

Morris Heights Health commits to advancing vaccine equity throughout the Bronx



Launch of the MHHC vaccination pop up site in the Mount Hope section of the Bronx.

Morris Heights Health Center, a trusted community-based health provider in the Bronx, has been at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19. MHHC was one of the first health organizations to administer medical care outside their clinic doors, deploying mobile vans and temporary vaccine units to underserved communities. In partnership with community leaders and The Bronx Rising Initiative, MHHC was able to administer more than 15,000 vaccinations in more than 40 locations that included NYCHA buildings, senior housing and centers, places of worship, community centers, schools, and a Convent all while continuing normal operations and administering

vaccinations at their other locations in less than 5 months.

“We’re here to care for those who are unable to care for themselves,” said President & CEO Mari Millet of MHHC as she stressed the importance of making vaccines more accessible to Bronx residents.

The Bronx has one of the lowest vaccination rates in NYC, accounting for only 44% of Bronxites that are fully vaccinated. Vaccination rates among black and brown people are far less than their white counterparts; accounting for 32% African American and 37% Hispanic/Latino. Some contributing factors include the lack of access, language barriers and skepticism on the safety of the vaccine. According to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), community health centers have been vaccinating people of color at higher rates compared to other vaccination initiatives.

MHHC began administering vaccinations in

early January, opening its first COVID-19 vaccine unit at its primary location on 85 West Burnside Avenue and shortly thereafter expanding throughout its other sites. The health center vaccinated over 1300 patients in its first month. MHHC played a pivotal role in supporting local community responses to COVID-19 as well as expanding its efforts in neighboring boroughs like Brooklyn and Queens.

“Accessibility is not just about building an infrastructure and assuming people will come. Education and outreach provided in a cultural and linguistic way is key to combating

disparities among underserved communities,” expressed President & CEO Mari Millet. Morris Heights Health Center is working to improve its efforts in advancing equity in vaccines across the Bronx, creating a more robust delivery plan that includes additional vaccine pop up sites, education, and outreach and communication strategies.

Visit one of their locations to get your free COVID-19 vaccine today. To make an appointment call: (718)-716-4400. Walk-ins are accepted! To stay alert on more COVID-19 updates, visit the MHHC social media page: @MHHC_Inc.



MHHC vaccination staff registering patients to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.