

Addressing the Disproportionate Impacts of COVID-19: Fairfax County's Vaccine Equity Strategy

Karla Bruce, Chief Equity Officer Benjamin Schwartz, MD, Director, Division of Epidemiology and Population Health

March 2, 2021

What is **EQUITY**?

Racial equity exists when one can no longer predict advantage or disadvantage by group identity.

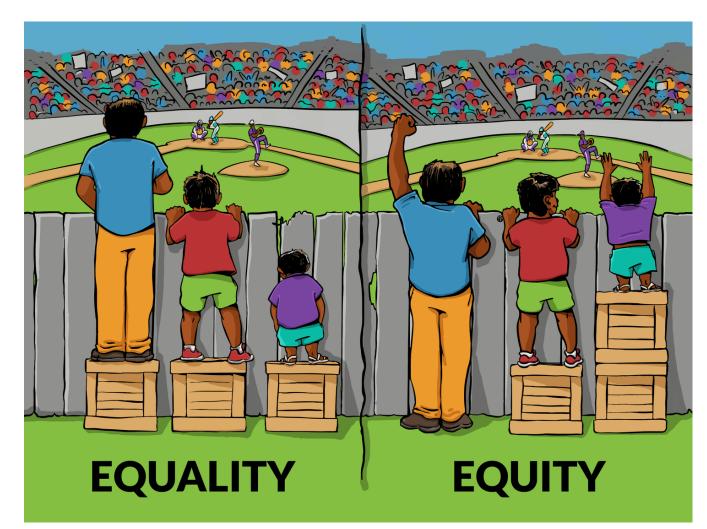
- Improving Outcomes
- Closing Racial Gaps

What is an EQUITABLE APPROACH?

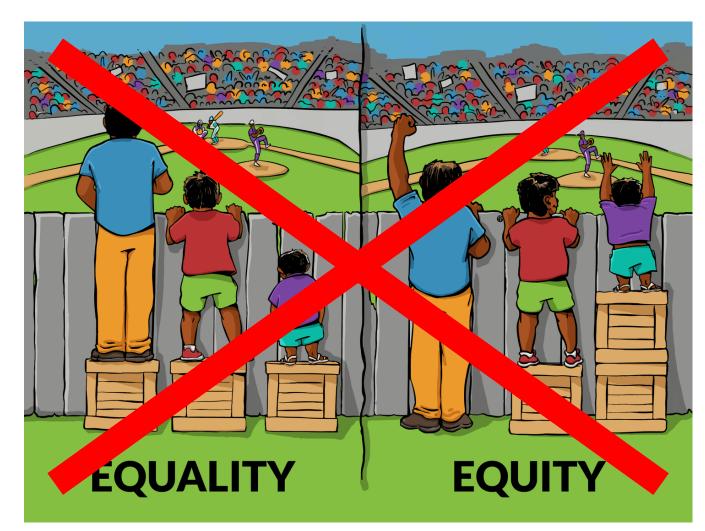
Building structure and capacity to address the situations and conditions contributing to disproportionate trends

- Being place-based
- Being system-focused
- Promoting collective action and shared accountability
- Facilitating access to services and resources

