

DOH Latino, Latina, and Latinx Community Partner Space Minutes

July 28th, 2022

I. Welcome & Introductions – Bella Mendez

- Meeting participants:
 - Esmael Lopez, Northwest Justice Project
 - Mario Zavaleta, Latino Northwest Communications
 - Miriam Pamatz, Chelan Douglas Health District
 - Olivia Ortiz, Northwest Justice Project
 - Raul Sandoval, La Súper Deportiva
- Meeting support:
 - Bella Mendez, DOH
 - Fathiya Abdi, DOH
 - Irene Gering, DOH
 - Sydney Boothe, WithinReach

II. Updates and questions from partners

- Question from partner: Are there any new guidelines from DOH in regards to the new variants, such as mask mandates?
 - Bella will follow up with this answer via email
- Question from partner: *Information about COVID-19 antivirals is hard to find. With the information that is available, it is hard to understand how to access them and who is eligible. Almost everything is in English. Are there any clear, easy-to-access resources in Spanish?*
 - DOH answer: Telehealth resources offered through DOH and its partners Birds Eye Medical and Color Health just launched today. This will allow anyone, regardless of insurance status, to get a telehealth consultation with a provider at no out-of-pocket cost. Telehealth appointments are currently available in 240 languages through translation services.
 - Links shared by DOH
 - [DOH telehealth webpage \(english\)](#)
 - [DOH telehealth webpage \(Spanish\)](#)
 - [DOH therapeutics webpage \(English\)](#)
 - [DOH therapeutics webpage \(Spanish\)](#)
 - ["What are Monoclonal Antibodies?" \(Spanish\)](#)

III. DOH updates

- Update on community partners identified to receive funding
 - The purpose of this program is to fund community-based organizations and conduct local outreach around COVID-19 education. DOH is very aware that trauma-informed resources come best from communities. This will also provide local-level outreach.

- The bid for this project has ended and DOH has identified 11 community-based organizations. The next steps will be to finalize the funding allocations and contracts.
- Health Equity Zones
 - Legislation was passed in 2021 to support communities in identifying health equity zones, places where people have limited access to health care and other conditions that negatively impact their health. Each zone will identify pressing health concerns and develop projects to address that zone's unique needs.
 - A few community-based organizations have been identified to sit on this advisory board.
 - [DOH Health Equity Zones webpage \(English\)](#)
 - [DOH Health Equity Zones webpage \(Spanish\)](#)
- If partners have events that they want shared on the WA Portal, please send them to us at vax.collaborative@doh.wa.gov so we can post them on the Collaborative calendar.

IV. Feedback on graphs from DOH

- Please see [the slides from this session](#) for the infographics referred to in this section.
- Questions to ask when viewing these infographics:
 - *How do you feel about these infographics?*
 - *What modification do we need to do?*
 - *How should we refer to the community? Latino, Latina, Latinx, or Hispanic?*
 - *What messaging do you feel would be best to reach the Latino/Hispanic community?*
- Infographic 1 (slide 16): Vaccination rate in Latino community
 - There was feedback during the last session that it needed a visual, so there was one added.
 - What term should be used here? Latino? Hispanic? Something else?
 - In general, the consensus from partners was that Latino is the most used term.
 - *Different terms can be used for different infographics. For example, youth more readily identify as Latinx.*
 - *Not everyone knows what Latinx means; Latine would be the translation of Latinx.*
 - Alternatively, some people feel excluded by male-default term Latino.
- Infographic 2 (slide 17): Vaccination series completion rate
 - No feedback from partners.
- Infographic 3 (slide 18): Vaccination for Latinos ages 5-11
 - *The community term (Latinx vs. Latino) should be consistent within each infographic.*

- Infographic 4 (slide 19): Vaccination for Latinos ages 25-34
 - *It is appropriate to use Latinx here because this is the age group that most identifies with the term.*
 - *What is the "state average for COVID-19 vaccination series"? Are we asking people to get a booster or to get one of their first shots?*
- Infographic 5 (slide 21): Deaths by vaccination status
 - *Is there data for specifically Latinx people?*
 - *It is a challenge for DOH to get this data as well as the data for unvaccinated vs. vaccinated hospitalizations by ethnicity.*
- Infographic 6 (slide 22): Vaccination status and likelihood of testing positive
 - *This infographic is not finalized, but the final version will have the woman on the left showing her proof of vaccination on her phone.*
 - *We should change this info into a question, starting with, "Did you know...?"*
 - *We should change the color and increase the size of the text at the bottom of these slides to be more visible (orange or white are appropriate colors).*
- Infographic 7 (slide 23): Vaccination status and likelihood of death
 - *This information can be used for many groups, not just Latinos.*
- Infographic 8 (slide 24): Vaccination status and likelihood of testing positive (version 2)
 - *The design is a bit busy.*
- Infographic 9 (slide 26): Case rate by ethnicity
 - *The units on the bar chart should be specified.*
- Infographic 10 (slide 27): Deaths by vaccination status and age group
 - *DOH is still working on this one. It will be a bar graph like the case rate by ethnicity infographic.*
- What about using the term Hispanic?
 - *This term is still used in a lot of data, specifically the data collected by the Department of Commerce.*
 - *What does this term actually mean? How many people identify this way?*
 - *Hispanic is typically used to refer to people who descended from Spain but also speak Spanish. However, sometimes Hispanic/Latino get grouped with white communities.*
 - *There are a significant number of people who identify this way in Washington.*

V. Wrap up and next meeting

- *Is the work that we've done sufficient to address the infographic and the messaging? Or do you want to spend the next two workgroup meetings to draft messages for the community?*
 - *Partners would like to shift to creating messages.*

- Finalized infographics will be shared via email. If there is any additional feedback via email, it will be incorporated and then the infographics will be translated. Ideally, the infographics will be finalized before our next meeting.
- **Action item: Think about what messaging would be important to create for testing vaccines, boosters, treatments, mask wearing, etc.**
- Next meeting: August 11th at 11am