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2021

SPRING EDITION

CareSouth Carolina Working to Address Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccine

For the second-straight week as the month of March came to a close, CareSouth Carolina vaccinated a larger percentage of non-white than white populations.

In South Carolina and in many communities across the United States, minorities have taken the COVID-19 vaccine at a much lower rate.

As of March 15, 2021, the CDC reported that race/ethnicity was known for just over half (53%) of people who had received at least one dose of the vaccine. Among this group, nearly two thirds were White (66%), 9% were Hispanic, 8% were Black, 5% were Asian, 2% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and <1% were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, while 11% reported multiple or other race.

CareSouth Carolina is working to address barriers and the racial disparity that exists pertaining to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

“We’ve been reaching out to the faith-based community, as well as other local and civic organizations and local delegations to make everyone aware that the vaccine is available,” CareSouth Carolina Chief of Community Health Joe Bittle said. “It’s important that we all get the vaccine and that no one gets left out. We want everyone to have access to this vaccine.”

For the week-ending on March 19, CareSouth Carolina provided 1,983 vaccinations. Of those, 1,053 were minorities (53.1 percent). For the week ending on March 26, CareSouth Carolina provided 1,831 vaccinations with 1,039 being minorities (56.7 percent).

As of April 16, CareSouth Carolina has administered 15,452 COVID-19 vaccines.



CareSouth Carolina Closed May 31, 2021 Memorial Day

5 Things to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine

1. How do you know if COVID-19 vaccines are safe?

COVID-19 vaccines were tested in large clinical trial to make sure they meet all safety standards. Many people were recruited to participate in these trials to see how the vaccines offer protection to people of different ages, races and ethnicities, as well as those with different medical conditions.

2. Have these vaccines been tested in all populations?

The vaccines were tested in a diverse group of people. About 30% of U.S. participants were Hispanic, African American, Asian or Native American. About half were older adults. There were no significant safety concerns identified in these or any other groups.

3. Is it better to get natural immunity rather than immunity from vaccines?

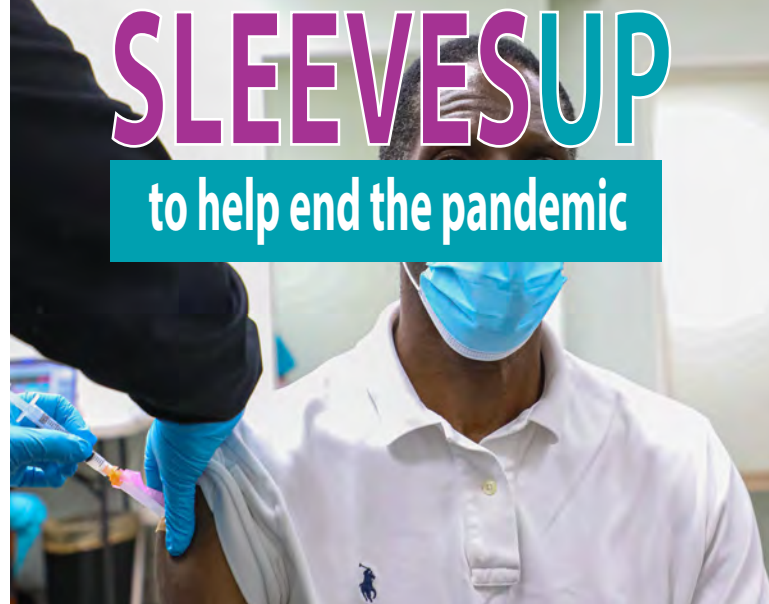
Both this disease and the vaccine are new. We don't know how long protection lasts for those who get infected or those who are vaccinated. What we do know is that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people. If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.

4. Will the shot hurt? Will it make me sick? What about the side effects?

These side effects are signs that your immune system is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. It is working and building up protection to disease. Most people do not have serious problems after getting a vaccine. However, your arm may be sore or swollen. These symptoms usually go away on their own within a week. Some people report getting a headache, fever, fatigue or body aches after getting a vaccine.

5. Do vaccines protect against new variants that have surfaced in the US?

New variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 illness have emerged. Current data suggests that COVID-19 vaccines used in the United States should work against these variants. For this reason, COVID-19 vaccines are an essential tool to protect people against COVID-19, including against new variants. CDC recommends getting vaccinated as soon as a vaccine is available to you.



SLEEVES UP

to help end the pandemic

The COVID-19 Vaccine is Here!

Nearly 95% Effective | FDA Authorized | Available at No Cost

To make an appointment for a COVID-19 Vaccination, please call one of the following offices:

Hartsville: 843.332.3422
Bishopville: 803.484.5317
Chesterfield: 843.623.5080
McCull: 843.523.5751
Latta: 843.627.6252

DON'T WAIT. VACCINATE!



