



Equitable Access to Vaccine

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Why do we need to have a specific vax plan for Vermonters of color?

- ▶ Racist systems impact health negatively
- ▶ COVID-19 exacerbates existing health disparities
- ▶ Mistrust in public health and health care systems
- ▶ Resettled refugees, Abenaki Vermonters, and other communities of color have specific health care access issues
- ▶ Guidance from Social Equity Caucus, Racial Equity Task Force, Director of Racial Equity

Objective 1: Identify Barriers and Opportunities in Vaccination Acceptance



Strategy 1: Survey to inform vaccine implementation strategy



Strategy 2: Compile qualitative data from community partners representing priority populations to inform vaccine access, communication and translation strategies



Strategy 3: Fund trusted community partners to provide technical assistance, outreach, and support with messaging

**Objective 2:
Ensure
information
gathered is
effectively used
by the HOC**

- ▶ **Strategy 4: Coordinate clinics to strategically address community-specific barriers and concerns related to accessing COVID-19 vaccine**
 - ▶ Examples:
 - ▶ Prioritize BIPOC individuals within all age bands and in the chronic conditions phase of implementation. Be explicit about why (historic harm and resulting mistrust, high burden of disease, disparities in infection, hospitalization, and death).
 - ▶ Hire community health workers to: act as trusted messengers for vaccine education, assist with registration, and staff clinics.

**Objective 3:
Ensure information
is shared back to
priority communities
to help validate
concerns and build
trust**

▶ **Strategy 5: Implement effective two-way communication strategies with communities**

▶ **Examples**

- Acknowledge the historical harm the public health system has put on BIPOC communities through a public apology statement.
- Support the Multilingual Task Force to produce and disseminate translated videos with step-by-step information about the processes of registering for and receiving a vaccine.
- Promote targeted and ongoing education and outreach in the form of educational sessions for immigrant and refugee groups.
- Collaborate with funded partners and CERC to inform the production, printing, and dissemination of translated information about vaccines in the most commonly requested languages.