

# COVID-19 COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



## Community Call resources and questions 3/29/2021

### Resources shared during the call:

#### Surveys:

##### PANO Survey

- If you filled out any unemployment claims on behalf of your nonprofit, please fill out [this 10-question survey from PANO](#) to help them advocate for COVID relief related to unemployment.

##### COVID-10 Impact Survey

- United Way of Pennsylvania is conducting a survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on families across the state. Survey links:
  - [bit.ly/UWPsurvey](https://bit.ly/UWPsurvey)
  - [bit.ly/UWPEncuesta](https://bit.ly/UWPEncuesta) (Spanish)

#### COVID-19:

St. Luke's COVID-19 resources: [www.slhn.org/covid-19](http://www.slhn.org/covid-19)

St. Luke's Volunteer Services needs YOUR help! We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in our COVID vaccine clinics as well as our hospital lobbies to assist with wayfinding and other support. Please call 484-526-4600 to request our application package!

#### LVHN COVID-19 resources:

Information for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers:

[news.lvhn.org/should-you-get-the-covid-19-vaccine-if-youre-pregnant-or-breastfeeding/](https://news.lvhn.org/should-you-get-the-covid-19-vaccine-if-youre-pregnant-or-breastfeeding/)

Spanish: [www.lvhn.org/preguntas-frecuentes-la-vacuna-contr-la-covid-19](https://www.lvhn.org/preguntas-frecuentes-la-vacuna-contr-la-covid-19)

LVHN vaccine information: [www.LVHN.org/vaccines](https://www.LVHN.org/vaccines)

Spanish: [www.lvhn.org/treatments/vacunas-contr-covid-19](https://www.lvhn.org/treatments/vacunas-contr-covid-19)

Hispanic Center Free COVID-19 Vaccines: [Click to view flyer](#)

## Free Vaccine Transportation for Seniors

LANTA has partnership agreements with both Lehigh and Northampton Counties to provide free door to door service for seniors 65 and above to travel to and from COVID 19 vaccination appointments.

How the partnership works is that seniors can travel under the LANtaVan Shared Ride for Seniors program, which is a door-to-door paratransit van service which is already in place. Normally, seniors must pay a fare to ride the Shared Ride service. Both Lehigh and Northampton Counties have agreed to pay that fare for seniors who are using Shared Ride to get back and forth to a vaccine appointment. This will remove the barrier of having to pay the fare.

What seniors should know:

- If you are already registered for the Shared Ride service with LANTA, you just need to call the normal reservation line [888-253-8333](tel:888-253-8333) and make a reservation for their trip. When you do, you should let the reservation agent know that you are riding to/from a vaccine appointment so LANTA can code it as fare free.
- If you are not currently registered for Shared Ride service, you should call [888-253-8333](tel:888-253-8333) or go to [lantabus.com](http://lantabus.com) to find out how to get registered.
- When scheduling your vaccine appointment, you should make an appointment at one of the physical locations in Lehigh or Northampton Counties (i.e., medical clinics, medical office, pharmacy) and NOT one of the drive through locations. LANTA vans will not go through a drive through location.
- Once registered for the service and when you have a vaccine appointment, you can call up to 14 days in advance of their appointment to set up your ride, and must call no later than 4:30 PM the day prior to your appointment. The reservation line is [888-253-8333](tel:888-253-8333) and is open **8:00 AM – 4:30 PM** seven days a week.

Updates from Rep. Susan Wild's office:

Health Care Provisions in the American Rescue Plan

[www.nashp.org/the-2021-american-rescue-plan-acts-major-health-care-provisions/](http://www.nashp.org/the-2021-american-rescue-plan-acts-major-health-care-provisions/)

Clarity around PA's Rental Assistance

[wild.house.gov/media/press-releases/wild-pa-democrats-call-clarity-about-rental-assistance](http://wild.house.gov/media/press-releases/wild-pa-democrats-call-clarity-about-rental-assistance)

More info about how private health insurance will now be more affordable

[www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/how-the-american-rescue-plan-will-improve-affordability-of-private-health-coverage/](http://www.kff.org/health-reform/issue-brief/how-the-american-rescue-plan-will-improve-affordability-of-private-health-coverage/)

Contact about the food access issue surrounding the closing of Aharts's in south Bethlehem: [annaafflecksmith@gmail.com](mailto:annaafflecksmith@gmail.com)

CDC eviction moratorium extended to June 30

### Questions asked during the call:

Why are COVID numbers going up again?

- Many people are feeling the “COVID fatigue” and some people feel like the vaccine being out there gives them protection even if not immunized. Lax masking and risky behaviors around Spring Break are big contributors. The uptick is throughout the whole North East PA region, not just LV.

How do we address the personnel at long-term care facilities and hospitals who do not want and will not take the vaccine?

- Difficult for employers to mandate a vaccine that is under Emergency Use through FDA, probably would need full FDA approval before it is mandated, similar to flu vaccine.

What can the nonprofit community do to help get out marginalized populations vaccinated? Especially those without cars, computers, etc.?

- Refer people to the information from St. Luke’s and LVHN, connect them to clinics and other resources the health networks are offering, and educate them on the importance of continually masking, hand hygiene, and social distancing.

Have we tapped into the NAACP and area faith-based orgs/churches to connect with the African-American community or other underserved but highly impacted communities?

- Yes. Working with several community partners to confirm locations that will be accessible to underserved communities.

Any movement on expanding J&J access beyond teachers?

- It would be so, so helpful to have that open to anyone, but the State is the one who has to make the decision to open up. Health Networks have plans to best implement the J&J once it is available to everyone.

What are the identified barriers from 2020 for Susan Wild’s petition to the governor for wider rental assistance in 2021?

- Main barrier was paperwork was very complicated. Need for robust checks to prevent fraud but to have it be accessible.

Are the ACA plans reduced prices permanent?

- All ACA plans for at least 2 years (possibility for extension) are capped at 8.5% of income

Kellyn Foundation leading a 400K food access grant for the region – who to contact to help or advocate for their community’s involvement?

- Sue Dalandan ([sdalandan@lvfpc.org](mailto:sdalandan@lvfpc.org)), Eric Ruth ([eric@kellyn.org](mailto:eric@kellyn.org)), anyone on the steering team at [www.lvfpc.org](http://www.lvfpc.org)