Monoclonal Antibody IV Therapy can help with COVID-19 Symptoms

CareSouth Carolina is offering Monoclonal Antibody IV Therapy for qualifying patients at the CSC Hartsville office, located at 1268 S. Fourth Street.

Patients who started showing symptoms from COVID-19 within the last 10 days who are ages 12 or older, at least 88 pounds and have mild to moderate symptoms may qualify.

The goal of this therapy is to decrease hospitalizations & emergency room visits due to symptoms of COVID-19 and to prevent the patient from progressing to severe disease. This treatment is also used to prevent potential long-term damage from COVID-19.

CareSouth Carolina Hartsville Provider Jennifer Lynch, FNP-C, said the treatment can be a helpful tool in fighting the progression of mild to moderate symptoms that those with a positive COVID-19 test might experience.

"It's important to remember that this is still a new virus," Lynch said. "If there's a way to help prevent you from hospitalization and potentially on a vent, there's no reason not to try. This gives us hope in the outpatient setting that we can treat the symptoms and prevent them from getting too far along."

The therapy is an hour-long IV infusion that has been developed for the treatment and prophylaxis of viral infections, like COVID-19.

The Future of Women's Health Care in South Carolina



Cindy Crittendon,
DO, FACOG

Practicing women's health care in the state of South Carolina, especially in the rural area of the Pee Dee, presents its own unique set of challenges and rewards. When considering the challenges presented in our state it's helpful to look at what the data is telling us. According to the latest South Carolina Health Assessment conducted by the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control (SC-DHEC) the prevalence of South Carolina women delaying medical care due to cost was higher than South Carolina males.

In addition, Non-Hispanic Black women experienced a higher rate of new cases of late-stage breast cancer than non-Hispanic White women. South Carolina ranks 19th in the nation for new cases of breast cancer. White women are diagnosed at a higher rate than Black women; however, Black women die at a higher rate (almost 50% higher). In 2015 there was a total of 4,077 new cases of breast cancer and, of these, 1,306 were diagnosed as late-stage. According to the health assessment just 75% of South Carolina women aged 50 to 74 years old received a mammogram within the last two years. That means 1-in-4 women at least 50 years of age have not received a mammogram in two years, but it's not just breast cancer. South Carolina ranks 19th in the nation for new cases of cervical cancer. Black women are diagnosed at a higher rate than White women and also die at a higher rate. There were 216 new cases of invasive cervical cancer in 2015.

Because of social determinants of health we can see that there is a population of women in South Carolina - especially in the rural areas of our state - where healthcare isn't easily accessible or highlighted as essential. Hospitals across the nation in small communities have closed and that presents another challenge to the women of our area who have to drive longer distances as a result.

As we consider the future of women's health care those various obstacles must be addressed. One thing we at CareSouth Carolina continue to focus on is patient education and we try to stand in the gap for women who might not otherwise be able to access health care. We emphasize the importance of "Well-Woman Gynecology," meaning that she proactively addresses health care needs and potential future issues before they become problematic.

We feel a special commitment to provide for the needs of women. We are sensitive to the special needs of women and are committed to helping our patients become more active in promoting their own health and well-being. We provide a full range of women's services including:

- Annual Exams
- Ultrasounds for OB/GYN evaluations
- Pap Smears
- Reproductive Health Services
- Voluntary family planning
- Screenings for sexually transmitted infections
- Breast Cancer Screening referrals



Taking time to address the importance of scheduling a mammogram or a Pap Smear can be the difference, in some cases, in life expectancy if a malignancy is detected early. Proactively pursuing better health through annual exams and screenings instead of waiting for symptoms to arise can facilitate early treatment with an improved quality of life.

We also ensure seamless obstetrical services through partnerships with specialists throughout our communities. Our Obstetrics Services program is designed to encourage successful pregnancies and healthy babies. Our program removes the barriers to comprehensive prenatal care.

As a CareSouth Carolina provider since 2015 it has been my great pleasure and joy to build relationships with my patients. It is exciting to see the progression in their lives from teens to motherhood and to see and hear from them as they pursue their educational and professional goals. I've had the opportunity to treat generations of a family - grandmothers, mothers and daughters - and one of the benefits of practicing in a small town is the opportunity to see them out in the community, in the stores, at church, and to know that they trust me with one of their most valuable assets: Their health.

That's where the future lies in women's health care.

Certain techniques, technology and guidelines may be slightly changed over the years, but it all comes back to providers building trust with their patients, educating them on the importance of taking their health seriously and facilitating access to care.

