vaccine rates are not uniform across the state, across racial and ethnic groups or age groups. We are utilizing [data](#) to identify gaps in vaccination coverage and identify where additional resources or partnerships can be formed throughout the state.

- Our <https://vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov/> website can now filter vaccine appointments by vaccine type, accessibility options, and children and youth friendly services options such as providers who utilize mature minor doctrine.
- Through the [Care-A-Van](#), we administered 3,000 doses and hosted over 100 caravans in WA State. Events for 2022 are underway. Interested in hosting a Care-A-Van event, visit [here!](#)
- Upcoming health promotion and education campaigns: new toolkit to help schools host a vaccine clinic, ongoing social media to educate parents, a new video about misinformation, new blog topics, and printing materials in additional languages.
- There is currently a decline in flu vaccine rates. Please help us spread the word and get your flu vaccine! [Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine :: Washington State Department of Health](#)
- Community Question: Can you speak more to the mix and match of booster doses?
 - Answer: You can get a different vaccine for your booster dose than the vaccine you got for your primary series. The CDC made their decision following a careful review of the latest data (Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, mix and match boosters), and robust and deliberative discussion around booster shots. People ages 16 and 17 may only get the Pfizer vaccine for their booster dose.
- Community Question: If somebody took the AstraZeneca vaccine in Africa and is interested in receiving the booster vaccine, would they be able to receive any of the 3 vaccine types in the U.S.?
 - Answer: For an individual that completed the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine series more than 6 months ago, they can get a booster dose. If they have *not* completed an initial AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine series, they can restart the COVID-19 vaccine series in the U.S.
- Community Question: For children that have been vaccinated for 6 months or longer, are they eligible to get a booster dose?
 - Answer: At this point, the recommendations for receiving a booster dose are only for those 16 years old and older or those who are considered moderately to severely immunocompromised.
- Community Question: Do you need to restart the COVID-19 vaccine series if you go past the recommended six months?
 - Answer: The goal is to get as close to that six-month mark for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or the two-month mark for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, but it is not necessary to restart the series if you are past these timelines.
- For more information, please visit: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/VaccineInformation/VaccineBoosterDoses>. The recommendations around vaccines and the new

variants will continue to evolve as more up to date information is available.

IV. Community Conversation – Small Group Discussions

- Youth Vaccine Access and Engagement: How to Best Reach Youth and Families
 - *What questions and/or concerns are you currently hearing from youth and families about the COVID-19 vaccine?*
 - Belief that natural immunity will provide enough protection from COVID-19
 - Misinformation about the severity of COVID-19
 - Misinformation about vaccine ingredients creating fear of possible side effects from the vaccine
 - Confusion as to why there is a push for children and youth to get vaccinated when the earlier focus was on adults
- Building Vaccine Confidence: Community Concerns
 - *What questions and/or concerns are you currently hearing from youth and families about the COVID-19 vaccine?*
 - Misinformation about COVID-19 vaccine side effects
 - People would like to observe others getting vaccinated first and base decisions on how vaccine impacts individual
 - Misinformation about severity of COVID-19 in children
 - *Where do you and/or communities you directly serve generally receive COVID-19 information?*
 - Many communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 receive their information from trusted community leaders such as faith-based organizations. It is important to partner with the community to relay information.
 - The internet/social media
- Vaccine Access and Outreach for Individuals with Disabilities
 - *What questions and/or concerns are you currently hearing from youth and families about the COVID-19 vaccine?*
 - How to offer vaccine incentives
 - Confusion about mixing and matching booster doses
 - Challenge of pandemic fatigue
 - Confusing messaging around boosters
 - Need more guidance around COVID-19 testing facilities – *Do they need to be outdoors? Do they need to have ventilation?*
 - Long-term impacts of the vaccine
- Community Care Efforts: Highlighting lessons learned, strategies, and challenges
 - *Are there some innovative strategies you have incorporated into your pop-up or outreach?*
 - Offering gift card incentives

- Recruiting community volunteers to assist in planning and coordinating vaccination event
- Sharing educational resources at community pop-up events
- Screening everyone at the vaccination event to see if they need to get vaccinated
- Conducting vaccine education and outreach including food distribution for people unhoused
- Hosted a summer vaccination picnic
- Targeting small, identifiable areas that communities frequent to conduct outreach such as local food courts, grocery stores, restaurants
- *Is their advice you would share with others organizing their own community vaccination events?*
 - Utilize trusted community messengers such as faith leaders, community rooted organizations and community media partners
 - Build relationships with communities to help spread awareness about the vaccine
- To share your feedback and answers to community discussion questions, please fill out this [survey](#).

V. Closing Remarks

- Thank you to our speakers, interpreters, and captioners!
- Feel free to reach out and contact us at vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov.