



VACCINE EQUITY UPDATE

April 28, 2021

Vaccine Equity Strategies

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

1. Engage communities to inform vaccine prioritization and planning

- Initial vaccine prioritization decisions
 - Expansive definition of “workers in health care settings”
 - Older adults in multi-generational households
 - High-risk essential workers
- Rolling vaccine prioritization decisions
 - People with disabilities that put them at higher risk
 - Adding in food service workers, construction, and manufacturing
- Vaccine planning
 - Johnson & Johnson vaccine
 - Multi-modality approach

[Read the full engagement report to learn more.](#)

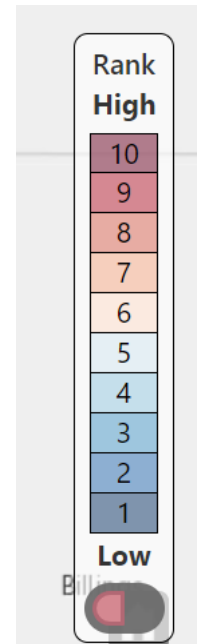
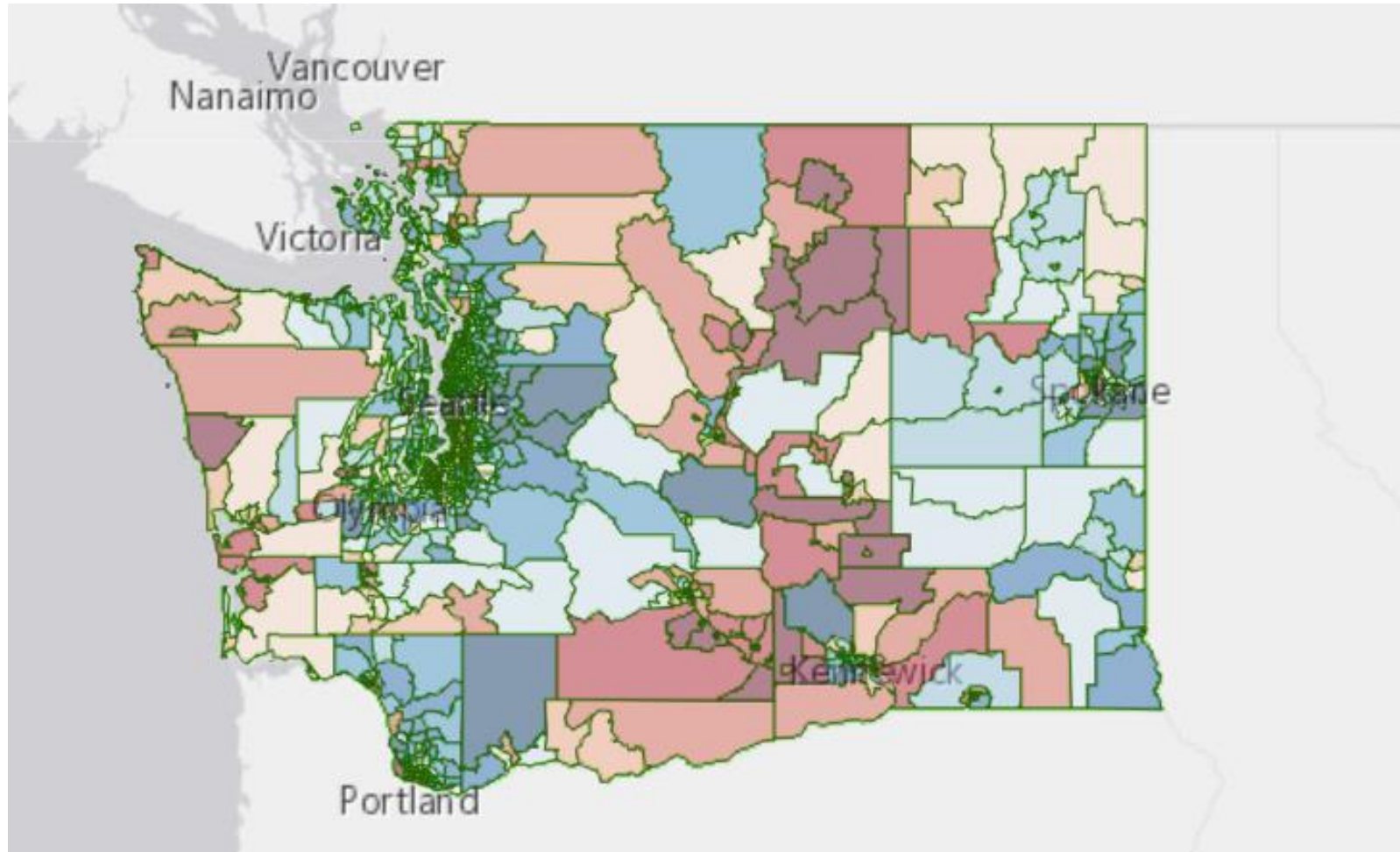
2. Integrate a pro-equity approach into vaccine allocation and distribution

