

Capital Blue Cross

VACCINATIONS

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In early 2021, **Capital Blue Cross** coordinated with Rite Aid and its local pharmacists to provide free COVID-19 vaccinations through community-based clinics, a model that followed the then-newly announced federal strategy for vaccine distribution. The clinics provided first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to nearly 10,000 Pennsylvanians across Central Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley.

The goal was to hold the clinics in underserved neighborhoods and vaccinate the most at-risk community members, regardless of whether they had health insurance or were Capital Blue Cross members. Capital worked with several community health center partners, who were eager

to participate in the vaccination effort. The health centers reached out to their patients to encourage them to stop by the clinics to receive their free vaccinations. Holding the clinics at neighborhood health centers helped community members feel more at ease about receiving a vaccine in a familiar setting. Dozens of employee volunteers from Capital Blue Cross, as well as community volunteers and health center workers, assisted with the clinics.

Vaccination recipients were grateful for the opportunity to get vaccinated without having to leave their neighborhoods, and some acknowledged they likely would not have gotten vaccinated if not for the Capital Blue Cross clinics.

“We are pleased to continue working with Capital Blue Cross on community vaccination clinics that help expand access to the COVID-19 vaccine here in our home commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These partnerships help us reach eligible COVID-19 vaccine recipients where they live, work and worship, and where they are most comfortable getting vaccinated – right in their own neighborhood. We look forward to continuing this work to help end the pandemic and get Pennsylvania thriving.”

– Jocelyn Konrad, executive vice president and chief pharmacy officer, Rite Aid

