



<p><b>CG: Nate Royster, RN</b> Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>Shots of Black patient getting vaccines</p>	<p>TAKES THE TIME TO LISTEN TO THEIR CONCERNS. :12</p> <p><i>“We just have to work with those beliefs and try to change them without offending that patient and making them feel belittled.” :05</i></p> <p>IT’S PART OF A NEW INITIATIVE TO CLOSE RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE, STARTING WITH FLU SHOTS. ACCORDING TO THE C-D-C<sup>1</sup>, ALTHOUGH FIFTY-THREE PERCENT OF THE WHITE POPULATION WERE VACCINATED LAST FLU SEASON, JUST THIRTY-EIGHT PERCENT OF HISPANICS AND FORTY-ONE PERCENT OF THE BLACK POPULATION RECEIVED THEIR SHOTS. :16</p>
<p><b>CG: Dr. Aaron Clark</b> Ohio State Wexner Medical Center</p> <p>Shot of vaccine vials</p> <p>Shots of nurse talking to Black patient, giving vaccine</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Clark talking to nurse</p> <p>Shot of doctor in exam with Black patient</p> <p>Shot of mammogram</p> <p>Shots of Black patient receiving COVID vaccine</p>	<p><i>“Immunization is our best defense against influenza, and we wanted to make sure all the communities we serve were equally protected.” :06</i></p> <p>THEY STARTED BY SECURING EXTRA VACCINES AND PROMPTING NURSES TO OFFER THEM TO EVERY PATIENT IN EVERY CLINICAL LOCATION, SO THEY RECEIVE THE INFORMATION WHERE THEY’RE COMFORTABLE RECEIVING CARE, WHETHER THAT’S THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, A PRIMARY CARE OFFICE OR A SPECIALTY CLINIC. NURSES ALSO CALLED PEOPLE IN TARGETED ZIP CODES WHERE VACCINATION RATES ARE LOW. THESE EFFORTS APPLY FAR BEYOND FLU SHOTS, TO DISPARITIES IN ROUTINE SCREENINGS FOR DIABETES AND CANCER AND ESPECIALLY FOR COVID VACCINES, WHICH ARE CRITICAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH, YET CARRY A LOT OF SKEPTICISM. :25</p>
<p><b>Nate Royster (CG’d earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of non-white patients receiving flu shots</p>	<p><i>“We can’t just have a streamlined way of educating them. We just have to understand their education, their background, their socioeconomic status, access to healthcare, and their skin color, religion, all those things all play a factor.” :10</i></p> <p>THIS APPROACH IS ALREADY MAKING AN IMPACT. AT OHIO STATE, EMERGENCY NURSES ADMINISTERED TEN TIMES MORE FLU SHOTS TO NON-WHITE PATIENTS BY MARCH OF 2021 THAN ALL OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR. :08</p>
<p><b>Aaron Clark (CG’d earlier)</b></p>	<p><i>“Unless you actively look for these disparity issues and then come up with very transparent ways of addressing</i></p>

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**CG: Dr. Aaron Clark**  
**Ohio State Wexner Medical Center**

Clark says they asked about health care barriers rather than assuming:  
*"We made sure that we asked the community what their needs were, what were their concerns about influenza immunization rather than us supposing or imagining what we thought their issues may be around accessing those vaccines." :12*

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Royster says connecting with each patient is what will lead to higher vaccination rates:  
*"We have to talk to each patient, figure out where they're at, figure out what's holding them back, and then try to listen to them and comfort them and kind of put those concerns to rest and get them to a level where they can understand us and we can understand them. And that's what's going to lead to increased vaccinations." :17*

**CG: Nate Royster, RN**  
**Ohio State Wexner Medical Center**

Royster says educating patients in the hospital helps them educate people in their communities:  
*"They're going to go home and they're going to talk with their family, talk with their friends and let them know like, 'Hey, I got the flu vaccine.' And those people are going to be more...feel more comfortable making that decision for themselves now that they've heard it from someone who looks like them." :13*

Royster addresses barriers and the importance of vaccinating patients when they come in:  
*"At the end of the day, there's definitely a lot of disparities in health. There's less access to health insurance and healthcare in general. So if they are there and they're present in that office, we have to do everything we can to get them vaccinated because they may not have the insurance to afford a primary care provider. They may not be able to go to the doctor when they're sick." :18*

Royster says it's important to take the time to talk to every patient to increase vaccinations:  
*"It's a lot easier to just move on with your day after a patient says no to a vaccine and just go on, but that doesn't do anything. And we really have to start one patient at a time and just keep going until we get everyone vaccinated that we possibly can." :13*

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**CG: Melanie Hill**  
**Gets an annual flu shot**

Melanie says she changed her mind about the flu shot:  
*"I just felt it was something that wouldn't affect me, or if I got the flu, I didn't see it as a serious threat to my health. But I've learned a lot since then, that it kills a lot of people actually every year. And so, now, I'd rather just be better safe than sorry and get the flu shot." :20*


<p><b>CG: Melanie Hill</b> Gets an annual flu shot</p>	<p>Melanie explains her decision to get a COVID vaccine:  <i>“The risks of catching COVID outweighs any risks that I read about as far as the vaccine goes. And so, I came around to it and I think enough time had passed when I was initially skeptical of it, and by the time it became available to me, I was ready to sign up.” :18</i></p> <p>Melanie says we can now take actions to improve health disparities:  <i>“We’re all more aware of it now. So, the next step after awareness is to respond and do something about it. So, to me, it’s a natural step that we are going to be teaching our kids more about prevention and our population in general is going to be more aware that these disparities exist.” :20</i></p>
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### References

<sup>1</sup>*Flu Disparities Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021. Online:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/disparities-racial-ethnic-minority-groups.html>

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