

# COVID VACCINATION FOR INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY OF IDAHO

CVAC MEETING 3/19/21



# BACKGROUND



- FMRI is an FQHC and teaching health center with family medicine residency
- IFS a longstanding community partner
- COVID outreach since pandemic started
- Mobile clinic approach
- Partner Shelters:
  - Interfaith Sanctuary
  - Women's and Children's Alliance
  - Boise Rescue Mission – River of Life
  - Boise Rescue Mission – City Light
  - Boise Rescue Mission – Nampa Lighthouse
  - Warming Shelter (day shelter open in winter only, run by IFS and Corpus Christi)



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# OUR APPROACH

## Identify the need

- Work with shelter partners
- Separate housing for medically vulnerable

## Initiate screening

- Implement CDC and other best practice guidelines
- Structural changes
- Nightly screening and testing using mobile clinic approach

## Respond to positives

- Surge testing
- Isolation at Red Lion Hotel

## Vaccination

- Vaccine clinics at each shelter over several evenings/weekends
- Education and outreach
- J&J primarily

# INITIAL VACCINE CAMPAIGN

- Started with staff in 2.1, then 65+ in 2.2, then all experiencing homelessness in 2.3
- Over first week...
  - Evening clinics at WCA, River of Life, City Light, Red Lion Mon-Thurs
  - Warming shelter Saturday
  - IFS Sunday
- Nampa Lighthouse 1 day





## SO FAR

- 189 individuals experiencing homelessness vaccinated via mobile clinic (not counting staff)
- Uptake highest at Warming Shelter and IFS



# CHALLENGES/LESSONS LEARNED

- High rates of vaccine hesitancy
  - Better uptake with J&J than Moderna/Pfizer
  - Slow trickle over time approach going forward
- Incentives helpful
- Partnerships with trusted shelter staff are crucial
  - Staff messaging has long lasting impact
- Flexibility is key

## Key take-aways:

- Pandemic affects those experiencing homelessness in disproportionate ways
- Building and maintaining trust in vulnerable populations takes years



THANKS FOR LISTENING!