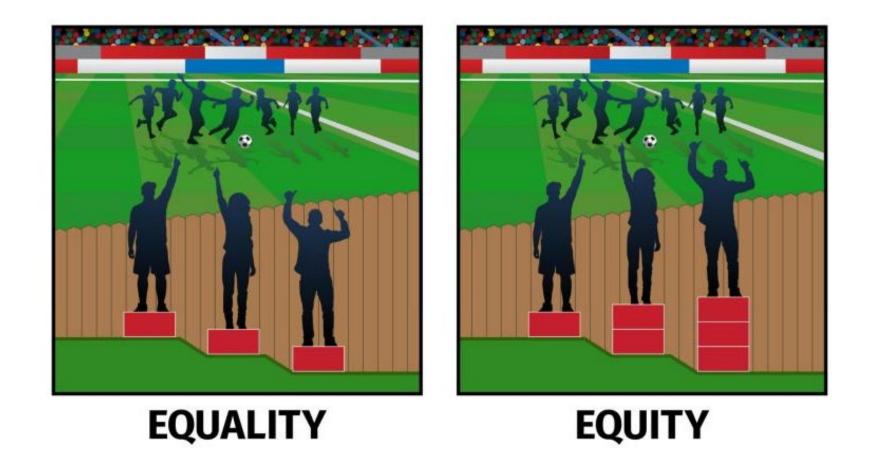
Equity is Fairness not Sameness



Equity is Fairness not Sameness



Equity is Fairness not Sameness



Not the people's "lack" preventing them from participating in the soccer game, it's the unjust system and structure.

Fairfax County's Vaccine Equity Philosophy

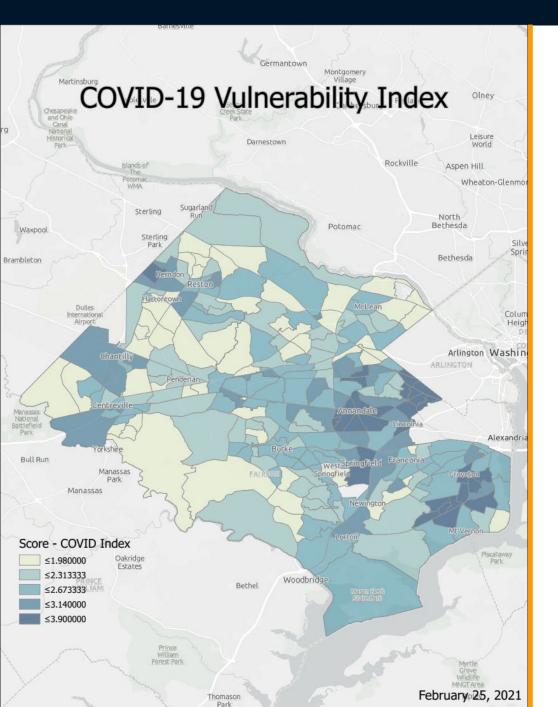
<u>Maintaining a commitment to equity</u> as we strive to vaccinate the entire county, while being faced with a limited supply of vaccine.

- Continue following 5 overarching principles:
 - Engage sector and community leaders to understand and address the unique situations facing residents most at risk;
 - Communicate with residents in various formats and in ways that are relevant to their life situations;
 - Connect residents to services and supports;
 - Foster cross-sector planning and partnerships, recognizing no single agency or sector can handle this complex situation alone; and
 - Expand availability of vaccinations to targeted populations

Fairfax County's Vaccine Equity Approach

Focus on the populations and neighborhoods experiencing the most adverse health, economic, and social effects from COVID-19.

- Identify high-need individuals and communities through available epidemiological data and the use of the county's COVID-19 Vulnerability Index.
- Facilitate access to vaccines and other relevant resources by partnering with community stakeholders as community vaccinators and outreach partners to connect to those:
 - Disconnected from more traditional vaccine administration channels
 - Experiencing vaccine hesitancy (to build vaccine confidence)



21 indicators in 5 areas:

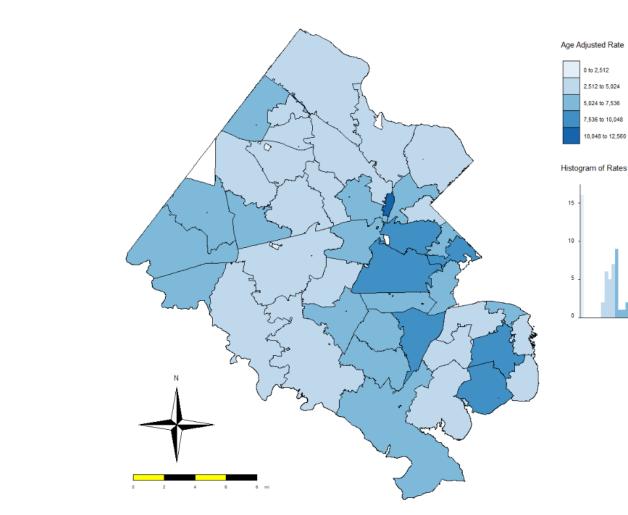
- Socioeconomic Status
- Household Composition and Disability
- Race/Ethnicity and Language
- Housing and Transportation
- Health

