Equitable Access and Distribution of the COVID-19 Vaccine

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May 2021
Communities of color and other underserved populations have carried higher infection, hospitalization, and death rates than the general public due to historical and current health inequities.

Salt Lake County is working hard to correct these inequities and ensure all county residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

This document summarizes the work conducted by Salt Lake County and partners since the vaccine arrived in Utah in early January 2021. We plan on continuing these efforts, evolving our strategies and approaches as informed by data and partners, until vaccination efforts are complete.
Populations served through equitable access

- African American
- Asian
- Disability community
- Latinx
- Muslim
- Pacific Islander
- Refugees
- Seniors living in low-income housing

Priority ZIP Codes

Priority ZIP codes were selected through an analysis of COVID-19 hospitalization rates, vaccination coverage, minority population, and SocioNeeds Index, which measures socioeconomic need to assess risk of poor health outcomes.
Equity Principles

Focus on communities most affected by COVID-19 and those with highest vaccination barriers

Across America and in Salt Lake County, communities of color and other underserved populations have suffered more from COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and death. By ensuring these populations receive the vaccination immediately, we can stop the spread of the disease more quickly and lift some of the weight these communities carry.

Support diverse, trusted community voices to inform and educate communities

People listen to those they trust. Salt Lake County supports trusted community leaders and partners to talk to their communities about the COVID-19 vaccine and ensure accurate information is available and shared with everyone.

Remove barriers to vaccination for communities of color and other underserved populations

People who are not comfortable with English, do not have transportation to clinics, or struggle with the online registration system may need help to overcome these barriers. Many people are not able to take time off work to attend a daytime clinic, while others may have past experiences that make them feel unwelcome in a government system. We all have a role to play in breaking through these barriers to allow all Salt Lake County residents open access to this life-saving vaccine.

Health inequities and barriers to access

- Transportation
- Lack of trust in public systems due to historical injustices
- Language barriers
- Jobs that require in-person work
- Jobs without sick leave
- Larger multi-generational households which can lead to higher infection rates among families
Equity Goals

Salt Lake County goal

1. Each focus population is 70% vaccinated based on herd immunity estimates

2. Vaccination rates for our focus populations equal vaccination rates in the general population
COVID-19 Hospitalization Rate

per 1,000 cases among Salt Lake County residents with case dates through 3/4/2021

By race

- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 92
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 85
- Asian: 48
- Black or African American: 44
- White: 37
- Two or more races: 25

By ethnicity

- Not Hispanic or Latino: 40
- Hispanic or Latino: 39
Percent of Salt Lake County Residents Vaccinated with First Dose
8/1/2020 - 2/21/2021

By race

- White: 8.25%
- Other Race: 6.9%
- Asian: 6.25%
- American Indian or Alaska Native: 4.75%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 3.5%
- Black or African American: 3.4%

By ethnicity

- Not Hispanic or Latino: 8%
- Hispanic or Latino: 2.5%
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Strategies

Community-Based Education & Outreach

• Support trusted, diverse voices through grants to inform, educate, and engage communities about vaccine facts. Salt Lake County Health Department has awarded $820k to 29 community partner organizations to support their work on vaccine education and outreach.

• Utilize Community Health Workers to educate and inform about the COVID-19 vaccine, how the registration process works, and other critical factors that may impede individuals from receiving the vaccine.

• Create messages that resonate with communities of color and underserved populations, and develop targeted messaging for diverse populations in several languages.

• Develop materials in several languages that highlight how communities of color and underrepresented populations can register to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine.

• Promote the County’s This Is Our Shot campaign and website, www.thisisourshot.com, to ensure diverse communities have the information they need to register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Targeted Vaccine Distribution

• Work closely with community partners to offer COVID-19 vaccination clinics that are welcoming and accessible to diverse communities.

• Ensure a welcoming onsite experience at general public vaccination site.

• Create more accessible registration processes.

• Partner with other vaccine providers such as the State of Utah on outreach clinics and site prioritization, to ensure we are covering population and geographic gaps and avoiding unnecessary duplication in vaccination efforts.

Data and Community Informed Decisions

• Maintain a public-facing dashboard on vaccine uptake among focus populations.

• Develop sound strategies through the use of data.

• Get regular input and feedback from community partners and community members through grantee meetings, surveys, and ongoing communications.
Do you have ideas how we can improve our efforts?

Connect with us at communityclinics@slco.org

For up-to-date data on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and underserved populations, please visit the Salt Lake County Health Department Data Dashboard slco.org/health/COVID-19/data
Thank you to all the partners who have worked with us to support communities of color and underrepresented populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Alliance Community Services
- Asian Association of Utah
- Asian Chamber of Commerce
- BEBA
- Best of Africa
- Bhutanese Community in Utah
- Calvary Baptist Church
- Cathedral of the Madeleine
- Catholic Community Services
- Centro Cívico de Mexico
- Children’s Service Society of Utah
- Chinatown Supermarket
- Columbus Adult Education Center
- Comunidades Unidas
- Disabled Rights Utah
- Dual Immersion Academy
- GK Folks
- Good Samaritan Foundation / Rose Park
- Health Access Project
- Guadalupe School
- Housing Authority of Salt Lake
- Housing Connect
- Iglesia Cristiana Obra de Utah
- International Rescue Committee
- Kearns Metro Township
- Kearns Community Council
- Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center
- Latino Mall
- Liberians United in Utah
- Magna Metro Township
- Malihed Free Clinic
- Mexican Consulate
- Millcreek City
- Mosaic Inter-Faith Ministries
- Multi-Cultural Counseling Center
- My Hometown
- National Tongan American Society
- Neighborhood House
- Neighborworks
- OCA Utah
- Peruvian Consulate
- Pik2ar
- Rancho Markets
- Reams
- Refugee Justice League
- Salt Lake City
- Salt Lake City Housing Authority
- Salt Lake City Library
- Salt Lake City School District
- Salt Lake Community College
- Salt Lake County Aging & Adult Services, Refugee Program
- Salt Lake County Library Services
- Salt Lake County Office of New Americans
- Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation
- Smith’s Ballpark
- South Mountain Community Church
- South Salt Lake City
- SpyHop
- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- The Parent Center
- The Point Church
- The Refuge Group
- Their Story Our Story
- Tracy Aviary
- Trinity AME Church
- University Neighborhood Partners
- Utah Asian Chamber of Commerce
- Utah Chinese Association
- Utah Community Action / Head Start
- Utah Department of Health, Refugee Health
- Utah Department of Motor Vehicles Utah
- Department of Workforce Services, Refugee Service Office
- Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs
- Utah Health and Human Rights
- Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP)
- Utah Islamic Center
- Utah Muslim Civic League
- Utah Nonprofit Housing Association
- Utah Pacific Islander Health Coalition
- Utah Parent Center
- Utah State Office of Rehabilitation
- Various businesses and worksites
- Various low-income senior housing
- West Side Coalition
- West Valley City
- West Valley Housing Authority
- Westside Coalition
- Women of the World