Why does your volunteering matter?

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- Being a Vaccine Warrior can help address health disparities
 - Every person who volunteers matters because it creates diversity in the field, so many different types of people may feel more comfortable with getting information from you.
 - Having a diverse group of volunteers helps community members feel comfortable engaging in conversation about Covid-19 vaccines You can help build vaccine confidence!



What will you learn in this training?

These trainings will teach you how to address the myths and misinformation that you may encounter in communities. This valuable information will allow you to inform and educate community members about the safety and importance of vaccines.

- Distinctions between the different vaccines
 - The distinction between Pfizer and Moderna vs. Johnson
 - How storage and handling of vaccinations has impacted the ability to get vaccinations to specific communities
 - Difference in the various vaccines effectiveness to prevent death and hospitalization
- What is in each vaccine (and what isn't)
 - NO live variant of the COVID-19 virus





moderna

What will you learn in this training continued

- V-Safe: A VERY important aspect of vaccinations
 - Important for the CDC to collect information on long-term symptoms
 - V-safe enrollment is often overlooked at vaccination sites.
- Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) does NOT mean that the vaccines are unsafe.
 - The Covid-19 vaccinations all fulfilled the requirements of the EUA.
 - This includes vigorous clinical trials!
 - All stages of research were completed for the COVID-19 vaccines <u>except</u> long-term data collection.
 - Long-term data collection was unable to be fully completed due to the urgent need of vaccinations in the pandemic.
 - Another reason V-Safe is so important: We need this long-term information!
 - V-Safe is one of the mechanisms for helping us understand how different people are responding to vaccinations.
 - To date, Pfizer is the first COVID-19 vaccine that is no longer under EUA and is approved.



What is happening in LA County



Vaccination and Booster rates are still too low

- Most of the recent Covid-19 deaths in the US involved unvaccinated people.
- Minority and adolescent groups are not vaccinated at the same rates as the rest of the population.
 - Due to health disparity factors such as wealth and education gaps, working conditions, racism, healthcare access, transportation conditions, lack of trust, and other factors, Latinx and African American groups are less likely to be vaccinated.
 - CDC data shows that Black and Latinx people who got COVID-19 are disproportionately more likely to die from COVID-19.
 - We can help this by increasing their vaccination rates.
 - While Latinx individuals make up about 20% of the US population, they account for nearly 40% of COVID-19-related deaths.
 - The American population is about 13.4% Black, but African Americans have accounted for over 20% of COVID-19 deaths.

COVID-19 death rates increase sharply for African Americans

Their mortality rate has increased tenfold since July

Death rates among Black Californians, which were previously lower than the statewide rate, started outstripping other racial and ethnic groups last summer.



- Health disparities affect vaccination rates
 - Disparities in vaccinations may lead to worse health outcomes for some groups, and these are usually groups who have less health equity.
 - Minority groups are less likely to be vaccinated.
 - These disparities can be a matter of life and death for some communities.
 - These are usually groups who already have lower health statistics.
 - Mistrust/distrust in the healthcare system may lead to vaccination concerns.

Covid-related Public Health advisories for children

- Children practice sanitizing and washing their hands less thoroughly than the rest of the population, which makes them more susceptible to illness.
- Children have a tendency to wear their mask less consistently than others.
 - Therefore, providing extra protection is beneficial to staying healthy.
- The vaccine has proven to be safe and effective in older children and adults.
- Pfizer has been given emergency approval for a COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5 to 11, as it has been shown to protect young children from hospitalization and sickness.
 - Children are not small adults. There will be a comprehensive evaluation of clinical trial data submitted in support of the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine used in a younger pediatric population.
- It is important to get vaccinated to help stop the pandemic.
 - It will protect you from getting the virus.
 - While keeping yourself safe, you also protect others.
 - Lessens the spread of the virus, allowing us to get back to life sooner.
- Pfizer is currently studying vaccinations for children under 5.
- Babies are able to get infected if a caregiver gets infected or if in contact with another infected person.
- Babies under 1 might be at higher risk of severe illness due to their immature immune systems.
- Vaccination during pregnancy also builds immunity that can help the baby.
- There is no evidence that suggests the COVID-19 vaccine causes fertility problems.



Why children age 5-11 should get vaccinated

- Helps stop the spread of the virus, allowing us to get back to life sooner.
- Immune system status in children depend greatly on age.
 - \circ The immune system develops as the child grows.
 - Older adolescents had the time and exposure to build antibodies and resistance, so they develop stronger immunity.
 - Younger children may need extra protection against illness.
- Why kids should get vaccinated
 - After kids started returning to the classroom in August, the US saw its biggest wave of COVID-19 cases in children compared to any point in the pandemic.
 - All age groups contribute to transmission of the virus, and vaccinating children helps to reduce spread of COVID-19 across families, schools, and communities.
 - Children spend all of their time with others- teachers, parents, some sort of adult, or other child- at all times which means they have lots of chances to continue spreading the virus and act as a major form of transmission to adults.
 - More than 140,000 children in the US have lost a primary or secondary caregiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic¹.



