Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies remain committed to helping communities across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. The belief that every American deserves safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines is at the heart of our commitment. We continue to support widespread vaccination events, as well as targeted efforts to reach those with low access. Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies have so far invested $11.5 billion to support their communities during the pandemic. We’re using our deep community connections to build confidence in vaccines. And we’re striving to eliminate racial disparities in access. Our goal is to build a more equitable health care system for all, now and beyond the pandemic.

**COVID-19 Vaccination Efforts**

**ACCESSING THE VACCINE**

- The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) NEMT benefit (non-emergency medical transport) is available for Medicaid members to utilize for vaccination appointments.

- In partnership with the Arizona DOH Services, provided 13 clinical staff/shift (3 shifts/day) and 100+ non-clinical staff/shift (mix of employees, family members, and community partners of organization) to support vaccine administration at the State Farm Stadium POD. An average of 9k shots were administered per day at this site.

- Rallied over 400 volunteers for State Farm vaccination site logging over 145,000 hours.

- Helped staff and support a second state-run vaccine site at Gilbert Chandler Community College which ran until the end of March.

- Sponsoring “Pop-up vaccine” events with religious and faith-based institutions to help bring the vaccine closer to communities and people in need, while supporting engagement from those communities in messaging on vaccine safety and efficacy.

**EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY**

- Developed a provider education page on how to administer and receive the vaccine, and alerts to build vaccine confidence.

- Created member education page with vaccine updates and FAQs.

- Created frequent member information messages regarding vaccination importance and options for how to obtain a vaccine.

- Referred local employers to the State Farm and County operations.

- Provided employers with links for state resources on data on treatment and testing provided by BCBS AZ.

**ADDRESSING INEQUITIES**

- After emergency legislation was passed at the state level to enable Plans to share data with the statewide health information exchange, BCBS AZ is honing in on vaccination rates in vulnerable SVI zip codes and sharing that data with the exchange to facilitate an efficient outreach process.

- Joined AHIP & BCBSA on Vaccine Community Connectors program, pledging to promote vaccinations for 2 million underserved, at-risk Americans.

- Joined the Rally for Recovery Commitment, a national commitment to protect employees and communities by encouraging vaccines and continued mitigation efforts.

- Targeted awareness & outreach to the state’s population living in rural and high-risk communities.

**UPCOMING COVID EFFORTS**

BCBS AZ will assess support to mobile PODs to serve our members more effectively, particularly in the summer months.