

Vaccine Equity Strategies

COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Strategies

Washington State Department of Health

1. Engage communities to inform vaccine prioritization and planning
2. Integrate a pro-equity approach into vaccine allocation and distribution
3. Prioritize allocation and support to providers who effectively serve disproportionately impacted communities
4. Invest in trusted community leaders, messengers and organizations
5. Ensure all communications, education and outreach efforts are culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible
6. Strengthen the public health system's ability to center communities in vaccine outreach and access
7. Foster opportunities for collaboration
8. Support a trauma-informed approach to vaccine conversations

Vaccine Providers

- Language access
 - Review the [Language Access Planning Tool](#) and implement strategies that are relevant to your vaccination clinic or organization.
- Access for people with disabilities
 - Review the [Checklist to Ensure that Vaccine Sites are Accessible to People with Disabilities](#) and implement strategies that are relevant to your vaccination clinic or organization.
- Collect patient race, ethnicity, and language data. This information should be self-report and is very important for understanding the populations we are and are not effectively reaching with the COVID-19 vaccine. Patients do not have to provide this information.
- Reach out proactively to eligible patients, especially patient's from highly impacted communities.
- Reinforce messaging that people are eligible for vaccine regardless of their immigration status or insurance status. If you are required to ask for a social security number, share transparently that it is not required and no personal information will be shared.
- Use our [Equitable Vaccine Site Placement Planning Tool](#) in planning mobile and community pop-up sites.
- Meet people where they are: *"Vaccines going to people, not people going to vaccines"*
 - Consider community centered vaccination sites where people feel safer.
 - Employer-based vaccine sites to save eligible employees time.
 - Provided alternative and extended hours.

- ❑ Implement community-based scheduling by:
 - Offering community specific days or hours for appointments.
 - Holding a set of appointments for phone-based scheduling. Recommendation: Consider holding 20-30% for phone-based scheduling.
 - Holding a percent of appointments for scheduling by community partners. Recommendation: Consider holding 20-30% for community-based scheduling.
 - Developing a separate online scheduling link to improve community access (e.g. offer a Spanish-only link to address language barriers).
- ❑ Partner with and activate community health workers to assist with culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate vaccine outreach and access needs (i.e. education, interpretation, scheduling appointments).
- ❑ Co-host vaccine education and clinic events with trusted community leads, community organizations, and faith-based community centers.
- ❑ Have an [equity-informed extra doses plan](#).
- ❑ Use the [Washington Tracking Network, Information by Location Mapping Tool: COVID-19 Social Vulnerability Index](#) to identify priority community areas for mobile and community pop-up sites.
- ❑ Implement “past tier” catch-up days or times to ensure access for harder to reach groups who were eligible in previous tiers.
- ❑ Plan proactive efforts to reach communities who are likely to be missed by traditional channels.
- ❑ Review [Washington State Hospital Association’s Equity in Vaccine Strategies](#).
- ❑ Search DOH [COVID-19 materials by language](#) and the [Partner Toolkit](#) for vaccine education materials you can use.

More pro-equity strategies and resources will continue to be added to our [COVID-19 Vaccine Equity & Engagement webpage](#).

Opportunities for collaboration

COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month

4:00 – 5:30 PM

More information: [Collaborative: Washington State Department of Health](#)

Contact: Vax.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Pro-equity Strategy Drop-in Space

1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Contact: equity@doh.wa.gov

DOH Publication: 820-121