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Abstract

Live Scholarly Presentation

Major: General Studies

Faculty Mentor: Magdelyn Helwig

Recommendations to Improve Vaccine Rollout in Cook County

Caroline Bryant

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General Studies Program

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Magdelyn Helwig

The current Cook County COVID-19 vaccination rollout began in December of 2020. The rollout has several major problems: (1) The county is using a digital campaign that leaves many Cook County residents without a way to register for a vaccination appointment; (2) Cook County currently allows each jurisdiction to create its own requirements for vaccine eligibility. This is creating confusion for residents who are left unsure whether or not they qualify based on where they live. The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is vaccinating residents at a slower pace than other Illinois counties. As stated by Mahr (2021), "Quincy is in Adams County, where 27% of its residents were fully vaccinated as of Friday [March 19, 2021], the best rate in Illinois. In suburban Cook County, the rate is half that."

This presentation utilizes primary and secondary sources such as government web pages, newspaper articles, and an interview with a nurse practitioner. Based on my research, I have formulated solutions to these problems that would allow CCDPH to speed up the vaccination process.

Recommendations for improving the CCDPH vaccination rollout are (1) streamlining eligibility qualifications so that residents have clear knowledge of when they are eligible for the vaccine, (2) creating a program that assists seniors and those without internet/computer access in registering for vaccine appointments, and (3) creating mobile vaccination clinics that reach residents unable to get to mass vaccination sites.