



We have each reviewed the attached responses to all questions and affirm that the LPHA jurisdiction will continue to make meaningful efforts to offer culturally responsive, low-barrier vaccination opportunities, especially for populations in our jurisdiction.

The LPHA and its partners will continue to ensure that vaccine sites are culturally-responsive, linguistically appropriate and accessible to people with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities and other unique vaccine access needs.

Please review race/ethnicity data for the LPHA jurisdiction. Based on the experience of the LPHA and its partners, including community-based organizations, what are the operational, policy, and systemic barriers or strengths demonstrated in these data?

Clatsop County Department of Public Health maintains strong partnerships with the CCO, CBOs, and other community partners to reach Latinx and BIPOC communities. The County is committed to a policy of meeting people where they work, live, and play by providing culturally responsive education and access to vaccinations. This commitment is evident in strategies implemented to eliminate barriers such as language, transportation, and misinformation, including bringing vaccinations to the unsheltered, homebound, and workplace. PSAs include interactive live stream conversations for both English and Spanish-speaking populations. Coordination among the five school districts with the superintendents, nurses, and the regional ESD expanded access to students and their families. Hosting virtual community engagement events with OHA for the school communities provided non-threatening opportunities to dispel myths and mitigate misunderstanding as an avenue to vaccination. Tongue Point Job Corp serves a diverse student population who received vaccinations at large standing events. As an ALERT delegate agency, the LPHA maintains continuous lines of communication to vaccinate any incoming students not already immunized. The LPHA is expanding mobile efforts to housing communities and employers with shift workers to guarantee any one person who wants a vaccine gets one with minimal effort, and vaccines are available at local pharmacies and clinics. A significant barrier to vaccination is the misinformation about vaccines; addressing the misinformation requires ongoing trust and education. The Columbia Pacific CCO(CPCCO) provides a weekly data report on the vaccination status of members. Specific race and ethnicity data for Clatsop County is not available on the COVID dashboard at the time.

What steps have the LPHA and its partners already taken to address specific racial and ethnic vaccination inequities in the community?

Clatsop County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) partners include five school districts, employers, seafood processing plants, Tongue Point Job Corp (TPJC), Clatsop Community College (CCC), Clatsop Behavioral Health (CBH), Consejo Hispano (CH), Clatsop Community Action (CCA), Astoria Warming Center (AWC), Sunset Empire Transportation District (SETD), Faith-based organizations, Columbia Pacific CCO (CPCCO) and members of the Clatsop County Vaccine Task Force (VTF). Until recently, the VTF convened Monday thru Friday to review vaccination data, community requests for vaccination, population-based outreach strategies, resources, including transportation, and interpretative services.

Dr. Koreishi, Medical Director for CPCCO, was part of the clinical leadership consulting with the VTF weekly for the first four months of the campaign. The CPCCO schedules individuals using public health's online scheduling system. Regular meetings with CPCCO leadership have enabled the task force to reach BIPOC and underserved members in the community.

With guidance from the Clinical Advisory Group, the VTF prioritized the Latinx and BIPOC community members. Over the past four months, the VTF held weekly meetings with CBOs to provide outreach to the canneries and other populations. CCA, CH, CPCCO, the PICC registered individuals and arranged transportation to events. Vaccinations for the homebound are ongoing.

Strategies to address any potential inequities included live stream community engagement forums for English and Spanish-speaking populations. Consejo Hispano (CH) hosted two events for the Spanish-speaking community, provided ongoing education and outreach, and coordinates with Sunset Empire Transportation District (SETD) increasing transportation access to vaccinations. Clatsop Community Action (CCA) also offers transportation, food, and interpretive services for events. The LPHA continues to host vaccine events at the seafood processing plants with scheduled follow-up to ensure that anyone vaccinated with Moderna receives their 2nd dose and is also tracking new employees to ensure vaccination availability. Following the pause of J&J, the LPHA visited a processing plant for a Q&A about the vaccine and addressed concerns. The J&J vaccine is reserved for populations experiencing barriers to obtaining a 2nd dose. Populations include the houseless, unsheltered, clients accessing harm reduction services, individuals housed in the County Jail, and the homebound. CCA also partnered with many community-based organizations to host a community wellness event for the houseless, and the LPHA administered vaccinations at this event. More events are scheduled in June and July.

