

State Strategies to Increase Access, Administrative Capacity, and Confidence for COVID-19 Vaccines

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Introduction

As additional COVID-19 vaccines become available, a shift from vaccine urgency to vaccine hesitancy and indifference has been observed. Individuals who are vaccine hesitant and indifferent may require additional information around vaccine development, safety, and effectiveness. Jurisdictions are employing several strategies to reach the remaining 50% of the population who are unvaccinated against COVID-19. ASTHO conducted an environmental scan and compiled a list of state strategies designed to increase access, enhance administrative capacity, and build vaccine confidence to improve COVID-19 vaccine uptake. Results of the scan are summarized below. *Please note: this document is not exhaustive but highlights creative solutions to improve vaccine uptake.*

State Strategies to Increase Demand for and Access to COVID-19 Vaccines

- Conduct a [rapid community assessment](#) to understand community's vaccine needs and gaps.
 - A Pennsylvania [order](#) requires skilled nursing facilities to conduct needs assessment surveys.
- Employ mobile units to enhance outreach and make vaccination more convenient.
 - Indiana's [Homebound Hoosier Vaccine Program](#) uses emergency medical services personnel and assets to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to at-risk, immobile, or homebound individuals.
- Increase vaccine availability in at-risk communities.
 - Tennessee [partnered](#) with local pharmacies and community health centers to expand access in rural communities.
 - Alaska [partnered](#) with tribal nations to redistribute COVID-19 vaccines to at-risk populations and rural areas by expanding existing public health infrastructure.
- Collaborate with non-traditional partners to increase access to underserved communities.
 - North Carolina [partnered](#) with faith-based leaders to ensure underserved communities have access to vaccinations.
- Build relationships with private sector partners to improve vaccine access and uptake.
 - North Carolina [collaborated](#) with Atrium Health, Honeywell, Charlotte Motor Speedway, and Tepper Sports & Entertainment to host mass vaccination events.
- Encourage schools and universities to work with healthcare providers to offer vaccines for students.
 - Pennsylvania [encouraged](#) college students to get vaccinated by the end of the school year.
 - Maine [partnered](#) with K-12 schools to offer free pooled COVID-19 PCR testing.
- Offering incentives and privileges for residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - West Virginia launched a [savings bond](#) initiative.
 - Ohio announced [lottery drawings](#) for students and adults.

- Expand clinic hours and promote walk-in clinics (with no appointment needed).
 - Delaware expanded public health clinics to include [walk-in hours](#) with no appointments.

State Strategies to Enhance COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative Capacity

- Expand scope of practice regulations and laws to allow for additional vaccinators.
 - A Kentucky [bill](#) provides flexibility in scope of practice requirements and allows medical students to treat patients under supervision.
- Employ technologies to help remind individuals to get vaccinated and/or come in for a second dose.
 - Wyoming released a [COVID-19 Vaccination Reminder Recall Reference Guide](#) for the Wyoming Immunization Registry Reminder Recall platform.

Increasing Trust and Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines

- Identify and establish relationships with community vaccine champions to promote vaccination.
 - Maryland launched a [grassroots public outreach and equity campaign](#), GoVax, to boost confidence and encourage residents to get vaccinated.
- Encourage healthcare providers to reach out to patients about the importance of getting vaccinated.
 - Minnesota's [Interim COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Guide](#) highlights strategies for providers to help ensure individuals receive their second dose of vaccine.
- Partner with trusted community messengers to share information and address community concerns.
 - New Mexico launched the "Trusted Voices" [campaign](#) and [partnered](#) with community-based organizations to host culturally and linguistically appropriate events.
- Create robust educational campaigns with community members tailored for different audiences.
 - [New York state's Vaccine Equity Task Force](#) developed social media graphics in several languages to promote equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

Resources

- [Examples of Evidence-Based Solutions to Increase Vaccine Confidence and Uptake \(CDC\)](#)
- [How to Build Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines: A Short Guide for Immunization Coordinators in Medical Centers and Clinics \(CDC\)](#)
- [Communication and Confidence Readiness Checklist \(Appendix A\) \(CDC\)](#)
- [The COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence Conversation Starter \(Appendix B\) \(CDC\)](#)
- [Vaccinate with Confidence Strategy \(CDC\)](#)
- [Building Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccines Among Your Patients Tips for the Healthcare Team \(CDC\)](#)
- [CPSTF Findings for Increasing Vaccination \(Community Guide\)](#)
- [How are States Addressing Racial Equity in COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts \(Kaiser Family Foundation\)](#)
- [Prioritizing Equity in COVID-19 Vaccinations: Promising Practices from States to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities \(Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy\)](#)
- [Building Public-Private Partnerships to Support Efficient and Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution, Access, and Uptake \(Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy\)](#)