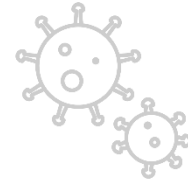




# COVID -19 VACCINE EQUITY REPORT



March 2021

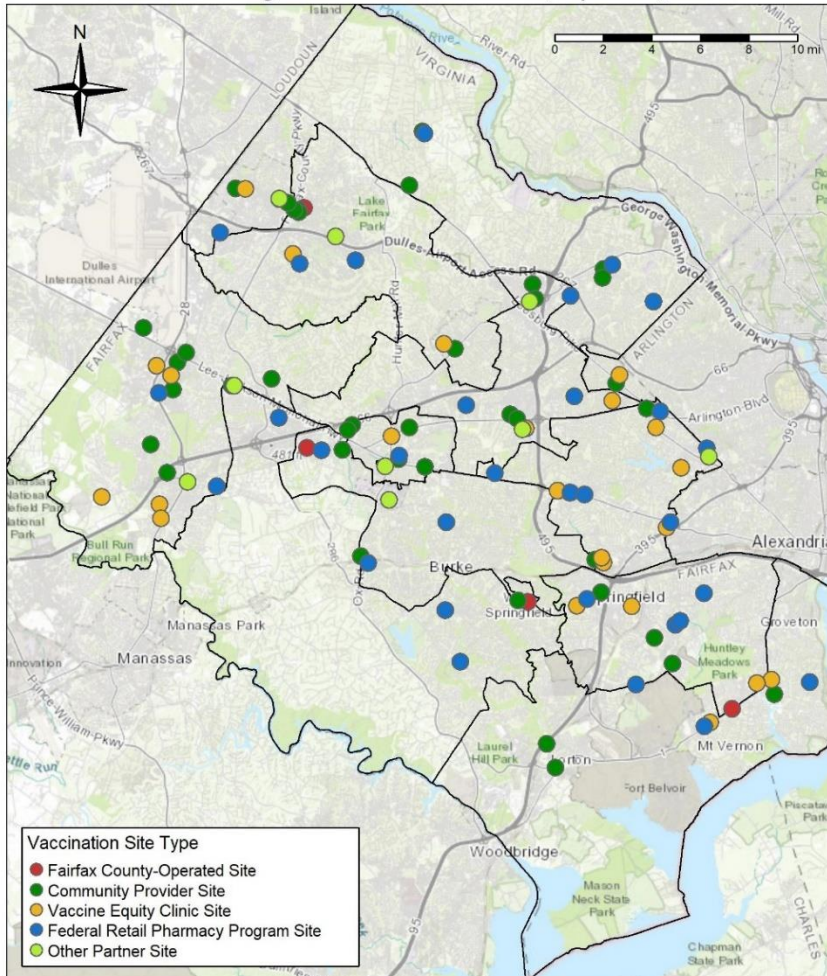
## PART 1. OVERVIEW

Fairfax County’s COVID-19 vaccination program has two goals: vaccinate residents with all available vaccine supply to more rapidly provide direct protection and reach immunity levels consistent with herd immunity, and to promote greater equity in vaccine delivery recognizing that individuals in communities of color and those economically disadvantaged face additional barriers in getting vaccinated. As of April 20, a total of 703,078 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Fairfax Health District, over 400,000 more than any other jurisdiction in the state. Vaccinations are delivered by Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD), Inova, Kaiser, George Mason University, safety net clinics, urgent care

centers, pharmacies, and healthcare providers at sites distributed across the county. Registration and scheduling for vaccinations are done through a county system for FCHD and several other sites, and proprietary systems for pharmacies and some other partners.

The Vaccine Equity program engages the county’s Chief Equity Officer and One Fairfax team as well as a number of Fairfax County agencies including FCHD, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), and the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) to

Fairfax Health District Vaccination Sites  
Without Long Term Care Facilities, April 12, 2021



address the multitude of compounding factors that make getting vaccinated more of a challenge for people of color and those who are economically disadvantaged.

