La Familia
MEDICAL CENTER
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

MISSION
Our mission is to foster community well-being in partnership with our patients by providing excellent, accessible, family-centered medical, dental and behavioral health care.

VISION
Healthy Lives for all in a healthy Santa Fe.

VALUES
Compassion, Respect, Integrity, Quality, Accountability, Teamwork
Vaccinating the Homeless
COVID-19

Maria McMahon FNP-BC
Ginger Robertson, Director
La Familia Medical Center
Healthcare for the Homeless
Homeless in Santa Fe

- Population of Santa Fe County: about 150,000
- Homeless: up to 1,000 individuals
  - Living in shelters (Pete’s Place, St. E’s, Youth Shelter): ~ 1600/year served
  - Midtown Shelter (Consuela’s Place)
  - Living on the streets: ~ 100/night

- Number vaccinated through HCH:
Increased Risk with COVID

- Age - typically older
- Underlying chronic conditions - often untreated
  - Diabetes, COPD, Heart Disease
- Substance use disorder
- Mental health disorder
- Lack of hygiene
- Exposure to the elements
- Inability to socially isolate
Reaching the Homeless

- Outreach prior to vaccine availability - posters, flyers, communication at outreach sites (camps, shelters)
- Completion of interest cards
- Educate shelter staff in upcoming vaccine availability
- Difficulty accessing medical services - make vaccine available where they are
Vaccinating Support Personnel

- Clinic Staff
- Shelter staff
- Outreach teams

- Improve confidence & Education
- Ease fears
- Continue precautions
Appointments versus Walk-ins

- Initially limited number of vaccines available
- Appointments made based on interest cards, prioritized chronic conditions
- Prepared list for any leftovers - none wasted
- Walk-in vaccine clinics when more available
- Called service center locations (hotels, restaurants) to use extra doses
Vaccine Clinic at Shelter

- Clinic staff with bilingual capabilities
- 1 MA: complete intake forms
- 1-2 Case Managers: registration on EMR, complete vaccine cards
- Injectors: 1 Provider (NP level), 1 MA
- Post injection observation area
Vaccine Sites

> Pete’s Place Shelter
> Midtown Shelter
> Recovery Center
> Healthcare for the Homeless
> Harm Reduction program
Required Documentation

- Proof of ID not required
- Name, DOB, Sex, Address (OK to use shelter address)
- Lack of ID/documentation not a barrier to getting the vaccine
- Transparency with use of data – what it’s used for, who it’s shared with, how it’s protected
Recording Vaccines

- Information stored on HCH electronic record
- Transmitted to NMSIIS
- Patient given vaccine card, encouraged to take a picture of the card on their phone
Available Vaccines

- Johnson & Johnson - single dose
  **preferred: easy to store and transport**
- Moderna - available at La Familia with appointment/drive through
- Pfizer - available through DOH with appointment (now available at LFMC)
1 dose versus 2 dose

- 1 dose full effect in 2 weeks
- 2 dose full effect in 6 weeks.
- If 2 dose preferred, need to work together with other services to support follow-up
  - contact info
  - vaccine card
  - multiple and easy to access opportunities for covid vaccine
  - remind at routine interactions
  - outreach to connect to patients
Shelter Requirements

- Vaccines required for support staff
- Vaccine preferred for clients for support services
- Overnight guests - cannot mandate
- If not vaccinated, need weekly screening test (Binax)
- Temperature and symptom checks at each visit for support services, masks required indoors
- If symptomatic, significant exposure, or positive covid test, not allowed into shelter until negative result
Trust Issues

- History of traumatic or negative experiences with medical services.
- Hold multiple vaccine events to allow individuals to consider and reconsider
- Provide information about vaccine prior to vaccination events
- Provide clear, consistent, and transparent vaccine information
- Encourage clients to discuss their positive vaccine experiences with others
Protective Strategies

- Continue mask wearing indoors along with social distancing
- Avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, and washing hands often
- Continue to follow prevention recommendation including the provision of overflow sites to allow for decompression
- Reducing crowded living conditions can decrease the risk of other respiratory and skin conditions including flu, lice, MRSA
Most Importantly...

- Continue to make vaccines available
  - choice of vaccine
  - reducing barriers to vaccines
  - supporting follow-up and follow-through
- Transparency
- Continue to educate our clients in vaccine safety and effectiveness
- Continue to screen especially if not vaccinated
QUESTIONS?