

MARCH / APRIL 2021

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH



#VaccineReady | April 2021

National Minority Health Month (NMHM) builds awareness about the disproportionate burden of premature death and illness in minority populations and encourages action through health education, early detection, and control

of disease complications.

ABOUT NMHM

The origin of National Minority Health Month is in the 1915 establishment of National Negro Health Week by Booker T. Washington. In 2002, National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress with a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 388) that “a National Minority Health and Health Disparities Month should be established to promote educational efforts on the health problems currently facing minorities and other health disparity populations.” The resolution encouraged “all health organizations and Americans to conduct appropriate programs and activities to promote healthfulness in minority and other health disparity communities.”

WHAT WE KNOW

It was just one year ago that the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 an outbreak pandemic and it has impacted communities of color significantly.



Nationally, African Americans and American Indians/Alaskan Natives have died from the coronavirus at a rate almost one and a half (1.5) more times than Whites. We know minorities are more likely to get infected, be hospitalized, and to die from COVID-19.

One year later, nearly 9,000 lives have been lost due to the coronavirus in South Carolina (SC). In SC, as of March 7, 2021, Hispanic/Latino people were most likely to have contracted the disease, while African/American people were more likely to have died.

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We know there appear to be disparities in who is getting vaccinated. Whites make up approximately 67% of the state's population and represent almost the same percentage of vaccine doses. African Americans make up approximately 27% of the state's population and represent only 12.5% of vaccine doses. Latinas make up almost 6% of the state's population and represent less than 2% of vaccine doses.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

This year's National Minority Health Month theme is #VaccineReady. As we continue to experience COVID-19 and recognize its severe impact on racial and ethnic minority populations, especially the American Indian/Alaskan Native communities, the need for continued education about the coronavirus, vaccines, and adherence to public health guidelines is paramount for everyone and especially all vulnerable minority populations. Consider the following to prevent unwanted hospitalizations and deaths:



Get Vaccinated

Call the DHEC COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line (1-866-365-8110) or visit vaxlocator.dhec.sc.gov.



Wear Face Mask

Wearing a mask protects you, as well as others from contracting the virus.



Practice Social Distancing

Limiting close face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Washing Hands

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from respiratory and diarrheal infections. Germs can spread from other people or surfaces when you:

- Touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Prepare or eat food and drinks with unwashed hands.
- Touch a contaminated surface or objects.
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze into hands and then touch other people's hands or common objects.



Need Further Assistance? Contact Us:

Hold Out the Lifeline: A Mission to Families

Each One Can Reach One

803.461.3201 hotlifeline.org



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