- [Provide language access services](#)
- [Ensure accessibility for people with disabilities](#)
- [Have an equity-informed extra doses plan](#)
- Partner with trusted community organizations and leaders
- Conduct intentional and culturally responsive outreach to disproportionately impacted communities
- [Implement about other DOH vaccine equity strategies](#) and the [Washington State Hospital Association's Strategies for Equity in Vaccine](#)
- Apply the [Washington Tracking Network, Information by Location Mapping Tool: COVID-19 Social Vulnerability Index](#) (Available: [recorded training](#))
- Plan tailored efforts with the [Equitable Vaccine Site Planning Tool](#)

3. Prioritize allocation and support to providers who effectively serve disproportionately impacted communities

Pro-equity providers & sites	Providers & sites implementing pro-equity strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providers located in census tracts with a social vulnerability index of 7+• Community health centers• Tribal vaccination partners• Urban Indian Health Programs• Free health clinics• LHJ clinics• Providers who serve Medicaid or Medicare patients• Employer-based clinics that reach workers disproportionately impacted by COVID-19• Critical access hospitals and other providers providing critical access in rural and/or underserved areas• Small, local, and rural community pharmacies• Rural Health Clinics• Long term care facilities• Correctional facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providers who integrate pro-equity strategies into their operations, planning, and clinics<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community based scheduling• Language access• Mobile vaccination efforts• Community-specific pop-up sites• And other providers or sites at the recommendation of communities <p>Ensure equitable access to vaccine by intentionally allocating to pro-equity providers and sites and supporting implementation of pro-equity strategies.</p>

