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To: Christian Sacdalan
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August 2021 Edition

August is National Immunization Awareness Month – an annual observance that highlights the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. This year is even more relevant, as many healthcare professionals at our member groups are focusing on [getting back on track](#) with routine vaccinations for both children and adults. The ongoing pandemic has created many challenges for patients and healthcare providers and disrupted the dissemination of routine vaccinations. With the development and distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines over the last year, many healthcare professionals have yet another one to add to the list. Although there has been some improvement on rates, we still face an uphill battle on issues that directly affect the success of vaccinations rates, such as access, disparities, equity, and hesitancy.



Current Vaccination Rates

According the [NY Times](#), about 191.8 million people have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This includes about 164.9 million people who have been fully vaccination with Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, or Moderna products. White House Vaccinations Coordinator Bechara Choucair contacted AMGA to gain support for President Biden’s goal of getting at least one COVID-19 shot into 70% of American adults by July 4 (as of August 2, 70% was reached). We reached out to our members and within the first 36 hours of sending the request, 105 AMGA

member groups committed, representing 74,000 physicians and 750,000 employees who care for 53 million patients.

Systematic Racism and COVID-19 Disparities

According to a report from the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, certain populations - including Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans - have a disproportionate burden of the pandemic , including higher risk of exposure, case rates, severity of illness, and mortality. Those inequities have extended to the disparities in COVID-19 rates. The Biden Administration has made addressing these disparities a priority to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations, and some governors continue to refine efforts to ensure equity in their state vaccination plans. Some states planned to adopt equity as a guiding principle in hopes to determine equitable allocation and improve community engagement, including among tribal communities ([read more](#)).

AMGA's Commitment

AMGA continues to support our members' effort to improve vaccination rates for both their adult and children populations. Initiatives such as the [Adult Immunization Collaborative](#) and the [HPV Best Practices Collaborative](#) are just some of the programs that focused on improving immunizations rates over the last six years. Our efforts do not stop there. AMGA Foundation's third national campaign, [Rise to Immunize™](#), a four-year initiative that aims to improve routine adult immunizations, will mobilize AMGA member organizations nationwide with the goal of administering 25 million vaccines by 2025. The campaign is currently scheduled to launch at IQL2021.

AMGA's commitment to Immunization Awareness is unprecedented. We should be proud of our efforts thus far and continue to strive for safe, accessible, and equitable care for all Americans.



DE&I Committee August Picks:

- [Link](#): Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in BIPOC Communities



Did You Know?

1549 – The earliest written record of immunization was in China, where variolation (the deliberate infection with smallpox) was being practiced by inhaling powdered smallpox scabs. This method would usually cause

- [Local](#): Listen: Latinx Youth Ambassadors Working To Get People Vaccinated In Montgomery County
- [News](#): Latest Data on COVID-19 Vaccinations by Race/Ethnicity
- [Article](#): Commentary – Anatomy of Racial Disparity in Influenza Vaccination
- [Timeline](#): A timeline of the Wakefield retraction
- [Link](#): Anthem study: Telehealth helped address pandemic health disparities, but gaps remain

Do you have a resource you want to see in the next edition of the *DE&I Digest*? Next month, we will be recognizing **National Hispanic Heritage Month** and **Healthy Aging Month**! Send resources to DEICommittee@amga.org for review by the DE&I Committee. Please ensure resources submitted are from reputable sources.

relatively mild cases of smallpox, with perhaps 2% mortality and lessened scarring, but still infectious and requiring quarantine.

1714 – A man known as Onesimus, who had been born in Africa and enslaved in America, described the more common process of variolation in which pus from smallpox pocks was introduced into small cuts in the skin. This was used to control an outbreak of smallpox in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1721, the first use of inoculation in America.

1796 – Edward Jenner, an English doctor, formalized a safer method of immunization to smallpox by exposing patients to cowpox, a distant relative of smallpox. The word “vaccine” came from a Latin adjective meaning “from a cow.”

1879 – A laboratory accident led French scientist Louis Pasteur to the development of attenuated vaccines, in which the original disease vector was deliberately weakened before being introduced into a patient’s system. Until the development of mRNA vaccines, all modern vaccines followed directly from this principle.

Something to Celebrate!

- [Yale lab develops revolutionary RNA vaccine for malaria](#)

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? We'd love to hear from you! Email the DE&I Committee at DEICommittee@amga.org. To see previous editions of the *DE&I Digest*, click [here](#).

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