

Meeting the Needs of Others

COVID-19 home testing kit distribution within low-income North Shore communities

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INTRODUCTION

- North Shore Community Health [NSCH] is committed to serve underserved communities. NSCH serve Peabody, Salem, and Gloucester (NSCH, 2022).
- North Shore Community Health mission is to build a healthy community by giving access to all their patients. They build healthy relations with the community through community outreach, as they provide resources for the Northshore area for low-income communities. The community outreach program provides vaccination for the community as well as food resources, housing resources and others (NSCH, 2022).

OBJECTIVE

- To distribute as many covid home testing kits as possible to underserved communities on the north shore.

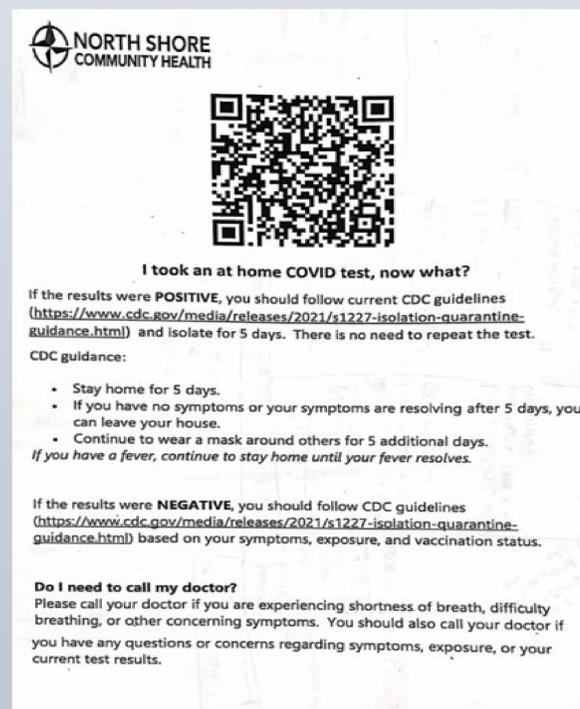
RELATED LITERATURE

- “Government with regard to health issues has pressed the need to engage trusted community leaders with influence and reach in disproportionately affected communities to ensure that essential public health activities related to COVID-19 occur among populations experiencing disproportionate impact from the pandemic”(Epps et al., 2021).
- “The final component of the framework required engaging trusted community partners to ensure wider usage of COVID-19 programs, testing, treatment, vaccination, and interventions among economically or socially marginalized populations experiencing disadvantage. We leveraged a parallel effort to establish a community partners advisory board for the work of the collaborative and aid community-based intervention research”(Epps et al., 2021).
- Massachusetts distributes 2.1 million self-tests kits to families living below the federal poverty level (Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2022).

MATERIALS & METHODS

- Partnered with seven organizations such as shelters and food pantries within the North Shore community (Salem, Gloucester, Beverly, Peabody)
- Wrote professional letters to organizations regarding updates within in the testing program
- Created weekly scheduled for organizations to receive COVID-19 testing kits
- Educated staff members on how to properly use the coronavirus testing kits
- Provided organizations with guidelines in different languages according to the needs of the communities they serve.
- Distributed 90 kits weekly to homeless shelters and 135 kits to food pantries.

The handout below was distributed with each testing kit.



RESULTS

- As the numbers of covid cases decrease in the United States, it is essential to continue providing resources to underserved communities.
- The aim of this project was to continue to increase testing within these communities. Each organization was provided testing kits to distribute among the specific communities they served.
- More than (64) boxes containing 45 covid testing kits were distributed over the course of nine weeks beginning March 7, 2022.

CONCLUSION

The pandemic has impacted everyone, some more than others. Community outreach plays a critical role in influencing individuals within the community. Specially, with helping to stop the spread of COVID-19 and providing necessary assistance. Not everyone can afford to purchase home covid testing kits. This program at NSCH provided free testing kits to these individuals to help maintain their health and safety. The ability to network and partner with organizations across the North Shore proved to be very beneficial in achieving a common goal. My major takeaways from this internship experience were being able to help so many people, giving back to the community and seeing how one thing can have such a positive impact on the community.

REFERENCES

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