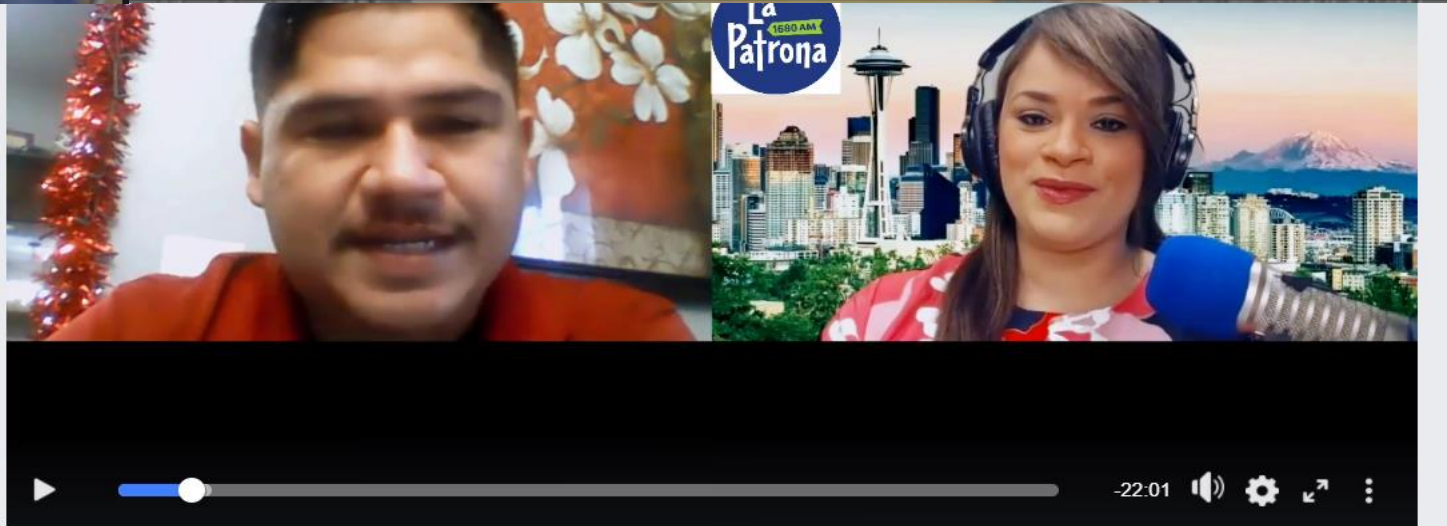
COVID-19 Social Vulnerability Index



4. Invest in trusted community leaders, messengers and organizations

Community	Investment to date
Black/African American Community	834,014
Latinx Community	1,617,336
Asian American Community	747,138
NHOPI Community	417,455
DisAbility Community	483,899
LGBTQ Community	241,000
Agricultural workers	668,000
Faith-based communities	205,000
Immigrant & refugee communities	2,387,784
Unhoused people	165,370
People in jails, prisons, detention centers	57,000
TOTAL	4,774,135

NOTE:
Communities are not mutually exclusive, and investments overlap due to intersectionality.



Familias Unidas por la Justicia is sharing a COVID-19 Update.
March 10 at 4:20 PM · Mixteco

La Patrona 1680
February 8 · ¿No sabes si vacunarte contra el COVID-19 o no?

5. Ensure all communications, education and outreach efforts are culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible

COVID-19 VACCINE COMMUNICATION CARD



YES NO ? I don't know

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z				
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			

HOURS DAYS

Tell the provider all of your medical conditions, including:



received a COVID-19 vaccine



allergies



fever



bleeding disorder



on blood thinner



pregnant or planning pregnancy



breastfeeding



Immunocompromised or on medicine affecting immune system

Don't get vaccine if you:



are younger than 16 years of age



had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine



had a severe allergic reaction to any ingredient of this vaccine

Possible side effects:



injection site pain



injection site swelling



injection site redness



muscle or joint pain



swollen lymph nodes



fever



chills



tiredness



nausea

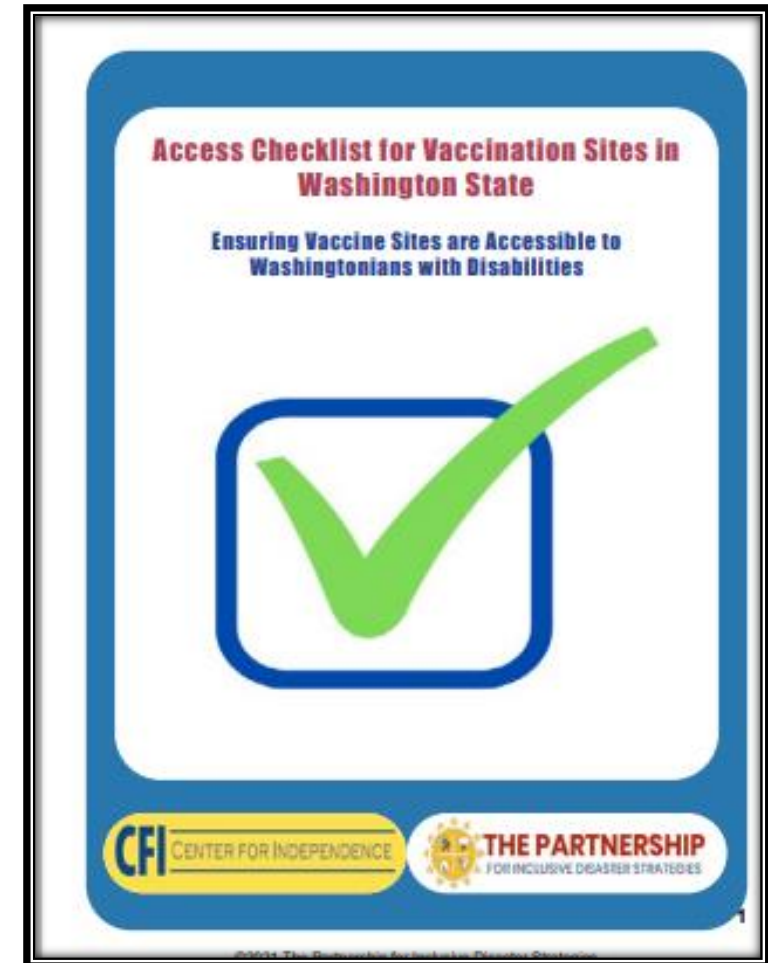


feeling unwell

6. Strengthen the public health system's ability to center communities in vaccine outreach and access

Resources

- [The Partnership Training for WA DOH- Vaccine Sites \(disasterstrategies.org\)](https://disasterstrategies.org) by the Centers for Independence



7. Foster opportunities for collaboration

COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative

Centering the voices of the most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

MADE UP OF:

Community members • Community-based Organizations • Impacted Businesses
Cross-sector Partners • Healthcare Entities • Public Health Agencies