- Numerous surveys show greater vaccine hesitancy, particularly among African Americans – both due to specific vaccine concerns and less trust in government
- Concerns about sharing personal information by immigrants, particularly those who are undocumented
- Misinformation and myths about COVID-19 vaccines (e.g., they contain a tracking microchip)
- Limited access to technology to register online
- Language barriers for those with limited English proficiency
- Work schedules that do not facilitate taking time for vaccination
- Transportation challenges

Multiple activities have been implemented to address each of these challenges. The equity team regularly provides guidance and resources to many countywide and place-based partners including faith, community-based, nonprofit, and multicultural advocacy organizations; Fairfax County Public Schools parent liaisons; residential management companies; and grass-roots community organizers and are always working to connect with new partners. These partner organizations support vaccination by providing information in their communities, addressing concerns about the vaccines, registering people for vaccine appointments, and countering misinformation. For example:

- In the African American community, FCHD outreach staff have implemented the “Real Talk for the Culture” campaign to promote confidence in younger Black adults in making a vaccine decision and to continue to grow and nurture partnerships beyond the pandemic. This campaign was recently featured on FOX 5. The key components of the campaign include ‘Real Talk’ conversations in small groups and ‘Real Talk’ infographics. Key partners include local Black barber shops/salons, Black-owned businesses, and nonprofits serving the Black community.
- In the Hispanic community, we have engaged with over 40 organizations that serve the Hispanic population; been frequent contributors to Telemundo and Univision; developed extensive Spanish language media assets including a Spanish website, Spanish blog, Spanish Facebook page and live broadcasts, and Spanish language videos; as well as engaging with faith-based and other trusted community leaders and organizations to provide information and support decision-making by individuals in their communities.

Where access to technology is a problem, we have promoted vaccine registration through the county’s call center and have enabled community organizations to register clients they serve. To address transportation issues, vaccinations have been provided at an increasing number of sites in the community including houses of worship, schools, and community centers. Many of the vaccination clinics take place on the weekend and after working hours. Vaccinations also have been provided in low-income housing for older adults. Transportation assistance to and from a vaccination site has been coordinated by NCS’s Human Services Transportation team, where necessary, including through the provision of taxi vouchers. Vaccine registration through the county’s system is available in Spanish and language assistance is provided through the call center. Materials on the county’s website are presented in multiple languages.

Equity clinics are strategically held in areas disproportionately affected by pandemic disease, that include a high proportion of people of color and significant social and economic disadvantage, and where early analysis of vaccination rates suggests that additional focus is needed. The objectives of these clinics are to supplement the broader efforts around the county and to catalyze increased engagement by partners, who lead the outreach and registration efforts for these clinics.

The next sections of this report provide quantitative data on COVID-19 vaccinations at the equity clinics and countywide for March 2021. It is important to note that vaccinations at equity clinics have increased substantially in April as additional vaccinating partners have been identified and vaccine supply has increased. In addition, there are several key limitations to the data that affect what quantitative analyses can be undertaken at this time.

## PART 2. VACCINE EQUITY CLINICS

In March 2021, we partnered with five vaccinating organizations and numerous other partners to implement fifty-one vaccination events, for which 9,501 people were either scheduled or received a COVID-19 vaccine. Target racial and ethnic groups comprised 77% of Fairfax Health District residents who received or were scheduled for vaccination.<sup>1</sup>



5  
Vaccination  
Partners



51  
Vaccination  
Events



9,501  
People  
Scheduled/  
Vaccinated  
at Clinic



77%  
Black/African  
Hispanic or  
Asian/PI from FHD

### Clinic Locations

During March, vaccine equity clinics were held at 16 sites throughout the Fairfax Health District. Sites were selected based on their location; access and acceptability for target communities; and their size/capacity and suitability for safe delivery of vaccinations. Sites included community centers, schools, houses of worship, and partner clinic locations. All sites were in areas with high rates of disease and lower rates of vaccination.

Vaccinator Organization, Clinic Site, and Number Scheduled or Vaccinated in March 2021		
Vaccinator Organization	Clinic Site (see map below)	Total Scheduled/Vaccinated
Neighborhood Health (NH)	1 Bailey's Community Center	5,765*
	2 Knights of Columbus	
	3 Graham Road Community Center	
	4 James Lee Community Center	
	5 Southgate Community Center	

