

African American and Hispanic Flu Outreach

Second Outreach

Dear [Patient Name],

Did you know there are many myths about influenza vaccines that persist from year to year? Here are a few:

MYTH: *The side effects of the vaccine are worse than the flu itself.*

FACT: *The flu is much more serious! The CDC estimates that between 12,000 – 52,000 people die annually in the U.S of the flu. While most people will recover within a few weeks, some can develop complications including sinus and ear infections, pneumonia, and heart or brain inflammation.*

MYTH: *The vaccine doesn't work – my friend got the vaccine and then got the flu.*

FACT: *The vaccine targets specific strains of the flu, but several flu virus strains are circulating all the time. However, being vaccinated improves your chances of being protected from the flu.*

Third Outreach

Dear [Patient Name],

Did you know that flu vaccination coverage is lowest amongst the African American and Hispanic adult populations? Only 40.4% of African Americans and 38.6% of Hispanics received a vaccination during the 2020-2021 flu season. In addition, both groups are more likely to be hospitalized for flu-related complications compared to non-Hispanic Whites. This is challenged further by the fact that these communities suffer more from chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease and obesity.