Clatsop County staffs a Public Information and Communication Center (PICC) Monday thru Friday, which includes an interpreter who responds to questions, schedules appointments, and assists with transportation arrangements to/from vaccine events. The Clatsop County Vaccine Survey asks multiple questions to identify potential barriers to vaccination. PICC staff then follow up with the community member to eliminate the obstacles, and this information is reported to the VTF.

The Sunset Empire Transportation District (SETD) provides ongoing free options for transportation to/from the clinics, door-to-door, and a continuous loop between community bus stops and vaccine events in north and south county. Accommodations continue to be made without hesitation when the seafood processing plants and other larger employers and TPJC send groups to vaccine events. Weekly multi-agency meetings inform gaps in reaching the BIPOC community, the unsheltered, and others.

The VTF, through the County's Public Information Officer (PIO), provides weekly Task Force updates that are published in English and Spanish and shared directly with leaders at CCA and CH, who then distribute the information to the populations they serve. The Health Department created bi-lingual videos to dispel misinformation about the vaccines on social media. The weekly VTF updates and videos are distributed through social media platforms. A virtual visit to a vaccine clinic video is available in two languages.

What steps do the LPHA and its partners plan to take to address these inequities in the jurisdiction?

Many of the efforts previously mentioned are ongoing. The LPHA hired a Vaccine Event Coordinator to focus on community outreach and pop-up events in coordination with CPCCO, CBOs, faith-based organizations, Chambers of Commerce, school districts, TPJCC, the college, and employers. The bi-weekly vaccination events will continue through June, with a transition to pop-up outreach events. The goal is to "meet people where they are at." The LPHA is aware that employees working in the hospitality industry are often from the Latinx or BIPOC community. Accessing evening events may be a barrier, particularly in South County. To address this barrier, the LPHA will provide frequent and flexible pop-up events in partnership with employers to ensure any person eligible for vaccination can get one with minimal effort or burden. The goal is to meet President Biden's goal of making vaccinations available within five miles for every community member.

What plan do the LPHA and its partners have to close the specific vaccine equity gaps among specific racial and ethnic populations?

Pending OHA dashboard [updates](#), Clatsop County will continue outreach to employers, offer vaccinations at community-sponsored events, partner with CBOs, faith-based organizations, schools, conduct home visits, and provide pop-ups clinics where and when an opportunity presents. LPHA maintains an active and influential social media campaign, providing all information in two languages and utilizing an existing contract for interpretation when another language is required. The LPHA hired a Vaccine Event Coordinator to work with the CBOs to address equity gaps among the BIPOC and other vulnerable populations. Equity concerns identified through a weekly COVID-19 Vaccine Update published by CPCCO include vaccination status of members with at least one chronic condition, homebound or mobility issues, Spanish speaking, have transportation barriers, mental health concerns, and who identify as BIPOC. Using the VTF scheduling platform, the CPCCO schedules appointments and other services to eliminate access barriers. Clatsop County will not directly or indirectly pay community members to get vaccinated.

What steps are the LPHA and its partners taking to engage and actively partner with these and other organizations to increase meaningful, culturally- responsive, low-barrier access to vaccines?

LPHA has a strong partnership with Consejo Hispano (CH), Clatsop Community Action (CCA), Astoria Warming Center (AWC). These partners convene monthly with the regional coordinator to discuss opportunities and challenges. The CBOs are primary liaisons to the Latinx and BIPOC community, and others who may experience significant barriers accessing vaccinations and COVID-related information. The CBOs assist with logistics, communication, trust-building, and resources based on their funding. Reaching the BIPOC community requires partnership with employers, education, and faith-based organizations. Most importantly, it requires trust. Unless there is a conflict, the LPHA provides vaccines and information when and where requested.

