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Butler County General Health District Uses “Walk-In Wednesday” Clinics, Incentives, Vaccination Bus to Increase COVID-19 Vaccination

County officials have leveraged available resources to increase local access to vaccines

COLUMBUS – The Butler County General Health District has been working tirelessly since COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Ohio, not only to encourage vaccination and educate about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination, but also to increase access to vaccines within their own community.

As COVID-19 vaccines became available, the Butler County General Health District was hosting all-day, drive-through clinics at the Butler County Fairgrounds twice a week. With demand for the vaccine slowing, they have decreased the size and frequency of these clinics to half-day clinics happening every Wednesday, keeping the clinics at the fairgrounds to help community members find them easily. Residents can receive any of the three vaccines at the “Walk-In Wednesday” clinics, and they do not need an appointment to attend. Typically, 50-100 people attend each week.

The Butler County General Health District has also used the clinics to promote different incentives for receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. While residents are waiting for their shots, clinic workers help attendees sign up for the Ohio Vax-a-Million campaign, a statewide chance to win \$1 million or a four-year, full-ride scholarship to any Ohio state college or university. Also, on the local level, they will be partnering with CareSource to offer \$25 gift cards to anyone with Medicaid who receives the COVID-19 vaccine. Their representative will also be able to sign any uninsured community members up for Medicaid on-site, if they wish.

To further increase both interest in and access to COVID-19 vaccines, Butler County General Health District has also partnered with the Butler County Rapid Transit Authority (BCRTA) to develop a “vaccination bus,” which will drive around the county to provide mobile vaccinations in different parts of the community and is available for multiple clinics. The brightly-colored, fully air-conditioned bus reads “Helping Butler County get vaccinated” on the side to help draw attention, and was funded through grant money received by the BCRTA.

Innovative Ideas is a new feature from the Ohio Department of Health highlighting ways providers and organizations are encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations. You can find more featured examples on the Ohio Department of Health’s Innovative Ideas page at <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/healthcare-providers-and-local-health-districts/innovative-ideas>.

If you are interested in hosting a vaccination 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 12 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.

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