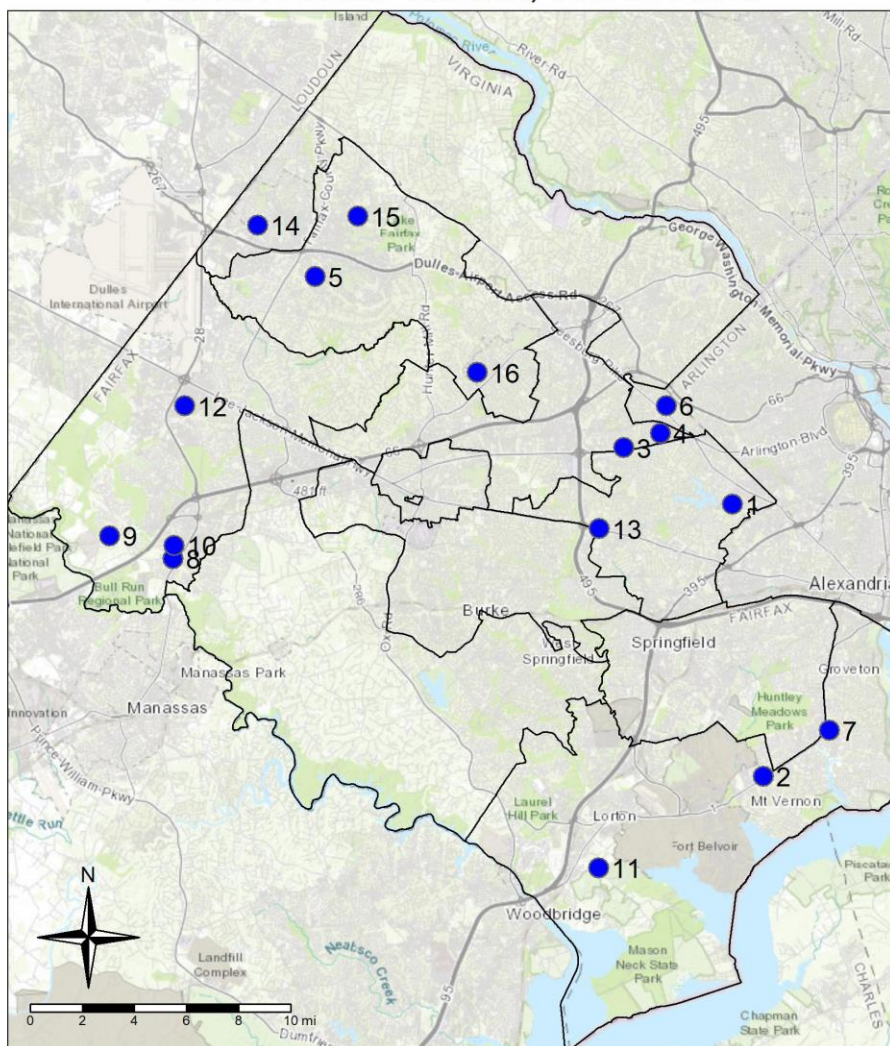
<sup>1</sup> Data for some partners came from registration/scheduling data and for others from vaccinations administered.

Safeway (SW)	6 Falls Church Community Center 7 Bethlehem Baptist Church 8 Mt. Olive Baptist Church 9 Korean Central Presbyterian Church** 10 Centre Ridge Elementary School 11 Gunston Elementary School	1,687
Adam's Compassionate Healthcare Network (ACHN)	12 Adam's Compassionate Health Care Clinic	1,035
Inova Cares Clinic for Families (ICCF)	13 Inova Cares Clinic for Families	392
Healthworks	14 Healthworks Herndon 15 Healthworks Reston 16 First Baptist of Vienna	622

\*Neighborhood Health also held clinics in Alexandria and Arlington and some Fairfax Health District residents attended. In total, 6,992 Fairfax Health District residents attended clinics at Neighborhood Health for the month of March 2021.

\*\*No race and ethnicity or zip code data was received from this clinic site.

## Vaccine Equity Clinic Sites Fairfax Health District, March 2021



### Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup>

Overall, 77% of Fairfax Health District residents vaccinated by equity partners identified as either Black/African American, Hispanic, or Asian/Pacific Islander. The largest population served was Hispanic (38%).

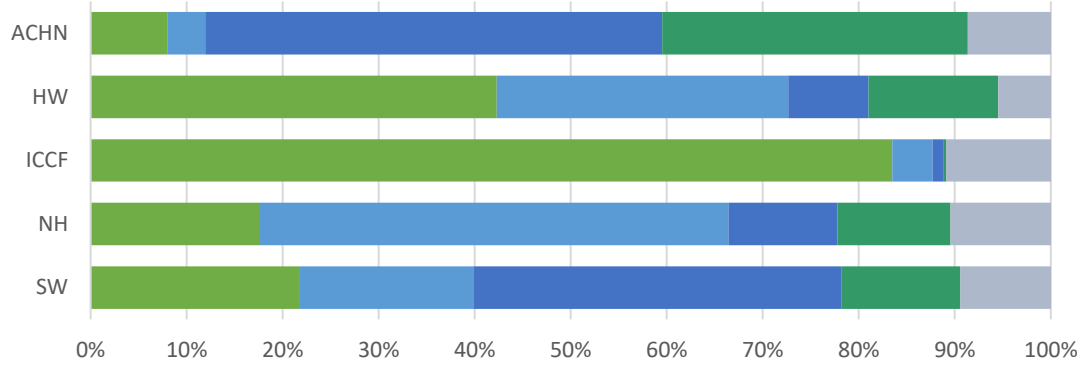
All but one of the vaccinator organizations reported between 78-89% of vaccine recipients as either Black/African American, Hispanic, or Asian/Pacific Islander (PI). Adams Compassionate Healthcare Network reported a large white population but does serve a significant proportion of Middle Eastern clients who typically select “White” for race.

