



# Community Collaboration & Covid Response

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# The Cornell Farmworker Program

Addressing the needs of farmworkers and their families through research, education and extension.



**Mission:** The Cornell Farmworker Program is dedicated to improving the living and working conditions of farmworkers and their families. We also seek recognition for farmworkers' contributions to society and their acceptance and full participation in local communities.

**Vision:** The CFP envisions a state and nation in which farmworkers receive equal protection under law, earn a living wage, live in comfortable housing, are safe and healthy, receive due respect as workers and as individuals, and participate fully in their communities.

# SUPPORT PROVIDED

Since our program responds to farmworker identified priorities, these change over time but common areas of support include:

- Immigration & Legal Support
  - Access to pro-bono immigration and family law attorneys
  - Know your rights workshops
  - Support for completing emergency planning documents including: temporary guardianship, power of attorney, parent permission to travel and health care proxy.
- Improving Workplace Communication
  - Engages farmworkers in problem solving session with employers and co-workers
- Offer personalized English as a second language classes and tutoring sessions



# FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY HEALTH



**Mission:** Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH) strives to ensure high quality, comprehensive healthcare in the communities we serve with an emphasis on underserved and special populations.

**Vision:** To be the provider of choice for comprehensive healthcare and an advocate for services that improve the quality of life for diverse and underserved populations.

# FINGER LAKES COMMUNITY HEALTH

## Who we are

- FQHC (9 sites)
- Agricultural Program-direct services (Serving 22 counties)
- Migrant Voucher Program (Serving 42 counties)
- Percent of patients whose native language is something other than English: 64%



## Services provided

- Medical
- Dental
- Nutrition
- Telehealth
- Behavioral Health
- Care Management
- Family Planning/Reproductive Health
- Insurance Enrollment
- Transportation
- Patient Navigation/Interpretation



# THE MODERN MEDICAL TEAM



WASSERMAN  
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# Covid-19 & The Farmworker Community

## Challenges

- Lack of information/misinformation
- Limited access to farmworkers
- Fear of Government agencies
- Fear of dismissal due to Inability to work
- Community ostracism associating the virus with immigrants
- Social, geographic and linguistic isolation
- State guidance for farm safety without additional; funding



## Collaboration to address barriers

While the pandemic offered a wide range of challenges, the combined expertise of FLCH and The Cornell Farmworker Program, allowed for new conversations and collaborations to address barriers and find creative solutions to support farmworkers



# Engagement Efforts

## Information sharing

- Phone calls providing direct education, Q and A with trusted medical providers
- FAQ documents for patients on Covid-symptoms, how and when to contact their providers
- Short videos on COVID in Spanish, mam and other indigenous languages shared via text messages and WhatsApp
- Bilingual graphics on mask use and laundering included with free masks
- Cornell & FLCH collaborated on flyers providing guidance and resources
- Distributions of CDC printed information in relevant languages
- All information was distributed electronically and physically to farms and community members

### How to Wear and Wash Your Mask Cómo Usar y Lavar su Mascarilla



Cornell Farmworker Program | The Cornell Farmworker Program and Finger Lakes Community Health (the clinic) | Finger Lakes Community Health

invite farmers, service providers, and community members to the following [English webinar](#)

**"COVID-19: What we now know, reopening safely, and guidance for social situations"**

Jose Canario, M.D., Medical Director of Finger Lakes Community Health will give an update of COVID-19 research, discuss safe ways to go out under "reopening", and appropriate behavior during social settings. The webinar will be moderated by Mary Jo Dudley, Director of the Cornell Farmworker Program

Tuesday, July 28, 2020  
4PM-5 PM (ET)

You must register first to RSVP for the webinar. You will then receive instructions on how to connect to the webinar on the 28<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call/text 607-224-8821 [Click here to register online.](#)





# Engagement Efforts

## ➤ Community Collaboration

- FLCH & Cornell Farmworker Program continued to organize with community partners to pull together resources for patients and clients
  - Distribution of food pantry list & Food Delivery
  - Development of Flyers and education brochures
  - Co-hosted webinars for farmworkers
  - Established mechanisms for farmworkers to request masks, food and other supports through text messaging system
  - Established weekly phone calls with workers
  - Co-hosted webinar for farm owners and service providers with Public Health Departments
    - Providing ability for farm owners to request mass testing events for their teams
    - Set up weekly calls to develop county testing plan for agricultural workers
    - Testing and contact tracing assistance (warm handoff)
    - Interpretation Services
  - State sponsored testing initiative for the farmworker community with the Department of Health



# Meeting The Need

➤ Community Health Workers continued to engage with the farmworker community as much as possible in a time where they became more isolated.

- ✓ Case Management
- ✓ Outreach
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Interpretation
- ✓ Food Delivery
- ✓ Distribution of PPE -Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer
- Many mask donations from community partners were obtained-these were distributed to community and agricultural workers along with gloves and hand sanitizer

**\*\*Community Health Workers were crucial in the initial phase of our Covid response as they were our only link to farmworker/agricultural workers who were afraid and at times not allowed to leave the farm**



# What Comes Next?

- Expanded Testing
  - Asymptomatic Testing
  - Symptomatic Testing
  - Rapid Testing
- Vaccination
  - Education...Education...Education
    - ❑ Printed material
    - ❑ Webinars
    - ❑ Outreach
  - Registration
  - Group and Individual Testing Events
  - Follow up for 2<sup>nd</sup> round
- Continued support
  - Case management and social supports
  - Medical and other clinical services



Get vaccinated.



Wear a mask.



Stay 6 feet from others,  
and avoid crowds.



Wash  
hands often.



**Questions?**

# Contact Information

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