Why children age 11-17 should be vaccinated

- Many of the things that are true for 5-11 year olds can also be true for 11- 17 year olds.
- Getting vaccinated against COVID 19 will also allow your child to start doing things that they might not have been able to do because of the pandemic.
 - Participate in group activities
 - Be a part of sports and teams
 - Hang out with friends safer
 - Prom/ homecoming/ graduation



What is happening to children that are not vaccinated?

- Children are efficient at spreading illness, as they are constantly in contact with people.
- 120,630 children in the U.S. experienced death of one or both parents or grandparents.
 - Caregiver death increases risks of short-term trauma and lifelong adverse consequences for children.
- 22,007 children experienced death of secondary caregivers.
 - 1 out of 500 children in the United States has experienced COVID-19-associated orphanhood or death of a grandparent caregiver.
- States with the largest populations had the highest number of Covid-19 related orphans: California (16,179), Texas (14,135), and New York (7,175).
- Children in racial/ethnic minority groups experienced death of a primary caregiver more often than Non-Hispanic White children (91,256 vs 51,381).



COVID-19 Vaccine Trials: The Fast Facts

Diversity: The clinical trials displayed racial and ethnic diversity roughly proportional to that of the population. For example:

- In a population of 12.3% Black and 17.6% Hispanic Americans, both Pfizer and Moderna reported roughly 9.7% of the participants were Black, while Pfizer reported 26.2% Hispanic participants and Moderna reported just over 20% (KFF, 2021).
- Johnson and Johnson reported 17% Black or African American participants, 8% American Indian or Alaskan Native and 45% Hispanic or Latinx in the ethnicity category (CDC, 2021).

Announcements Regarding Vaccine Safety:

- The CDC recommends pregant women get vaccinated; according to analysis of 2,500 women, no increased risk of miscarriage was found when receiving a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine.
- Research has found that COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy might protect babies from COVID-19 once they are born.

Table 1: Race/Ethnicity of Participants in Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials			
	Total US Population Age 16+	Pfizer-BioNTech*	Moderna
Total	258 million	40,277	27,817
Race			
White	73.6%	81.9%	79.4%
Black	12.3%	9.8%	9.7%
Asian	5.9%	4.4%	4.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Ethnicity			
Hispanic	17.6%	26.2%	20.0%
Non-Hispanic	82.4%	73.2%	79.1%

Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation, CDC

COVID-19 Boosters

Being "fully vaccinated" is now dependent on age and condition.

- Boosters are important because they help to maintain and strengthen the immune responses encouraged by an original vaccine dose. The original dose's benefits can decrease/wane over time, so it is important to keep vaccinations up to date¹ (Cedars Sinai).
- Initial COVID-19 Vaccination Series: Pfizer (2 doses)
 - The CDC recommends that everyone ages 12 and up should get a first booster of Pfizer or Moderna at least 5 months after completing the recommended two doses.
 - Additionally, the CDC recommends that adults ages 50 and up get a second booster of Pfizer or Moderna at least 4 months after their first booster.
- Initial COVID-19 Vaccination Series: Moderna (2 doses)
 - The CDC recommends everyone ages 18 and up gets a first booster of Pfizer or Moderna at least 5 months after completing the primary series.
 - Additionally, the CDC recommends that adults ages 50 and up get a second booster of Pfizer or Moderna at least 4 months after their first booster.
- Initial COVID-19 Vaccination Series: J&J/Janssen (1 dose)
 - The CDC recommends everyone ages 18 and up gets a first booster of Pfizer or Moderna at least 2 months after completing the primary series.
 - Additionally, the CDC recommends that adults ages 50 and up, in addition to those who received both the primary dose and booster of the J&J/Janssen vaccine, get a second booster of Pfizer or Moderna at least 4 months after their first booster.
- The CDC highly recommends that moderately and severely immunocompromised individuals get a booster shot, and more specific recommendations for can be found on the CDC website.

More outreach efforts need to be done in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara

- In Los Angeles County, the rate of vaccination for the first booster (of those eligible) in the Black and Latinx community is only 28.0% and 25.6%, respectively as of April 3².
- In Santa Barbara County, the rate of booster vaccination for the first booster (of those eligible) in the Black community and Latinx community is only % and %, respectively.

Why learn about vaccine storage and handling?

