



Vaccines for Wellness

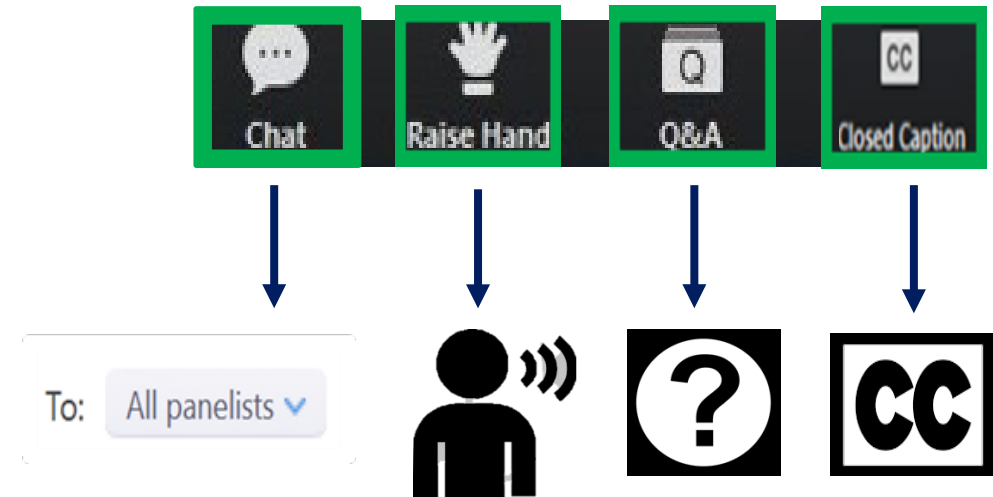
December 13, 2023

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Today's Presenter



Cami Emerson
Community Health Specialist
WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging

Webinar Objectives

- Describe program inception
- Showcase community partnership development
- Detail funding mechanisms

Vaccines for Wellness USAging's Aging ACHIEVEMENT Award Public Health & Vaccination

We are honored to have received this award for our Vaccines for Wellness program this summer at the USAging Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging's immunization efforts for COVID-19, flu, shingles, and more were designed to leverage new and existing partnerships with local health departments, health systems, pharmacy networks, and other human service agencies and to improve equitable access to immunizations, particularly in rural areas where transportation is a barrier. Efforts include innovative collaborations, such as a partnership with a local pharmacy network to provide in-home vaccines and drive-thru vaccine events.

Who are We?

WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging

Previously known as Region 2 Area Agency on Aging.

WellWise Services Area Agency on Aging works to improve conditions affecting the lives of older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers.

We help identify concerns and develop a comprehensive and coordinated network of services to help our clients function as independently and safely as possible in their homes and communities.



