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Innovative Idea: Cincinnati Health Department Brings COVID-19 Vaccinations to Neighborhoods

_Columbus_ – The Cincinnati Health Department is offering COVID-19 vaccination mobile sites in neighborhoods around the city. The health department meets people where they are, and partners with influencers and trusted voices in the community. This approach makes services convenient for residents in an environment where they feel safe.

“We know there are people who are one ask away from getting their vaccine. We are making ourselves available to hold a conversation with our residents to better understand who or what would convince them to be vaccinated. Some people need more time to make a decision, while others may need a friendly conversation to overcome some negative information they may have seen on social media,” said Melba R. Moore, DBA, MS, CPHA, health commissioner for Cincinnati Health Department.

“Everyone who has been vaccinated is a walking testimony of the safety of vaccines. We want others to join the team and get vaccinated.”

Last week, the health department hosted a mobile vaccination clinic at Price Hill Library. Residents had the opportunity to pre-register, but could also walk-up to receive their vaccine. They also had the choice to receive Pfizer or the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. There were 16 Johnson & Johnson vaccines and seven Pfizer vaccines administered. Gov. Mike DeWine also visited the mobile vaccination clinic.

The health department also hosted a COVID-19 vaccination mobile site last weekend at the Hartwell Recreation Center. During a block party, residents enjoyed music, were vaccinated, and were offered something to eat. There was popcorn, snow cones, and cotton candy for families to enjoy while those eligible received their vaccine. A total of 48 people received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, while 59 received the Pfizer vaccine.

Additionally, First Ladies for Health events are scheduled for Wednesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Winston Hills Community Presbyterian Church located at 5255 Winnest Ave. in Cincinnati. On Wednesday, May 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the First Ladies will be hosting an additional vaccination event at the church. Happy Pizza will be on-site on all three dates to provide a free snack to individuals who receive their vaccine.

Innovative Ideas is a new feature from the Ohio Department of Health highlighting ways providers and organizations are encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations.

If you are interested in hosting your own clinic, the Ohio Department of Health has a toolkit for businesses and organizations available at https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program/businesses-and-organizations. This toolkit contains a collection of resources vaccine providers and Ohio employers and organizations can consider using to build partnerships across the state to offer convenient vaccinations to their employees and members.
All Ohioans age 16 and older are currently eligible to be vaccinated. Ohioans can find additional vaccination opportunities and schedule appointments by visiting gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov or by calling 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). Walk-in appointments are available at many providers statewide. Anyone with questions regarding COVID-19 vaccination within the state of Ohio can learn more at coronavirus.ohio.gov/vaccine.