

National League for Nursing Massive COVID-19 Vaccinations Survey

Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an astounding impact on the lives of individuals, families, and communities. As of February 2021, there were over 27 million cases and close to 493,000 deaths. We are faced with an emergency that calls for immediate action. Vaccines have been developed but the issue is ensuring access and having appropriate individuals available for the massive administration of the vaccines. NLN developed this survey to determine what schools of nursing are doing in communities to engage in vaccine administration. Also, the purpose of the survey was to provide information to federal agencies and policymakers engaged in mobilizing communities for a massive allocation of COVID-19 vaccines.

NLN invited deans and directors of member schools to participate in a brief survey about the student involvement in massive COVID-19 vaccinations. Additionally, the survey collected comments from the deans and directors about the massive distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations. The survey was conducted from January 16, 2021, to February 8, 2021. A total of 955 deans and directors from schools were invited to complete the survey, 153 schools responded to the survey online (response rate of 16 percent). The results were generated using Survey Gizmo software where the thematic analysis was also conducted on the text responses. This report has been prepared using data from NLN member schools that completed the survey.

Key Findings

Students and Faculty

- A total of 43,407 enrolled nursing students was reported by 153 schools.
- A total of 4,801 faculty was reported by 149 schools.
- Of the 4,801 faculty, 60 percent (2,898) were available to supervise students administering vaccines in the community.

Vaccination

- Over half of the schools (55.7 percent) reported their students are not currently administering COVID-19 vaccines in the community.
- A total number of 6,664 students in various schools are administering the COVID-19 vaccines.

- Most schools (67.4 percent) reported that junior or senior students are participating in administering COVID-19 vaccinations, while 28.8 percent of schools reported that only seniors are administering COVID-19 and only 3.8 percent reported only juniors administering the vaccines.
- Over half (51.1%) of the schools reported that administering COVID-19 vaccines in the community is associated with a course. Administration of COVID-19 vaccines are mainly associated with the community health course as reported by 57 percent of the schools, seconded by medical/surgical course (26 percent), and public health (11 percent).
- Most schools (63.2 percent) indicated that students receive credit for community services for administering COVID-19 vaccines.
- 65 percent of schools reported that students administering COVID-19 vaccines in the community have received the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 73 percent of schools indicated that faculty providing supervision of students' administration of COVID-19 vaccines received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Students and Faculty

- Most schools (40 percent) administering the vaccines are in rural areas compared to 32 percent of schools administering vaccines in urban areas, and 28 percent in both rural and urban areas.

Students and Faculty

- The survey revealed that 34.6 percent of schools are in partnership with the public health department and 33.8 percent are partnering with a local hospital in administering COVID-19 vaccinations.
- About 21.1 percent of schools are partnering with community health centers and clinics, respectively while 11.5 percent of schools are partnering with other agencies.

Conclusion

The survey indicates that most schools have students administer the COVID-19 vaccines primarily in rural areas. It is quite encouraging to note from the survey that about 60 percent of faculty in the reporting schools are available to supervise students administering vaccines. The association of the students' administration in vaccinations with courses such as Community health is very vital to the

students' academic experience while serving the community. The provision of giving academic credit to students involved in administering vaccines is ideal for the sustainability of similar interventions that bridge the gap between academia and the community.

According to one respondent's comment in the survey, students receiving the vaccine is part of their vaccine administration experience, hence a perfect plan for the nursing schools. The involvement of the students and faculty indicates that nursing schools are great models to swiftly assist in the administration of the massive COVID-19 vaccinations in communities as well as preparation if other pandemics occur.

Most of nursing schools who participated in the survey reported being in partnership with the public health department as well as local hospitals in administering COVID-19 vaccinations. These partnerships are excellent logistical approaches to scaling up mass vaccinations in communities.