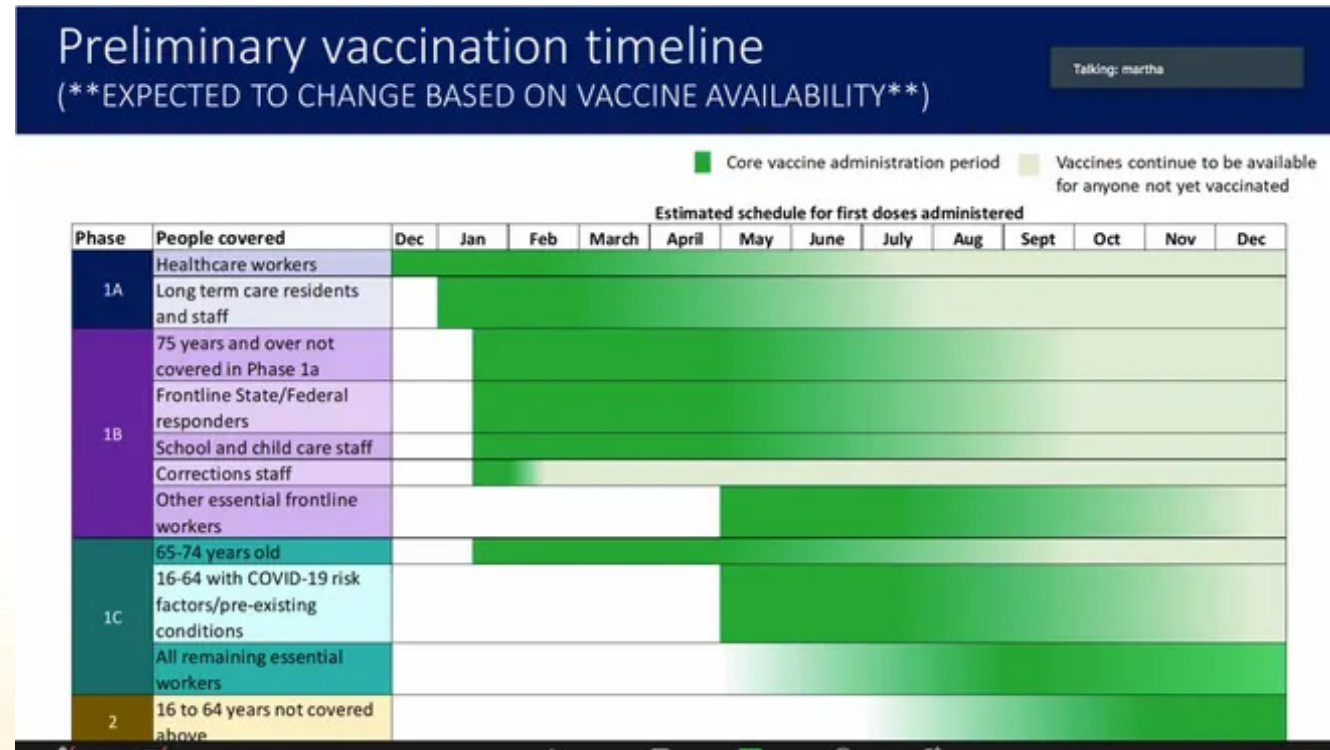
Service Area

Located in south central Michigan, we serve three counties—Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee.



How the Need for Intervention Arose

In early 2021, the first COVID vaccine was released to the public. Older adults and adults with disabilities were listed in the first few phases of vaccine rollout. All three of our counties handled vaccine delivery differently.



How the Need for Intervention Arose (continued)

Some of the concerns that arose when vaccine appointment scheduling began:

- Internet access
- Ability to use the internet
- Transportation
- Accessibility at vaccination sites
- Individuals who have a hard time getting out of their homes



Intervention

- Started working closely with the health departments in our three counties
- Participated in local emergency phone calls to advocate for older adults and adults with disabilities
- Gathered as an agency to discuss what we could do to help
- Offered the plan to local health department partners and allowed for input on what help was needed
- Ultimately gained access to scheduling software. Appointments were set aside for WellWise to fill



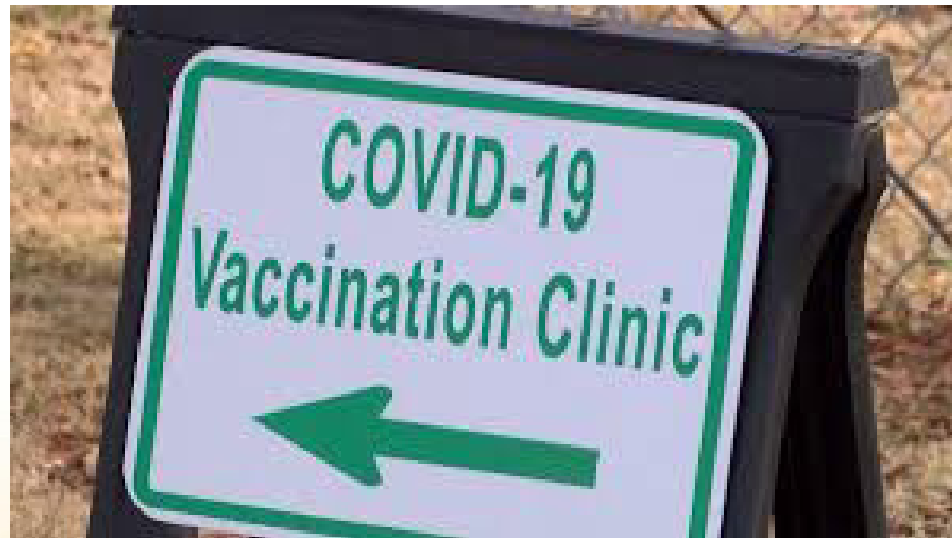
Vaccine Hotlines Created

- Hotlines were set up for each county. The purpose was to serve community members who did not have access to the internet or know how to use the computer and didn't have someone to help them.
 - Community members were asked to leave a voicemail with the spelling of their first and last name, address, phone number, and date of birth.
 - To reduce duplicative calls, the recording asked that one phone call be made per person.
- Staff were assigned to each hotline.
- An Excel spreadsheet was used to track all calls coming in and to make sure everyone who wanted an appointment was able to be scheduled.
- Staff would call community members back to schedule appointments using the scheduling software for each health department.
- Staff would walk through the process on what to do at the clinic site, what information to bring, and any specific instructions listed for each site.