*Ensure equity and social justice in vaccine
planning and implementation*

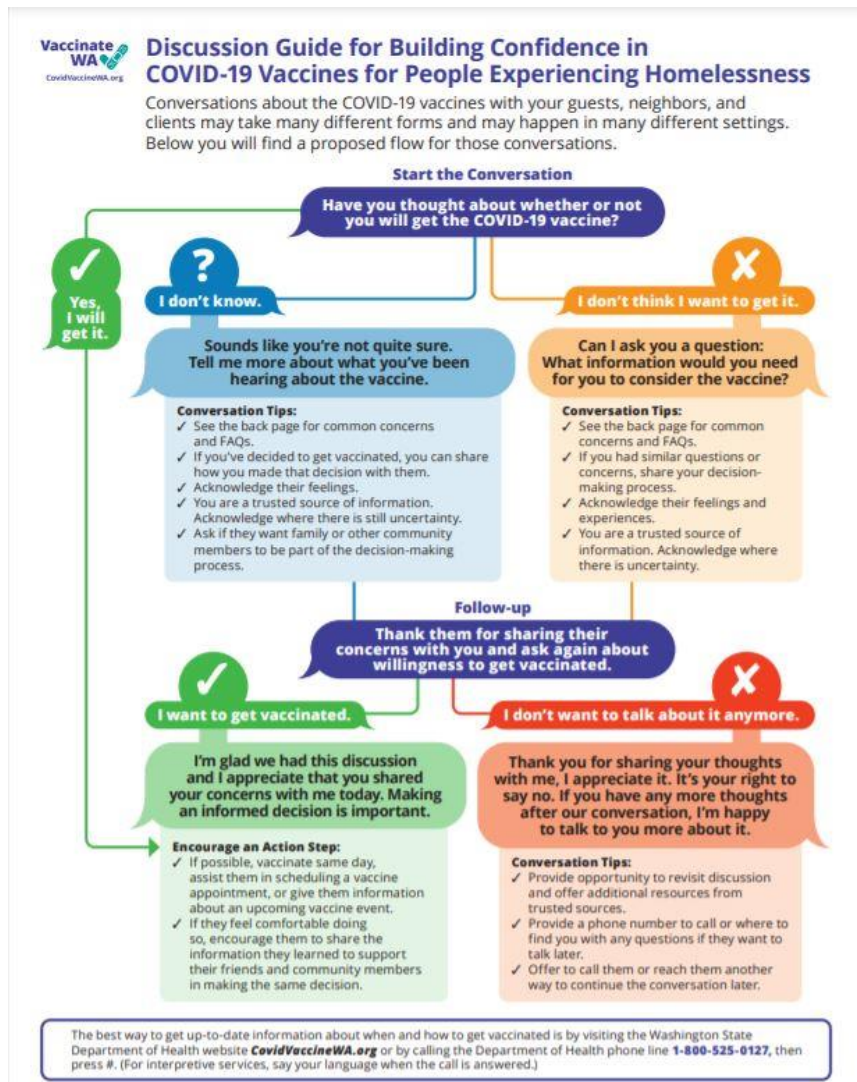


Collaborative work includes:



Vaccine updates to share with communities • Provide feedback
Discuss vaccine access • Plan culturally and linguistically appropriate
Collaborate with others to support equitable distribution of vaccine

8. Support a trauma-informed approach to vaccine conversations



Common Concerns & Example Responses

They've experienced racism or faced another form of discrimination when receiving medical care.

"I'm sorry that happened to you. It was horrible and wrong. Your experience sounds frustrating and hurtful." After listening and further exploring their concerns, consider saying: "The vaccine will help prevent you from getting really sick from COVID-19. It is strongly recommended, but completely voluntary."

They mention harmful medical practices or experiments on Black and indigenous people in the past.

"You're absolutely right. The history of medical harm should not be ignored. Scientists have engaged in many harmful and racist practices in the name of medicine. The COVID-19 vaccine is being handled very differently. Can I tell you what I know about the vaccine and the vaccine trials? I want to make sure this feels like the right decision for you."

They don't trust Johnson & Johnson because of the company's history with Black women.*

"I completely understand why you wouldn't trust Johnson & Johnson due to their history of harm targeting the Black and Latinx community, particularly Black women. It is inexcusable that their harmful marketing tactics led to increased risk of cancer. While I understand the worries you might have about their products, I can tell you that this vaccine has been shown to be safe and effective (see FAQ section for more information). It's possible that the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may be the first or only vaccine available to you. Can I answer any other questions or concerns about the vaccine or the vaccine trials for you?"

They share concerns about the vaccine that aren't factual.

"I've heard others share similar concerns, so you aren't alone in feeling that way. Would it be OK if I share what I've learned?"

Frequently Asked Questions & Example Responses

How many doses do I need?

Manufacturer	Number of doses	Age you can get the vaccine
Pfizer-BioNTech	2 doses, 21 days apart	16+
Moderna	2 doses, 28 days apart	18+
Johnson & Johnson	1 dose	18+

What are the side effects?

"The most common side effects are a sore arm, tiredness, headache, and muscle pain. These symptoms are a sign that the vaccine is working. For most people, these side effects happen within two days of getting the vaccine and last about a day. Side effects are more common after the second dose than the first dose for two dose vaccines." Let them know if there will be a place for them to stay or rest to recover from any side effects.

What ingredients are in the vaccine?

"Like other vaccines, the vaccines contain fat, salts, and sugars to help them work better in the body. The ingredients are all safe and needed for the vaccine to do its job. It does not contain human cells (including fetal cells), the virus that causes COVID-19, any animal by-products including pork products, latex, metals, tracking devices, or preservatives. It was not grown in eggs and contains no egg products."

Are the vaccines safe? Were they tested on people like me?

"Yes, they are safe. The FDA authorized these vaccines after reviewing a lot of evidence carefully. Independent experts confirmed that it met high safety standards. For the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, about 30% of U.S. participants in the vaccine trials were Hispanic, Black/African American, Asian or American Indian/Alaska Native and about half were older adults. For the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, at least 38% of all participants in the vaccine trials identified as Black/African American, Asian or American Indian/Alaska Native and about half were older adults. In addition, about 45% of all participants identified as Hispanic/Latino. There were no significant safety concerns identified in these or any other groups for any of the trials."