<sup>2</sup> For this document, groups defined by race (White, African American, Asian/PI) all are non-Hispanic; all Hispanics are included in that ethnicity category.



### Total Number and Percent of Individuals Scheduled/Vaccinated by Vaccine Organization and Race/Ethnicity

N= 9398



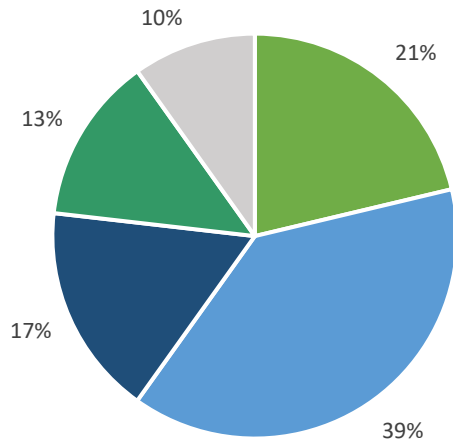
	SW	NH	ICCF	HW	ACHN
African American	222	1,149	298	263	68
Hispanic	185	3,205	15	189	33
Asian/PI	390	744	4	52	402
White	126	773	1	84	269
Other/Unk	96	684	39	34	73

Legend: African American (green), Hispanic (light blue), Asian/PI (dark blue), White (dark green), Other/Unk (grey)

\*Race and ethnicity for 437 individuals from Neighborhood Health was not reported.

### Percent Scheduled/Vaccinated by Race/Ethnicity

N= 9398



Legend: Black (green), Hispanic (light blue), Asian/PI (dark blue), White (dark green), Other/Unk (grey)

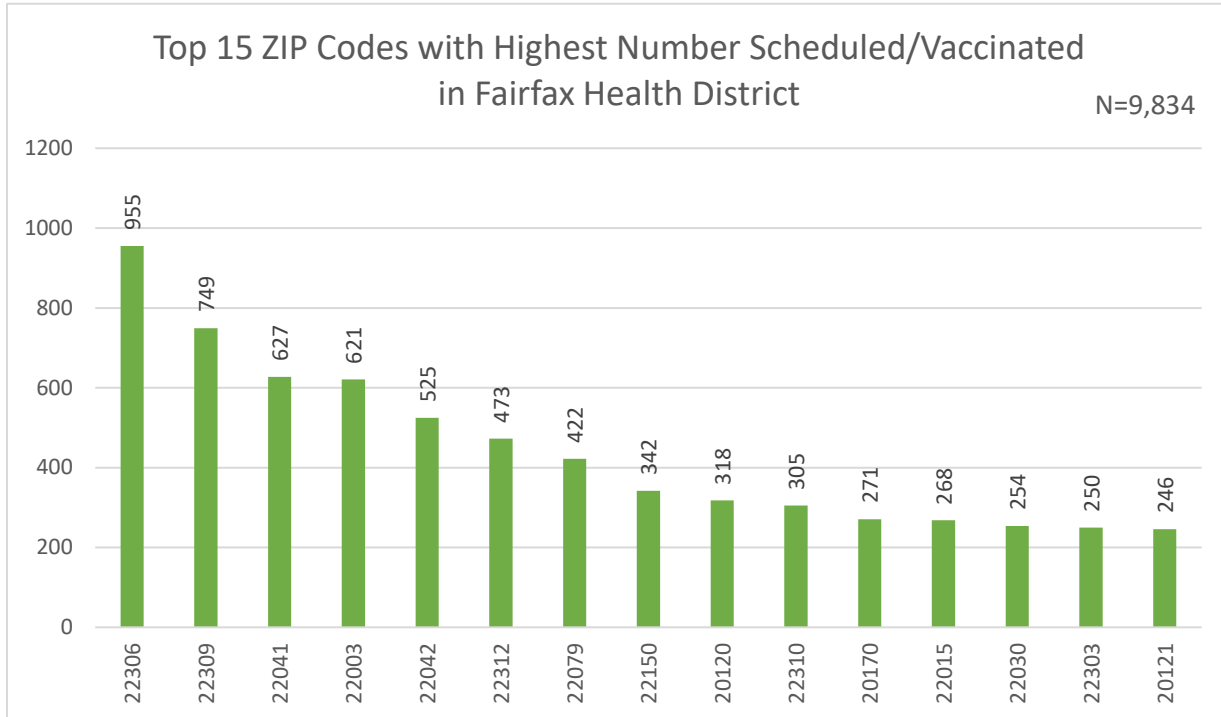
Race and Ethnicity by % in Fairfax Health District and % Schedule/Vaccinated at Vaccine Equity Clinics		
Race/Ethnicity	Population Proportion in Fairfax Health District*	Vaccine Equity Clinics
Hispanic	15.3%	38.6%
Black/African American	9.8%	21.3%
Asian/PI	19.8%	16.9%
Non-Hispanic White	55.0%	13.3%
Other/Unknown	--	9.9%