Cindy Crittendon, DO, FACOG, specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology and practices at CareSouth Carolina's Women's Center in Bennettsville, SC. She attended medical school at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and completed her Residency at Muskegon General Hospital in Muskegon, MI.

Services:

Family Practice
Pediatrics
Women's Care
Behavioral Health Counseling
Lab
Radiology/Ultrasound
Chiropractic Care
Dental Care
Family Support Services
Substance Abuse Prevention Program
Infectious Diseases Primary Care
Senior Support Services
Community Pharmacy

Convenient Locations

Bennettville Center
999 Cheraw Street
Bennettville, SC 29512
843.479.2341

Bennettville Pediatric Center
210 W. Main Street
Bennettville, SC 29512
843.479.1200

Bennettville Women's Center
1076 Marlboro Way, Suite 1
Bennettville, SC 29512
843.454.2294

Bishopville Center
545 Sumter Highway
Bishopville, SC 29010
803.484.5317

Bishopville Pediatric Dental
101 Harris Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
866.815.9845

Cheraw Center
715 S. Doctors Drive Suite E
Cheraw, SC 29520
843.537.0961

Chesterfield Center
204 Perry Wiley Way
Chesterfield, SC 29709
843.623.5080

Dillon Center
207 E. Monroe Street
Dillon, SC 29536
843.774.4337

Hartsville Center
1268 S. Fourth Street
Hartsville, SC 29550
843.332.3422
843.339.5520 Chiropractic

Lake View Center
103 N. Kemper Street
Lake View, SC 29563
843.759.2189

Latta Center
122 Latimer Street
Latta, SC 29565
843.627.6252

McColl Center
3080 Highway 15-401 E.
McColl, SC 29570
843.523.5751

Society Hill Center
737 S. Main Street
Society Hill, SC 29593
843.378.4501

Public Employee Health
Services - Marlboro County
100 Matheson Street
Bennettville, SC 29512
843.456.7752

CareSouth Carolina Partnering to Provide Weekly Community Health Hub in Bishopville

CareSouth Carolina is partnering with the Lee County Public Library and several other community partners to provide a weekly Community Health Hub.

Every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 3 through September 21, Lee County residents can make their way to the Lee County Library Annex (116 N. Nettles St. Bishopville, SC) to receive a variety of health and social services.

Services provided at the event will include health education; referrals for housing, food, school, transportation and jobs; SNAP, Medicaid/Medicare Application Assistance; Free Medication assistance; Mammogram scheduling; Colon and Breast exam referrals; scheduling for annual Medicare wellness Check-ups; Mental Health First Aid screenings; and the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables: SNAP, Healthy Bucks, Debit/Credit and cash is accepted.

Participants will also receive a voucher for free fresh fruits and vegetables, a free grocery tote, free education materials & resources, as well as free books.

Masks are required and as the COVID-19 pandemic becomes controlled, service offerings will expand.

Transportation will be provided by Lee County Trans for residents in the Spring Hill/West Lee County every fourth Wednesday of the month. Please mention "Lee County Community Health Hub" when scheduling your appointment.

To schedule your appointment, please call 843-624-4500.

April is National Minority Health Month

"Without health and long life, all else fails."- Dr. Booker T. Washington

Celebrated every year in April, National Minority Health Month is an effort to raise awareness about health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minority populations.

The theme for the 2021 celebration is #VaccineReady. . As recognized by the HHS Office of Minority Health, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted racial and ethnic minority communities and underscores the need for these vulnerable communities to get vaccinated as more vaccines become available. COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us get back together with our families, communities, schools, and workplaces by preventing the spread of COVID-19 and bringing an end to the pandemic.

National Minority Health Month promotes health equity- when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible- and awareness to health disparities- differences in health outcomes and their causes among groups of people. For example, African Americans ages 18-49 are 2 times as likely to die from heart disease as whites.

By realizing these health disparities, we can work together to create a healthier community. CareSouth Carolina works to provide education, as well as high-quality and affordable healthcare to everyone.

CSC Community Pharmacy Locations

HARTSVILLE

1280 South Fourth Street
843.339.5530

BENNETTVILLE

999 Cheraw Street
843.456.7777

CHERAW

715 S. Doctors Drive, Suite A
843.865.4080

MCCOLL

3080 Highway 15-401 E.
843.523.6212

LATTA

122 Latimer Street
843.627.6261

BISHOPVILLE

545 Sumter Highway
803.588.7960

SOCIETY HILL

737 S. Main Street
843.378.4148

Contact

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Hartsville, SC 29551

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Fax: 843.857.0150

Website: www.caresouth-carolina.com



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