Do I have to show proof of citizenship to get the vaccine?

"No. You do not need to show proof of citizenship to get the vaccine. Regardless of citizenship or immigration status, all eligible people living or working in Washington can get vaccinated."

They share concerns about politics or the government's involvement.

"You are right, it has gotten political. Would it be OK if I shared what I know about the vaccine?" If granted permission: "I've looked at the results, and this vaccine does really protect people from COVID. I want you to have the benefit of it."

They share that they don't really think they need to get it.

"The vaccine will help prevent you from getting really sick from COVID-19. The more people that get the vaccine, the sooner places will be able to open back up and we'll be able to be inside together. It is strongly recommended, but completely voluntary."

They share concerns about [J&J] efficacy compared to the two dose vaccines.

"There are a lot of efficacy numbers being reported, which can be confusing. The most important thing to know is that the studies showed the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to be very good at preventing severe illness and hospitalization. All of the vaccines prevented a majority of people from getting any COVID-19 symptoms at all."

They share a concern that fetal tissue was used to create the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

"The Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was created using the same technology as many other vaccines. It does not contain parts of fetuses or fetal cells. One piece of the vaccine is made in lab-grown copies of cells that originally came from elective abortions that took place over 35 years ago. Since then, the cell lines for these vaccines have been maintained in the lab and no further sources of fetal cells are used to make these vaccines. This might be new information for some people. However, vaccines for chickenpox, rubella and hepatitis A are made in the same way."

How much does it cost?

"The vaccine is provided at no cost."

Can I get the vaccine if I am pregnant or want to have a baby one day?

"Yes. Medical experts in pregnancy recommend all people who are pregnant or may consider becoming pregnant should be offered the vaccine. Getting vaccinated is a personal choice. Current safety data is limited but does not indicate any safety concerns for pregnant people. Normal side effects should be expected such as sore arm, tiredness, headache or muscle pain. We can talk more about this decision."

Can the vaccines cause me to get COVID-19 or alter my DNA?

"No. The vaccines do not change or interact with your DNA in any way. The vaccines will also not give you COVID-19. The vaccines teach our body's cells how recognize and fight the coronavirus."

Can I get vaccinated if I have other medical conditions?

"Yes. COVID-19 vaccination is especially important for people with health conditions like heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or obesity. People with these conditions are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19."

For other frequently asked questions, visit: doh.wa.gov/covidvaccine/faq

*In 2020, Johnson & Johnson agreed to pay \$100 million to settle more than 1,000 lawsuits (out of more than 20,000) alleging that its talc-based baby powder causes cancer. Internal documents show that Johnson & Johnson heavily marketed its talcum powder to Black women for feminine hygiene. They did not include a warning that their talc-based baby powder product could contain carcinogens.

Adapted from:

1. Communication skills for the COVID vaccine. VitalTalk. vitaltalk.org/guides/communication-skills-for-the-covid-vaccine. Published January 8, 2021.
2. Gagneur A. Motivational interviewing: A powerful tool to address vaccine hesitancy. *Can Commun Dis Rep.* 2020;46(4):93-97. Published 2020 Apr 2. doi:10.14733/cdr-r46i04a06
3. Cipriol, Lu B, Peak ME. Addressing Mistrust About COVID-19 Vaccines Among Patients of Color. *Ann Intern Med.* Published online February 9, 2021 at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7810101/. doi:10.7326/M21-0055. doi:10.7326/m21-0055



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Collaboration Opportunities

Provider Pro-equity Strategy Technical Assistance Drop-in Sessions

1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, from 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Contact: equity@doh.wa.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative

Centers communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month, from 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Learn more & sign-up: [Collaborative :: Washington State Department of Health](#)

Contact: Vax.Collaborative@doh.wa.gov

Our webpage: [COVID-19 Vaccine Engagement :: Washington State Department of Health](#)

