Statement from the CEO regarding Covid 19 Vaccination

Don’t Hesitate to Vaccinate against COVID-19

Dear Community,

COVID-19 has touched each of our lives in significant ways. Life is a lot different and in many ways isolating. Even as a resilient of a community we are, this global crisis will leave a permanent mark. As I sit here and write there are lives that will be lost to this deadly virus as we attempt to get it under control.

So why vaccinate? I like many of you was concerned about the vaccine for many reasons. One of the top reasons was how seemingly fast it was developed. The second reason was how the vaccine was highly politized during the recent elections. Then I began to think of you in making my decision of whether to receive the vaccine or not. For the past 10 months, I’ve watched not only the numbers of COVID cases rise but, the real impact. The impact of lives lost too soon. The impact of life-long health affects following the recovery from the virus. Lastly, the economic impact of the loss of businesses mostly, small businesses that affect communities of color.

I WAS VACCINATED FOR YOU. InclusivCare was fortunate to be one of the first Community Health Centers in Louisiana to receive the Moderna Vaccine. We immediately began vaccinating our employees and essential workers. I was amongst those who were vaccinated as a response to ending this dreadful viral disease that is ravishing our communities with limitless physical and mental affects.

Here at InclusivCare we adopted a “Don’t Hesitate to Vaccinate” campaign and slogan to propel all to consider vaccination for the health of everyone in the community. In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), we will ensure that thousands are inoculated against COVID-19.

We know that there are concerns around vaccination safety and the research or clinical trials that is deeply seeded in the Black Community. These concerns are real and should not be ignored. Today, there is far more information that’s
available on vaccination than there is on the COVID-19 virus itself. Now at month 11 of the crisis, InclusivCare continues to provide COVID testing with an astonishing 19% positivity rate. This rate is higher than the national and state average. In the communities that we serve, this is a threat to life and survival.

We must do something. **Don’t Hesitate to Vaccinate.**

*Dr. Shondra Williams, CEO, InclusivCare*

**Message from the Chief Medical Director-Jeremy Dumas, MD**

InclusivCare is committed to the safety and overall health of the communities that we serve. The COVID-19 pandemic has been very stressful for all of us as individuals, families, and communities. We are now pleased to offer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to all eligible individuals in accordance with current recommendations from the Governor of Louisiana. We are aware that there may be some hesitancy in receiving the vaccine. We believe that it is important to get vaccinated as it will lower your chances of getting severely ill. Getting vaccinated will also help to protect other people from contracting COVID-19, especially individuals at high risk. The more people we vaccinate, the faster we will be able to control the spread of COVID-19 and the faster we can return to things becoming more normal. The current vaccine has been tested and proven to be safe and effective. As with all vaccines, there is the potential for side effects including tenderness at the injection site, fatigue, fever and headache. These symptoms, if they occur, rarely last more than 2-3 days. More serious side effects are rare but may occur. As a result, everyone receiving the vaccine will be monitored for 15-30 minutes to make sure that you do not have an allergic reaction immediately following vaccination. Please contact any InclusivCare facility if you have any questions or concerns.

**We are all in this together and InclusivCare is here to meet all your healthcare needs.**

*For more information, please contact our hotline at 1-877-302-4985*