Hispanic residents comprise 15.3% of the population in the county age 15 or older, approximating the population potentially eligible for vaccination, yet they comprised 38.6% of the Fairfax Health District residents by equity clinic partners in March. A similar overrepresentation was observed in Black/African American residents.

\*Aged 15 years and older to approximate the age group potentially eligible for vaccination.

## ZIP Code

A total of 9,834 Fairfax Health District residents scheduled/vaccinated at an equity partner vaccine clinic reported their ZIP code. Two-thirds (67%) lived in one of 15 ZIP codes shown below.



## PART 3. COUNTY DATA

In March, vaccine equity clinics reached a substantial number of Fairfax Health District residents and were well targeted by race, ethnicity, and geography. At the same time, much larger efforts were focused on vaccinating County residents in Phases 1a and b at Health Department and partner sites.

Unfortunately, several critical factors limit our ability to analyze the data to assess vaccine equity.

- There are no population counts of individuals by race, ethnicity or geography who are in the Phase 1a and 1b groups so we cannot characterize overall disparities.
- The large registration queue meant that most people who were vaccinated in March through the County's system had registered earlier so that the "snapshot", in fact, would reflect an earlier time period for vaccination decision-making and registration.
- Finally, the Health Department has data on the race and ethnicity of individuals who registered through the county's system and were offered vaccination appointments. However, data on the race and ethnicity of all vaccinated residents in the Health District are only maintained in the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS), and errors



in this database have led to race/ethnicity being classified as unknown or other for more than half the records in the system. While the Virginia Department of Health is attempting to correct this problem, we cannot assess overall vaccination by race/ethnicity.

To minimize the impact of these limitations, we analyzed data for vaccination of persons 65 years old and older where population denominators by race, ethnicity and ZIP code are available, and where recommendations for vaccination across this age spectrum were made on January 18 so that by the end of March, there had been over 2 months of eligibility for vaccination.

### Race/Ethnicity

Because of differences in life expectancy among different racial and ethnic groups, population proportions by race/ethnicity for people age 65+ differ from the entire adult population in Fairfax Health District. The table, below, shows for each race and ethnicity their proportion of the overall age 65+ population; the proportion of individuals in this age group who had been scheduled for vaccination through the County’s system between January 18 (when persons aged 65-74 first became eligible) and March 31; and how much each group is over or under-represented among the vaccinated population. These data show that while African Americans comprised 6.6% of the age 65+ population, they only comprised 3.2% of those who were vaccinated, which is 48.5% of expected if they had been vaccinated in proportion to their population percentage. Hispanics also were less likely to be vaccinated than expected while age 65+ Asian/PI and non-Hispanic Whites were more likely to be vaccinated than expected based on their population proportion. A limitation to this analysis is that only persons who registered through the County system and were scheduled to be vaccinated are included and some older adults were vaccinated at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, and at sites using a different registration system, including healthcare organizations and the vaccine equity clinics.