Helping at Vaccine Clinics

Staff were sent to vaccine clinic sites to assist with:

- Completing consent forms for people who had difficulty reading and or writing
- Scheduling community members for their second-dose appointment immediately after receiving the first dose and providing an appointment reminder card
- Providing support while receiving the vaccine



Transportation

- Transportation was a huge barrier in our three-county area
- Funding was received to pay for transportation to and from vaccination appointments
- Community members could call our vaccine hotlines and we could set up and pay for rides



What About People Who Can't Leave Their Home?

- Partnered with a local pharmacy, Brown's Advanced Care Pharmacy, to offer in-home vaccinations for people who could not leave their house
- Made vaccinations available to anyone in the home (caregivers, spouses, roommates)
- Reimbursed the pharmacy for drive time, mileage, and vaccine administration



Pharmacy Partnership

Partnered with local Departments on Aging, health departments, and doctors' offices to spread the word. Referrals were sent via vaccine hotlines and emails.

Once the referral was received, staff would call the community member to confirm information and explain the in-home vaccination process.

Addresses were arranged by county and then sent to the pharmacy via encrypt software. The pharmacy then called to schedule the appointment. Invoices for reimbursement were sent by the pharmacy.



HFA and AFC Home Vaccinations

Many of our Homes for the Aged (HFA) and Adult Foster Care (AFC) homes were forgotten about when the vaccine was first rolled out.

We received a list of all HFA and AFC homes in our region and split the list with our local Center for Independent Living and contacted all homes to see if they needed vaccines for staff and residents.

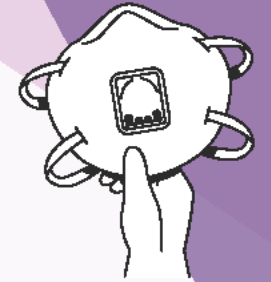
We then compiled a list of those interested and worked with our partner pharmacy to fulfill the need. We delivered consent forms to the homes to be completed before the pharmacy arrived to make sure that if anyone had a guardian there was time to complete the form. We tracked the completion of homes visited and kept them on our list for future release of vaccines.



Hosted Drive-Thru Mask Pick-Up Events

Gave away a total of 7,720 masks at our various pick-up events

FREE KN95 Mask Pick-Up



Friday, January 28 from 2pm - 4pm

107 Chicago Street in Brooklyn

(Located behind Bob Jackson's Haircut Place and Beltone Hearing Aid Center)

- Drive-through or walk up
- 2 packs (10 masks) of adult KN95 masks FREE to each person
- Kid sizes not available
- First-come, first-served (while supplies last)
- Assistance registering for in-home rapid COVID tests will be available
- Contact Region 2 Area Agency on Aging at 517-592-1974 with any questions.

There is evidence that KN95 and surgical masks offer better protection against the Omicron variant than cloth masks.



Vaccine Hotline Stats



In 2021, we received a total of 996 calls to our three vaccine hotlines.



From 2022 to present, we've received a total of 172 calls.



Since October 2021, 266 community members have received an in-home vaccine.

Funding



Federal, state, and local funding and existing contracts covered a FY 2022 budget of \$110,951. In FY 2023, we received a small amount of state funding to continue our work. This covered the pharmacy network subcontractor costs.



Most expenses are staff compensation and pharmacy network subcontractor costs.

Where We Are Now

Vaccines for Wellness is in full swing. We still have our three vaccine hotlines that community members contact for assistance scheduling vaccine appointments, inquiring about transportation to and from vaccine appointments, and request for in-home vaccines.

We received a grant from USAging to continue our work. USAging's Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative (ADVC) distributes funding to organizations across the aging and disability networks to support an array of vaccination education and promotion activities, including community vaccine clinics, in-home vaccinations, transportation to vaccination sites, and outreach and education for older adults and people with disabilities. The ADVC is funded through a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living.



Pharmacy Partnership

We made two new pharmacy partnerships in 2023. We now have a pharmacy partnership in each of our three counties. This has allowed for more vaccine clinics to be scheduled and shortened wait times for in-home vaccines.

This fall we hosted five vaccine clinics. We have done a drive-thru clinic at a local fire department, clinics at two different senior centers, a clinic on site at WellWise Services, and a clinic at one of our partner pharmacies.



Where We Are Now

We are working on a partnership with our local ombudsman to educate nursing facilities on the benefits of COVID and flu vaccines for their facilities. If facilities are in need of a pharmacy to come in and vaccinate staff and residents, a referral will be made to us by the ombudsman. Then we will coordinate with the pharmacy to schedule a clinic with the facility.



How to Implement in Your Workplace



Identify gaps in service in your area among local health departments, health systems, pharmacy networks and other human service agencies



Establish infrastructure internally to reduce procedural barriers



Apply for grants to fund the work



Spread funding across multiple partners

Thank You!

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Questions?