Regular meetings are held with directors of the CBO agencies to ensure they are aware of the task force's weekly statistics, objectives, and goals. During discussions with the CBO, feedback contributed to necessary improvements in outreach, scheduling, and clinic flow. CBO feedback also resulted in the Sunset Empire Transportation District setting up a phone number and partnering with the VTF to ensure all Clatsop County residents who needed help getting to events have transportation available to them.

The LPHA worked with the Elsie Vine Maple and Mist Fire Districts to provide multiple pop-up clinics in very rural locations in Clatsop and Columbia counties to reduce travel barriers for people in more remote locations. This also offered the opportunity to hold education sessions for the Latinx and BIPOC communities and other residents living in the County's remote areas.

How will the LPHA and its partners ensure that CBOs and navigators are aware of vaccine events so they can assist with registration and outreach as able?

The LPHA has a social media/communications team that exchanges information with the CBOs and partners for events, including the recent community engagement event with Consejo Hispano. The LPHA hired a Vaccine Event Coordinator to work with the CBOs to address equity gaps among racial and ethnic populations. The Vaccine Event Coordinator meets with the OHA regional coordinator and CBOs to develop and implement successful vaccination events. The OHA regional coordinator provided LPHA a description of activities and funding awarded to the CBOs, and the LPHA focuses on transparency with all information. The WIC Coordinator is a trusted member of the Latinx community and serves as a liaison and resource.

The clinic schedule is widely distributed electronically and on social media. As stated above, the LPHA hosts regular meetings with directors of the CBO agencies to be sure they are informed about the VTF plans. The CBO directors provide feedback about ways to improve the clinic flow and expand community outreach. As a result of feedback, Consejo Hispano and the CPCCO can access public health's vaccination registration system to register people for events while conducting outreach directly. This allows them to confirm an appointment for a specific time and date.

Does the LPHA have any additional updates regarding work to serve agricultural workers in its jurisdiction since the LPHA last provided information to the REC?

CCDPH prioritized this population early on in vaccine events and continues to provide ongoing outreach to the seafood processing plants. In addition, continued efforts are in place expanding outreach to the hospitality sector within Clatsop County.

What steps have the LPHA and its partners taken to address vaccine confidence in the community actively?

The LPHA and Consejo Hispano hosted community engagement events, including live stream Q & A sessions on multiple social media platforms. Participants included bilingual physicians, representatives from the CBOs, VTF Incident Commander, Director of Public Health, and a County Commissioner. These events are recorded and posted on multiple platforms in addition to a weekly Vaccine Bulletin published by the VTF in English and Spanish. Updates to the county website and social media are regularly made in two languages to address ongoing concerns. The PICC is available with translators M-F to answer questions about changes to OHA guidance, scheduling appointments, and coordinating transportation. The LPHA is partnering with school districts and OHA to host community information sessions at Jewell, Astoria, and Knappa School Districts. Following the pause on J&J, the LPHA visited a seafood processing plant to answer questions and listened to concerns regarding this pause. Vaccine events are staffed with physicians, pharmacists, nurses, and other public health professionals who listen to concerns and answer questions. The LPHA and its partners use teachable moments and, most importantly, meet community members where they are to address hesitancy and readiness. The LPHA offers education and vaccination during the weekly Harm Reduction events that take place throughout the County. Confidence increases as community members become vaccinated and share their stories with a family or community members, so the VTF Communications Team, led by Health Promotions staff, developed and implemented two "norming" strategies to reach community members. Well-known physicians representing different sectors of the health care community, including a naturopathic physician and a beloved Spanish-speaking physician, talked to the community about why they believed in the vaccine and reasons to be vaccinated. An ongoing campaign invites community members to share their vaccination stories and photo on social media in English and Spanish.

What plans do the LPHA and its partners have to continue addressing vaccine confidence?

