

Pop-Up Vaccination Events at Community Clinics

Minnesota

COVID-19 vaccines were provided to over 230 patients of the M Health Fairview Clinic – Bethesda through a pop-up event held at the clinic. Located in St. Paul, Minnesota, the clinic operates within a large health system that serves a significant number of refugee and immigrant patients, many of whom have had a difficult time navigating the vaccination process. To support these patients in receiving the vaccine, the clinic planned an onsite pop-up event, building on already established relationships with patients. With a little over a week to prepare, clinic staff phoned every eligible patient to make them aware of the opportunity, address concerns they had, and support them in scheduling transportation. The clinic was staffed by people the patients trusted and had the support of in-person interpreters.



Partnerships with Consulates

Arkansas

To address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affecting the Marshallese community in northern Arkansas, the health department reached out to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Consulate General – Arkansas office to work on disseminating COVID-19 prevention messaging. The message was promoted by a local Marshallese doctor, both locally and in the Islands. The radio message was sent to the Marshall Islands, informing them about the situation in Northern Arkansas. It encouraged the Marshallese community members to tell their family members in Arkansas to practice safe COVID-19 precautions, so that one day they could go back to their homeland. They also provided COVID-19 prevention messaging on the Marshallese Consulate Facebook page.

COVID Champions: Trusted Faith Leaders

Georgia

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Atlanta worked with Imam Sheikh Salahadin Wazir, the founder and CEO of African and Immigrant Communities in America, Inc. to create videos to encourage vaccine acceptance in a wide variety of Muslim communities in and around Atlanta. Iman Wazir speaks seven languages and thus was able to repeat the message for various linguistic communities. The videos were also shared with Imam Sheikh Salahadin Wazir, at his request, so that he could also disseminate the videos to his community via social media, email, WhatsApp, his website etc. Ensuring the community leader who is involved receives copies of the videos to disseminate to their own network is essential to ensure the furthest reach.



Community Fairs

Arizona

At the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, the IRC in Tucson and its partners hosted a back-to-school themed community fair that offered vaccines. The fair, which also included giveaways, music, and opportunities for social gathering, was promoted through phone calls, as well as texts and Facebook posts that featured images of flyers. Attendees received not only free school supplies and diapers, but also translated information on COVID-19 testing and vaccines. A doctor was available to answer questions, and vaccines were offered on-site to those who wanted them. Placing vaccines in this setting made a difference for the participants. "It definitely had a different feel and mood. It felt like a community event," says Carly Presley, the COVID-19 Outreach Coordinator.