

Ending the Pandemic: How the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy Came to the Rescue

In the fall of 2020, the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy took action to improve vaccination rates against influenza, collaborating with the School of Nursing and other entities on campus to hold 25 vaccination clinics and vaccinate nearly 3,000 individuals against influenza. As vaccines against COVID-19 became available, the School of Pharmacy collaborated with the School of Nursing, as well as the School of Medicine and Employee Health, to bring these vaccines to our employees. From December of 2020 through February of 2021, over 20,000 vaccinations were provided at 43 vaccine clinics to students and employees of Loma Linda University Health. As the vaccine became available to the general public, schools across campus collaborated to host a mass vaccination clinic and provided nearly 80,000 vaccinations to community members from January to May of 2021. Simultaneously, mobile vaccine clinics focused on providing vaccines to Black and Latino/LatinX communities. These mobile vaccine clinics had extremely high return rates (93%) and targeted underserved communities. Similarly, clinics at the institution's federally qualified health center provided over 2,200 vaccinations for community members with a similarly high return rate (93%) for their second dose. The vaccination efforts of the Loma Linda University School of Pharmacy, in collaboration with other schools and offices across campus, provided significant contributions to the institution and the community.

Contact: Caroline M. Sierra, DPharm, csierra@llu.edu