The Vaccine Event Coordinator will prioritize meeting people where they are and being present at CBO-sponsored events. Astoria has a large Sunday market where the LPHA is planning to provide information and vaccinations. An emerging barrier is frequently changing guidance from Governor Brown. This guidance is too complicated for some to follow, not consistent with what people hear or see from the news, and creates an undue burden. As a result of this inconsistency, confidence and trust is declining. The LPHA continues to do what it has always done with immunizations and other interventions to minimize the spread of disease. Ongoing efforts include eliminating as many barriers as possible, providing consistent and accurate information, meeting people where they are at, expressing gratitude, and being available to answer questions and concerns when they arise. Sadly, it was necessary to call on law enforcement to intervene and maintain a presence during pediatric events due to the disruption caused by members of the anti-vaccination movement.

What are the communications plan to dispel misinformation through a comprehensive, multi-modal communications strategy for communities experiencing racial and ethnic vaccine inequities in your jurisdiction? Examples could include: Spanish language radio spots, physically distanced outdoor information fair, training local faith leaders and equipping them with vaccine facts and information to refer a community member to a health care professional for follow-up, etc?

The LPHA has print media, radio spots, norming campaigns on [social media](#) platforms, a [Vaccine Bulletin](#), community-wide ALERTs, weekly conference calls with specific community sectors such as faith leaders, ongoing community engagement events, and a [Public Information Hub](#).

How has and how will the LPHA and its partners ensure language accessibility at vaccine events?

Materials are available in English and Spanish, and other languages are available as needed. All information on social media and the web is available in two languages. If a walk-in comes to the clinic, data can be accessed on the OHA website and printed. Spanish language interpreters are onsite for every event, including in the PICC.

The LPHA worked with two local CBOs, Clatsop Community Action and Consejo Hispano, to ensure in-person certified medical interpreters are available at every vaccination event. The most significant events (>1000 people) had as many as eight interpreters onsite; an interpreter at every station in the workflow. The CBOs make sure the Latinx community knows interpretative services are available at events. For events at the seafood processing plants, 3-5 interpreters worked with vaccinators to ensure employees received answers to their questions.

What plans do the LPHA and its partners have to decrease transportation barriers to accessing vaccines?

The VTF addressed this early on in the vaccination campaign. Sunset Empire Transportation District provides free door-to-door and continuous route service for all events. Public health nurses make home visits to homebound individuals, and future pop-up events will be located in places that are accessible to walkers and cyclists.

What plans do the LPHA and its partners have to ensure meaningful, low-barrier vaccine access for youth, especially those from Black, Indigenous, Tribal, and other communities experiencing inequities in COVID-19 disease, death, and vaccination?

The Vaccine Task Force (VTF) will continue to respond to the evolving needs of the COVID-19 response. The existing partnerships will continue to identify and address gaps in understanding, access, and collective impact. Public health and community partnerships will continue working together to meet community members where they are, whether at home, work, houseless, or transient. The LPHA hosts a weekly call with Superintendents and school nurses to discuss opportunities and challenges that affect youth and their families. The VTF is offering dedicated Pfizer clinics to eligible youth and their households, and as school reopens, the LPHA will provide clinics to youth as we do all routine immunizations. Transportation and interpreters are available for the Saturday clinics alternating between the north and south parts of the county.

How will the LPHA and its partners regularly report on progress to and engage with community leaders from the Black, Indigenous, Tribal, other communities of color to regularly review progress on its vaccine equity plans and reassess strategies as needed.

The LPHA meets regularly with CBOs and community partners, engaging in a formative and evaluative process. There are multiple avenues for partners and the community to provide feedback as well as request additional support. Progress is measured by data reported to the LPHA, CBO Weekly Report, and the OHA dashboards.

Evaluating community readiness and acceptance is integral to the next phase of outreach throughout the community.

Initially, the VTF did not put race/ethnicity on the consent form. Thus, the numbers are likely underreported. Not including race and ethnicity were not an oversight but an effort to keep the consents as simple as possible during the early months of the vaccination campaign. Recently, consent forms were updated to include new information, and race and ethnicity will be a data point moving forward.

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COVID-19EquityPlanv6-6-14-21

Final Audit Report

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