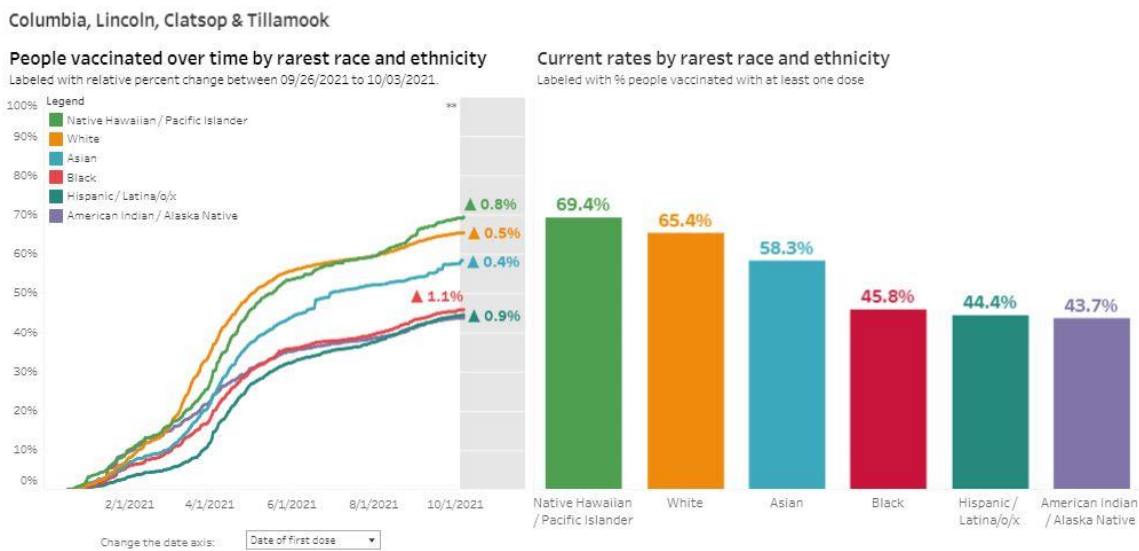


Tillamook County Equity Plan – Progress Report (10/15/2021)

1. Please review the jurisdiction’s response to questions #1 and #2 in the accepted equity documentation, as well as recent race/ethnicity data. Describe any improvements in equity gaps as evidenced in the data. Provide a status update on progress the LPHA and its partners have made to eliminate vaccine access barriers and implement plans to close vaccine equity gaps among specific racial and ethnic populations. Please be specific, provide an example of work about which the LPHA and its partners are particularly proud, and describe any tangible impacts in the community.

As presented in the chart #1 below, county specific race /ethnicity data is not available for Tillamook County, it is instead reported with Columbia, Clatsop, and Lincoln counties as a region. The regional data shows an increase in vaccination rate amongst white and Hispanic/Latino/a/x ethnicity groups, which are now at 65.4% and 44.4 respectively, compared to rates for the same groups of 39.9% and 21.3% respectively, in May 2021.



Tillamook County remains committed to reaching the 80% vaccinate rate goal for our BIPOC community. Most recent census data shows Tillamook County with a Latino/a/x population of 11%. For purposes of this plan, it is estimated the Latino/a/x population is closer to 15%, whereas other prioritized race/ethnicity groups populations are less than 7% combined. As stated, state data for the region indicates steady increases in vaccination rates among the BIPOC populations and so does the regional data for BIPOC Medicaid populations. Please reference the Chart #2 below created by Columbia Pacific Coordinated Care Organization (CPCC) using OHA data (OHA ALERT Registry; most recent vaccination date recorded: 09/26/2021).

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CPCCO COVID-19 VACCINE EQUITY GRID (CLATSOP, COLUMBIA & TILLAMOOK)

CHART#2

% OF SUBPOPULATION PARTIALLY OR FULLY VACCINATED – TARGET 70%

Race/Ethnicity Group	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino/a/e/x	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Other	White
Denominator	224	145	123	739	60	179	11,239
% Members Vaccinated	43.3%	56.6% (met)	43.1%	49.5%	41.7%	40.8%	50%

Further, as currently available state data does not reflect county specific data, reference to BIPOC Medicaid information/data provided by CPCCO is helpful to monitor local vaccination trending for the county’s higher risk populations. Based on Chart #3 below, there is consistent positive trending in vaccination rates for our BIPOC Medicaid populations We anticipate, with continued ongoing vaccine outreach and partnership, this positive trend will continue.

County Vaccination Rates for Medicaid populations as of 09/26/2021.						Chart #3
County	BIPOC	English Language Learners	People w/ Schizophrenia Dx	Transportation Need	Youth (12-17 years)	Older Adults & Seniors (65+ years)
Clatsop	48.0%	50.3%	59.3%	70.7%	37.3%	71.7%
Columbia	43.4%	42.4%	57.8%	66.2%	29.4%	67.6%
Tillamook	46.2%	50.8%	61.9%	74.8%	37.5%	73.6%
All CPCCO	46.0%	48.9%	59.2%	69.7%	34.3%	70.7%

The county rate of vaccination at the date of this report is 77.05% of eligible county population age 16 and older receiving as least one dose of a COVID19 vaccine and 72.90% for county population age 12 and older. The overall completed vaccination rate for the total eligible county population (12 and older) is 67.79%. By ethnicity group, the completed vaccination rate for those who identify as non-Hispanic is 55.1% and those who identify as Hispanic is 35.4%

The county’s continued outreach and education is rooted in our partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs) that continue to be trusted resources for the Latinx community. We have continued to work with our key community partners that include Oregon State Extension Service Tillamook County’s Juntos program, Tillamook County Family YMCA, Consejo Hispano, local school districts, CARE, Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District, Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue, Adventist Health – Tillamook, and Federally Qualified Health Centers, Tillamook County Community Health Centers, and the Rinehart Clinic.

