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COMMUNITY-STUDENT PARTNERSHIPS TO DELIVER INFLUENZA VACCINES DURING A PANDEMIC

Influenza vaccination reduces hospitalization and death among susceptible populations. In Fall 2020, free and easy access to the vaccine was crucial to avoid further overwhelming healthcare systems during the COVID-19 pandemic. Flu Crew, a student run initiative that trains Stanford School of Medicine preclinical students to administer vaccines, aimed to mitigate this gap by collaborating with community partners in the Bay Area to safely distribute flu vaccines in spaces where individuals work, pray, study and live.

Flu Crew works closely with community partners to establish protocols and organize clinics for vaccine delivery. In Fall 2020, these partners included Monterey Mushroom Farms, the Brisbane Lion's Club, Salvation Army, Belmont Library, Half Moon Bay Library, Christ the King and Our Lady of Refuge Churches and the Mayfair Community Center in San Jose. Stanford partners included Vaden Health Center, Stanford University Occupational Health Center, and Stanford Dining Services.

Community partners provided opportunities for vaccination at their highly frequented or easily accessible locations. Flu Crew trained student vaccinators in influenza biology and immunization techniques using both virtual and in-person modalities. Quality improvement surveys were also distributed at 2 vaccination sites.

In Fall 2020, 120 volunteers delivered over 1000 vaccines at 10 external community partner sites and 4 Stanford Campus sites. Influenza vaccination during the COVID19 pandemic was achieved by working with community partners to create outdoor vaccination stations, ensuring access to PPE and designing workflows that maintained distance at events. Continued trust, careful planning and frequent communication between Flu Crew and its partners enabled successful delivery of vaccines. Given the success of this model, Flu Crew hopes to work with existing and new partners to adapt these strategies to support COVID-19 vaccination of underserved communities.

COMMUNITY PARTNER

MONTEREY MUSHROOMS

BRISBANE LIONS CLUB

CTKPH

OUR LADY OF REFUGE

NORCAL SALVATION ARMY

SMCL