- Community sites giving COVID-19 vaccines must be equipped for proper storage and handling during the vaccination process.
- Each vaccine has different storage and handling requirements.
 - For example, the Pfizer vaccine must be stored in ultra-cold refrigerators.
- Questions you might get asked and how to answer them:
 - Why did some communities get vaccines sooner than others?
 - It is difficult to send COVID-19 vaccine to sites that do not have the capacity for cold storage.
 - Why weren't Pfizer and Moderna vaccines administered at community sites earlier in the epidemic?
 - Pfizer and Moderna vaccines need to be stored in cold storage refrigerators and/or freezers, but we have since worked out ways to do this.

Why Volunteers at Vaccinations Sites are Important

- **Necessary Tasks**: Volunteers at vaccination sites help with directing traffic, checking people in, preparing vaccines, administering vaccines, and **answering important questions for clarification.**
- Need for More Volunteers: California has only fully vaccinated about 74% of the population. This means about 9 million people are not fully vaccinated!
- Los Angeles Statistics: About 79% percent of Los Angeles county has received 1+ vaccine dose and about 2.2 million people in Los Angeles are not fully vaccinated.
- **Demographic Information**: Only 60.8% of Black/African American people and only 66.3% of Latinx people in Los Angeles are fully vaccinated.
- **Sharing Information**: You can help increase vaccination rates by sharing accurate, scientifically-based information about COVID-19 vaccines.





Ways to dialogue about people's concerns

- Empathize and validate their concerns as truthful and accurate
- Focus on experiences of people like them
- Focus on what we do know about people like them:
 - a. Statistics
 - b. Effects of the vaccines
 - c. Explain why certain vaccines didn't get to specific communities at first (storage issues)
 - d. Rates of children dying
 - e. Mistrust in the past due discrimination and inequity in distribution of resources
- Opportunity to take the vaccine and still be alive to say your beliefs
- Motivate them: they can save lives!
 - a. Keeping people alive in the face of so many other deaths
 - b. Preventing unnecessary and avoidable deaths
 - c. Protecting you, your family, and your community

Types of Tests

- Testing is recommended 3-5 days after exposure to COVID-19.
- The recommended isolation period begins the day a positive test is received or the day symptoms begin.
- Diagnostic tests are used to detect current COVID-19 infection.
- Types of Diagnostic Tests: PCR and Rapid Antigen
 - Rapid Antigen Tests
 - Nasal or throat swab
 - Self-Interpreted if taken as an at-home test
 - Interpreted in a laboratory if taken at a pharmacy or test center
 - Results can come back within 15 minutes
 - Commonly called "Rapid" tests
 - PCR Tests
 - Nasal or throat swab
 - Interpreted in a laboratory
 - Can take hours to days to get results
- At-Home Tests
 - Both PCR and Antigen tests are available for at-home use
- Antibody tests can be used to find out if you've previously had COVID-19.
 - Antibody tests are **not** currently recommended for determining how much COVID-19 immunity individuals have.
 - Antibody tests are **not** used to determine active COVID-19 infection.
 - Antibody tests may be available through health care professionals and laboratories, check with your healthcare professional for more information.



How to Find COVID-19 Tests:

- Free testing sites can be found on myturn.ca.gov or covid19.lacounty.gov
 - These sites may require prior registration and/or scheduling.
- PCR and Rapid Antigen testing appointments may be available at CVS, Walgreens, and Rite Aid Pharmacies near you
 - Tests are free of cost to you.
 - All patients will be asked to provide a form of ID.
 - Patients with a health plan will be asked to provide a health insurance card, but it is not required.
- The White House is now delivering 4 free at-home rapid tests per household
 - Orders can be made on covidtests.gov.
 - Delivery can take at least 7 to 12 days.
- At-Home Testing Options
 - PCR and Rapid Antigen tests are available for over the counter purchase.
 - The federal government is starting to make at-home tests free of cost to you with particular health plans. Check with your local CVS, Rite Aid, or Walgreens pharmacy to see if you are eligible to get 2 to 8 at-home tests.
 - Antigen Testing: Results are self-collected and interpreted.
 - PCR Testing: Self collected test that is then mailed to a laboratory where results are interpreted through PCR process. Not a rapid test.



Variants

Variants of Concern:

Some symptoms differ across these variants, while some remain similar.

- Omicron: May spread more easily than other variants, including Delta. Common symptoms include sore throat, headache and lower back pain. However, there are many symptoms similar to Delta and the original variant, including fever, cough and congestion.
- The BA.2 Omicron variant may be more contagious than the original Omicron variant (still being investigated), but so far it does not appear to cause more severe illness.
- Delta: Spreads more easily than original variant. Common symptoms include loss of smell and taste, along with some of the other symptoms common in the original variant and Omicron (fever, cough, congestion, etc.)



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