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Tillamook County is a rural isolated county. It can be difficult by distance to reach care traditionally, and many residents work in service industries and agriculture businesses that often do not allow them to seek care during traditional weekday business hours.

Our first approach in our vaccine strategy (January 2021 – May 2021) included:

- Establishment of a call and email center with English and Spanish speaking staff.
- Forming a multi-agency vaccine coalition.
- Coordinating with long-term care facilities, group-home for individuals with disabilities and other congregate care centers to arrange for onsite vaccination.
- Work with CBOs to arrange in-home vaccines for homebound individuals.
- Mass vaccination clinics in multiple areas of the county.
- Outreach to agricultural businesses to arrange for offsite and onsite vaccination at farms and at trusted venues (Tillamook County Creamery Association).

In May 2021 – to current, our vaccine strategy shifted from mass vaccination clinics to mobile and targeted vaccine events to better address hesitancy and access, which included:

- Partnering with the CBO Tillamook County Family YMCA to co-host off-site vaccine events for youths and families.
- Partnering with local school districts to co-host-off site vaccines for educators and students.
- Partnering with CBO CARE to co-host a resource and supply event for those who are housing insecure where vaccines were made available.
- Partnering with CBO Oregon State Extension Service, Tillamook County’s Juntos program to co-host off-site culturally specific vaccine event: Family Night and upcoming vaccine event for Día de los Muertos.

In addition to these targeted and mobile events, smaller walk-in clinics were offered during the day, in the evenings and on the weekends at vaccine sites across the county, where appointments were not required to improve and remove barriers to access.

2. Please review the jurisdiction’s response to question #6 and provide an update on the LPHA and its partners’ work to address the vaccine needs of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the jurisdiction and share the outcomes of these efforts.

Tillamook County has a strong partnership with agricultural businesses. Tillamook County worked with the Tillamook County Creamery Association (TCCA) and Tillamook County dairy farmers to provide vaccine opportunities that met their needs via offsite and on-site vaccinations supported by bilingual (English and Spanish) staff. To address vaccine hesitancy prior to the event, information sessions were made available. This vaccine strategy resulted in increased access, awareness, and education.

3. The pandemic has demonstrated and elevated the structural barriers that perpetuate health inequities. To dismantle those structural barriers in the long-term so that health equity can be achieved across all populations statewide, transforming how public health works with communities to engage in multi-directional communication and dialogue with, share power with and center in decision making communities most affected by those inequities is essential.

During the course of the pandemic, Tillamook County has been working to address barriers to access by implementing listening sessions and focus groups regarding communication preferences in the context of an emergency. Traditionally underserved populations in our county were our primary focus for the listening sessions. Traditionally underserved populations include but not limited to:

- Those 65 years old and older.
- Those who identify as Latino/a/x.
- Those who are housing insecure.
- Those who live with a disability.
- Those who have low-no literacy.
- Those enrolled with Medicaid.
- Those who have low-no digital access.

Listening sessions and data collection are ongoing to continue to inform our efforts and adapt our strategy.

One example of the feedback we have received is having materials and services that are culturally specific and allow for diverse groups to identify with. With this feedback, our communication process has changed. Information regarding COVID-19 including vaccines is made available in English and Spanish with more diverse images and media styles including video. In addition, a culturally specific vaccine event was held in partnership with CBO Oregon State Extension Services, Tillamook County's Juntos program to celebrate Mexican heritage in Tillamook and offer an inclusive space to receive a vaccine.

b. Please provide an example of how the LPHA and its partners have shared power with and centered the communities experiencing inequities in decision making to determine strategies to increase vaccine access for communities.

Tillamook County and vaccine partners remain committed to increasing access to vaccine for our underserved communities. Tillamook County provides regular updates on the radio, social media networks, and on our website for community members to access and monitor progress. Tillamook County holds regular meetings with CBOs and multi-agencies vaccine partners to gain insight and adapt vaccine strategy. We have a strong partnership with the CBO, Oregon State Extension Services Tillamook County's Juntos program and FQHCs Tillamook County Community Health Center and Rinehart Clinic. The CBOs work closely with a high percent of Tillamook County residents who speak Spanish. Vaccine events were co-hosted by these CBO's and under their advisement and direction, culturally specific outreach and a culturally specific vaccine event was held with culturally specific food, music, and decorations for the event. COVID-19 vaccines were brought to the event in a mobile clinic and offered to the eventgoers as well as the opportunity to ask questions regarding the vaccine to

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our medical staff. The event was captured on film, along with vaccine testimonies which will be used to highlight and advertise for future heritage events, of which planning is ongoing for.

In addition to culturally specific vaccine events, in partnership with CBO Tillamook County Family YMCA and the local school districts, vaccine events were co-hosted to reach youths and working families that may be increasing vaccine hesitancy. Under the direction and advisement of the CBO and school districts, specific youth and family vaccine outreach and education occurred, and a targeted school vaccine event was held in conjunction with a school-resource fair to prepare students for the new school year. Backpacks with school supply and meals were provided as incentives for attending the event.
