

Dear Community Partner,

Marginalized and vulnerable populations have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Many are at increased risk of COVID-19 infection and poor outcomes, as well as face barriers to accessing essential supports throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges may also exist in accessing credible COVID-19 vaccine information as well as receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Reducing these barriers will help lessen inequities and increase access to vaccines for these population groups. The National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) recommends “efforts be made to increase access to immunization services to reduce health inequities without further stigmatization or discrimination, as well as reduce misinformation and mistrust.”

The COVID-19 Community Response Table to Support Vulnerable Populations is reaching out to service providers working with vulnerable populations to request assistance in sharing credible information with the individuals you serve about the COVID-19 vaccines so that they are well positioned to make an informed decision regarding COVID-19 immunization. Additionally, assistance with answering questions related to the vaccine, determining eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines, registering for a vaccine appointment, and arranging transportation to the vaccine clinic for this appointment if required would be helpful in reducing barriers to vaccine access. Additional support offered by trusted service providers will assist in ensuring equitable opportunities to access COVID-19 vaccine information and immunization for our most vulnerable populations and to lessen the negative impacts and transmission of COVID-19, a critical factor to the health of our entire community.

Attached is key COVID-19 vaccine information to be shared with clients as well as links to credible websites where additional vaccine information can be obtained. In addition, a client resource and fact sheets are attached to supplement the health teachings and assistance provided by your agency. The information included in these documents is current as of June 28, 2021.

Thank you for your ongoing support to protect vulnerable populations in the community.

Sincerely,

Members of the COVID-19 Community Response Table to Support Vulnerable Populations

*The COVID-19 Community Response Table to Support Vulnerable Populations committee consists of organizations who voluntarily strive for a collective response to sustaining and building upon efforts to ensure ongoing equitable allocation of supports, services, and health protections to lessen the negative impacts and transmission of COVID-19 for those experiencing difficult life circumstances within the Cochrane district throughout the pandemic.*