

DOH COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative Minutes:
COVID-19 Relational Briefing
September 1st, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:30pm

I. Welcome from DOH & Land Acknowledgment- Fathiya Abdi

II. Partner Spotlight – Mohamud Yussuf and Mulki, RuntaNews

- RuntaNews is a NW Somali/African/Muslim media organization that now runs an online media website (Runtanews.com) and a YouTube channel
- In partnership with King County 911, RuntaNews worked to reduce unnecessary calls to 911 and promote the orca card for low-income communities for greater transportation access
- COVID-19 efforts included collaborating with local health agencies and community leaders to:
 - Provide on the spot camera translation on COVID-19 updates and information
 - Distribute food to people who had lost their incomes due to COVID-19
 - Produce a variety of educational videos on COVID-19 and vaccination events in multiple languages including Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Somali, and ASL

III. Progress Updates

- Governor's Office of Equity Strategic Plan Survey Update – Hang Ngo
 - We sent out a survey to Collaborative members and conducted two feedback sessions. We shared this feedback with the Office of Equity along with all assessments collected from all 24 state cabinet agencies. We expect to hear back from them around mid- to late fall and will share updates then.
- Care-a-Van – Katie Chennisi, Mobile Health Program Manager
 - A mobile vaccination unit part of DOH
 - DOH pays for the support from contractors
 - If you are interested in this service, complete the online form and provide us with at least two weeks notice of your upcoming event
 - Requests are prioritized based on whether the event is open to the community, has 25+ people, is prioritized by DOH leadership or the Governor's Office, targets priority populations, or is in a county that hasn't been reached yet by Care-a-Van
 - Partnering with All In WA Vaccine Equity Initiative to provide small grants to community-based organizations to receive up to \$5,000 to support their vaccination event – organizations can still qualify for this grant even if the Care-a-Van does not come to their event

III. COVID-19 Relational Briefing

- Delta Variant; Masking Guidelines, Statewide Outlook – Dr. Bob Lutz, COVID-19 Medical Advisor
 - Delta variant updates:
 - We estimate that with the delta variant, the virus is currently being transmitted to the population higher than any time in the pandemic response since it started in March 2020

- This variant is not discriminatory against any age group and we are seeing an increased prevalence of COVID-19 in children
 - This variant accounts for more than 98% of COVID-19 infections we are seeing right now and is more infectious than previous variants
 - The hotspots where cases, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19 are high are in areas where there are low vaccination and immunity rates
 - Bottom line is vaccines work and the effort for the foreseeable future will be promoting the COVID-19 vaccine, which will be a collective effort
 - Mask guidelines
 - The Governor and the Secretary of Health have come out with new mask guidelines for all people over 5, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask in indoor public spaces and outdoor spaces with over 500 people
 - Because our vaccination rates are not as high as they should be, masking indoors is the best way to prevent transmission
 - Businesses are not to allow unmasked people indoors unless they are eating or drinking and should have signage up regarding the mask guidelines
- Vaccine Requirements – Michele Roberts, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Prevention & Community Health Division and Molly Voris, Senior Policy advisor for Public Health and Health Care for the Governor's office
 - The governor made the decision to move forward with COVID vaccine requirements for health care workers, state employees, and education workers because the COVID-19 vaccine is the safest way to protect vulnerable populations
 - Routine testing for COVID-19 has shown to not be as effective for preventing outbreaks as vaccines
 - The groups covered under the vaccine mandate will need to be fully vaccinated by October 18th (two weeks passed their last dose of the vaccine)
 - This vaccine mandate does allow for limited exemptions, specifically for legitimate medical reasons or sincerely held religious beliefs
 - We want to continue to partner with people to support work at the community level and provide resources to support people getting vaccinated and make sure people have the information they need to feel comfortable to get vaccinated
 - For more FAQ asked concerning the vaccine mandate, you can view this document:
<https://www.governor.wa.gov/VaccineMandateFAQ>
- Third Dose and Booster – SheAnne Allen, COVID-19 Vaccine Director
 - As of Monday, August 30th, 73% of Washington state's 12 and up population has initiated vaccination

- CDC has stated that off-label vaccine use is a violation of the provider agreement and not recommended
- The FDA and AAP have also emphasized off-label use for under 12 years is NOT recommended as this group is still being studied
- Right now, only the immunocompromised population that fall into certain criteria are eligible for an additional dose because they are more likely to have breakthrough infections
 - Only those that received Pfizer or Moderna are authorized to get a third dose of the same vaccine they received – the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is still waiting approval for a booster dose
- An additional dose is for patients who completed the initial series but did not have a strong enough immune response, whereas a booster dose is for patients when it is likely that their immunity after the initial vaccine series waned over time
- We are planning for the estimated September 20th date for booster shots to be recommended for the general public, however we know this date may be extended if the FDA and the advisory committee on immunization practices does not do their review or publish their approval by that date*
- * Update: New recommendations were announced by the CDC as of September 24th. Please view our Community question and answer document and visit the [CDC COVID-19 Booster Shot webpage](#) for the latest information.

IV. Closing Remarks

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