Race and Ethnicity by Percent of Population Age 65+ in Fairfax Health District and Percent Scheduled to Receive a First Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine in the FCHD system, January 18 – March 31			
Race/Ethnicity	% of Population	% Scheduled for vaccination	% of Expected
Asian/PI	16.7%	17.2%	103.0%
Black/African American	6.6%	3.2%	48.5%
Hispanic	7.0%	5.2%	74.3%
Non-Hispanic White	69.4%	71.6%	103.2%
Other/Unknown	0.3%	4.2%	

## ZIP Code

We also can analyze vaccination of persons age 65+ by ZIP code of residence using VIIS data, which include all vaccinations received by individuals in this age group. Overall, among Fairfax Health District residents age 65+, 77.8% had been vaccinated as of March 31. As shown, proportions vaccinated ranged from below 60% in ZIP codes 22312 and 22150 to over 90% in ZIP codes 20194, 20171, and 22039.

ZIP CODE	Vaccinated	Total Pop	% Vaccinated	ZIP CODE	Vaccinated	Total Pop	% Vaccinated
22312	1,917	3,373	56.8%	22027	267	341	78.3%
22150	3,209	5,392	59.5%	22308	1,950	2,444	79.8%
22044	1,205	1,914	63.0%	22181	1,933	2,414	80.1%
22310	2,717	4,189	64.9%	22030	5,436	6,656	81.7%
22041	2,641	4,032	65.5%	20170	3,490	4,258	82.0%
22306	2,348	3,564	65.9%	22182	3,594	4,371	82.2%
22151	2,048	2,897	70.7%	22124	2,616	3,173	82.4%
22309	2,766	3,894	71.0%	22101	5,155	6,198	83.2%
22303	1,273	1,776	71.7%	22032	4,111	4,940	83.2%
22079	2,518	3,505	71.8%	22015	5,597	6,709	83.4%
22043	2,300	3,165	72.7%	22046	2,135	2,553	83.6%
22102	2,912	3,944	73.8%	22033	3,490	4,139	84.3%
22066	2,688	3,625	74.2%	22153	3,667	4,315	85.0%
22307	1,491	2,007	74.3%	20120	3,319	3,893	85.3%
20121	1,692	2,258	74.9%	20151	1,894	2,213	85.6%
22152	3,267	4,347	75.2%	20124	2,020	2,306	87.6%
20191	3,643	4,822	75.5%	22180	2,784	3,134	88.8%
22003	6,913	9,039	76.5%	22039	3,077	3,302	93.2%
22315	2,395	3,131	76.5%	20171	3,832	4,041	94.8%
20190	2,511	3,253	77.2%	20194	1,536	1,465	104.8%
22031	3,049	3,906	78.1%	Total	120,604	154,984	77.8%
22042	3,198	4,086	78.3%				

A limitation of these data is that the presence of Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities in some ZIP codes could inflate the proportion vaccinated among those age 65+ due to the high rates (median of over 97%) achieved at these facilities.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

During March 2021, FCHD, the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, and community partners vaccinated 9,501 individuals, many in the age 65+ group, at clinics targeting populations disproportionately affected by the pandemic and from populations where initial vaccination rates were lower. In the first two weeks of April, the number of clinics and the number of people vaccinated at vaccine equity clinics increased, and the number of organizations providing vaccinations is also increasing. Data on vaccination coverage by ZIP code has already informed decisions on clinic locations, with many of the ZIP codes with lower vaccination rates among the 65+ group among the leading ZIP codes for equity clinic vaccinations. Moreover, these data continue to guide equity clinic locations. For example, data showing lower vaccination rates in ZIP codes 22312 and 22150 among people age 65+ has led to the scheduling of upcoming equity clinics at Lerner Tower and the First Baptist Church of Springfield, respectively.

As the Fairfax Health District transitions to Phase 2, vaccine eligibility will be extended to everyone 16 years or older. Substantial communications, outreach, community engagement, and partnership with community organizations and leaders will continue to increase to provide information and support decision-making and we will continue to refine our three-pronged vaccine equity strategy:

1. Continue and expand vaccine equity clinics
2. Facilitate vaccination scheduling using VaccineFinder
3. Engage with communities of color and those who are economically disadvantaged to address vaccine hesitancy and other barriers

While these efforts take time to have an impact, this community-level work is critical to change attitudes and behaviors. Some disparities may, in part, reflect a “wait and see” attitude that will change as people get more information and see others in their communities who have been vaccinated. Given the additional population that is eligible for vaccination in Phase 2, it is important that outreach activities continue to identify and engage new partners to better understand unresolved issues to inform messaging and engagement.

The Health Department and its partners remain committed to moving toward greater equity in COVID-19 vaccination and will continue to monitor progress and use data to guide our response.