Does not include data on COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, or deaths

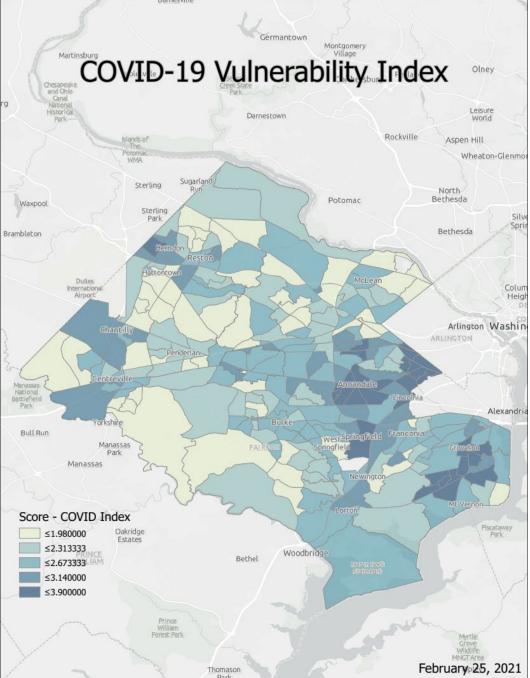
Darker areas indicate higher levels of vulnerability

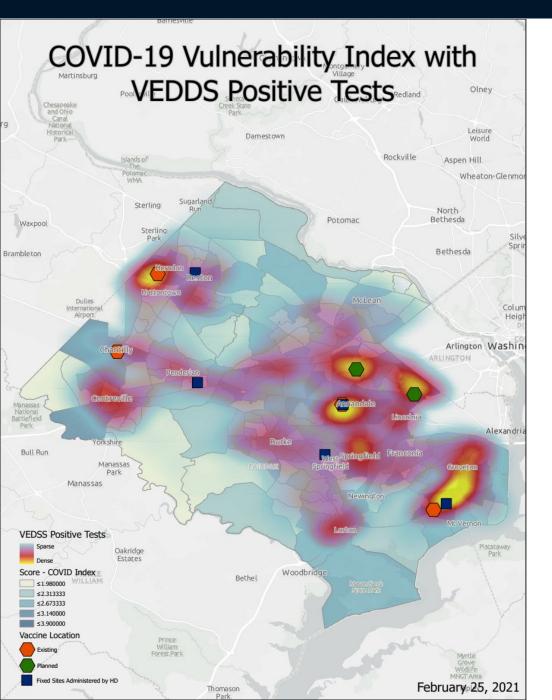
Data sources: American Community Survey, CDC, Virginia Department of Education 8

COVID-19 Case Rate by Zip Code

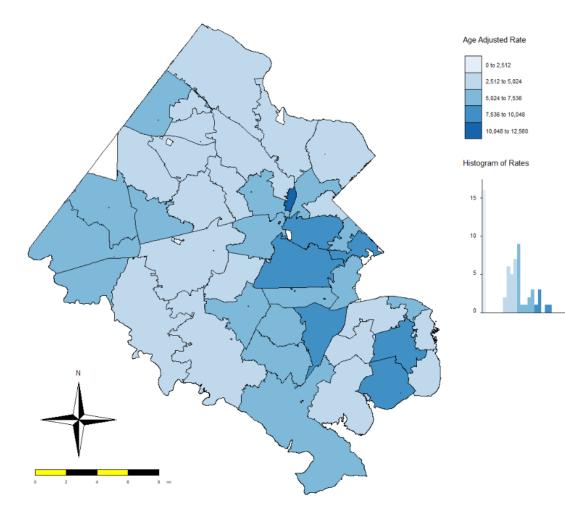


Darker areas signify greater vulnerability and increased case rate





COVID-19 Case Rate by Zip Code



Darker areas signify greater vulnerability and increased case rate

Relative Risk of COVID-19 in Fairfax County by Race/Ethnicity

