Mobilizing Community Health Workers to

Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19



CURRENT SITUATION

(**UPDATED** 8.26.20)

- 41,013 positive cases in Palm Beach County
- 313,083 tested of which 13.1% tested positive (41,013 cases)
- 3,196 hospitalizations
- 1,078 deaths
- Positivity rates in Tri-City Glades, Lake Worth Beach and parts of Jupiter are disproportionate and increasing significantly
- Disproportionate death rates in Western PBC



CHALLENGES

- Growing rates within certain minority populations indicate a need for more strategic communication to promote education and awareness and to dispel myths
- Unable to contact nearly 25% of individuals who have tested positive (rate is even higher in Western PBC, Lake Worth Beach and parts of Jupiter)
- More difficult to encourage and enforce isolation in certain geographical areas due to potential barriers
- Difficult to connect individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 to support services to help reinforce isolation



PROPOSED SOLUTION

Establish a Community Health Worker Program (CHW) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

A Community Health Worker is a frontline health employee who is a trusted member of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as an intermediary between government, social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A key component of a CHW program involves hiring trusted local community health workers who reflect same racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the communities served.



GOALS OF THE CHW PROGRAM

- 1. Build trust with community members
- 2. Encourage residents to get tested
- 3. Assist Contact Tracers in locating individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 and those who have been exposed
- 4. Assess and remove barriers that prevent isolation
- 5. Dispel myths about COVID-19
- 6. Distribute PPE and provide education and awareness



STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED BY COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

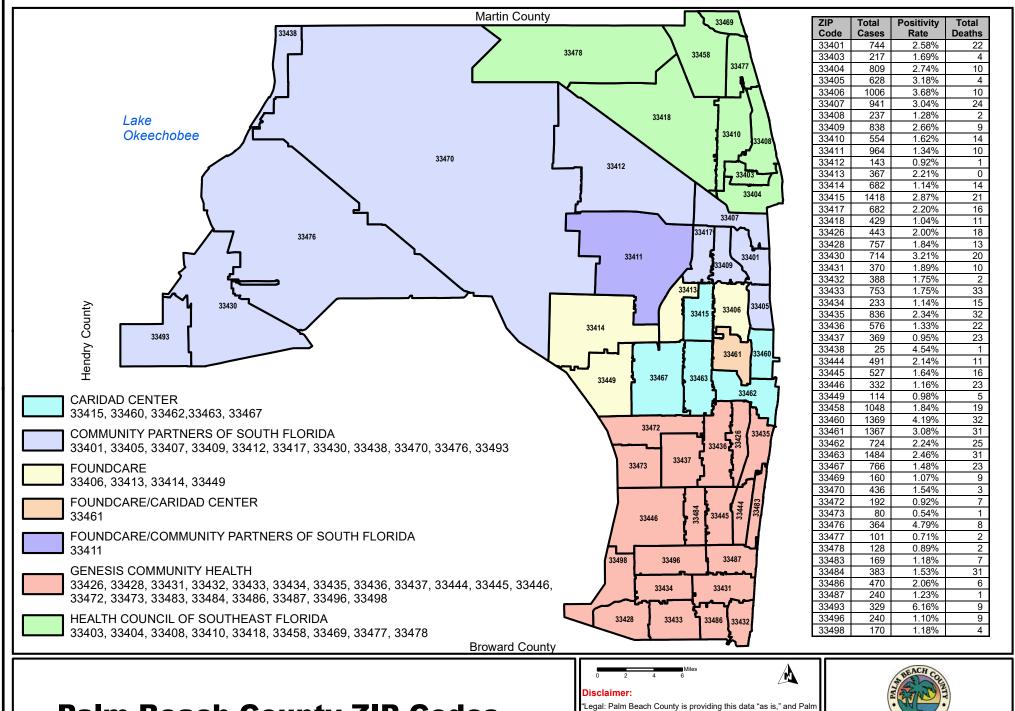
- Maintain a presence at testing sites to encourage individuals who are tested to cooperate with the State Department of Health's (DoH) contact tracers when they call
- Immediately collect information from individuals tested (i.e. contact information, barriers to isolation etc.) to assist contact tracers
- Connecting residents to community resources and emergency supports that are available to assist with isolation
- Distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at the testing sites and provide education and awareness to residents on ways to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Provide education and training via webinars and through other outreach efforts
- Checking in with residents to ensure their needs are being met during isolation



OUTCOME MEASURES

- 1. Increase participant knowledge about ways to prevent COVID-19.
- 2. Increase the number of individuals who have PPE.
- 3. Increase the amount of education and training that occurs within communities.
- 4. Increase the percentage of COVID-19 positive individuals contacted by Contact Tracers.
- 5. Increase the percentage of individuals who receive their test results.
- 6. Increase the percentage of people within household of positive person that are notified within the designated timeframe.





Palm Beach County ZIP Codes

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