

COVID-19 CHAMPIONS



Buckeye Health Plan Vaccine Roll Out

Instead of offering the “mega vaccination sites” being seen in other states, Ohio’s vaccination plan focuses on ensuring that there are multiple vaccine providers in every county in the state. More than 700 providers across Ohio are receiving the vaccine to help ensure that Ohioans have access to vaccine close to home. Buckeye Health Plan is currently working on a prioritized list from the State and making outreach to hundreds of members to let them know that they are not only eligible for the vaccination but to get them an appointment with a provider close to their home and assist with any barriers such as transportation. Additionally, Buckeye continues to partner with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and congregate settings. These centers serve highly vulnerable neighborhoods. Ohio’s vaccination plan offers vaccines at these facilities for equitable distribution.

Buckeye’s efforts in nursing facilities include:

- Buckeye collaborated with the state of Ohio to impact and reduce COVID-19 infections in nursing facilities and assisted living facilities by providing infection control, prevention education and “aftercare” guidance in the event there was a single COVID-19 positive case in the facility. Buckeye also participated in the testing of both members and staff for COVID-19 in these settings to reduce spread.
- As part of this effort, all volunteers from the health plan received appropriate training on how to don/doff PPE and complete COVID-19 swabbing. They also received education on health equities and were enrolled in the Medical Reserve Corp.
- The volunteer work completed by Buckeye volunteers continues with COVID-19 testing, as well as participating in the COVID vaccination efforts that are being coordinated by nursing facilities and county health departments.
- Buckeye was able to coordinate a volunteer campaign that yielded 38 clinical volunteers to participate in the community and in congregate settings. All have expressed how rewarding this opportunity has been.



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