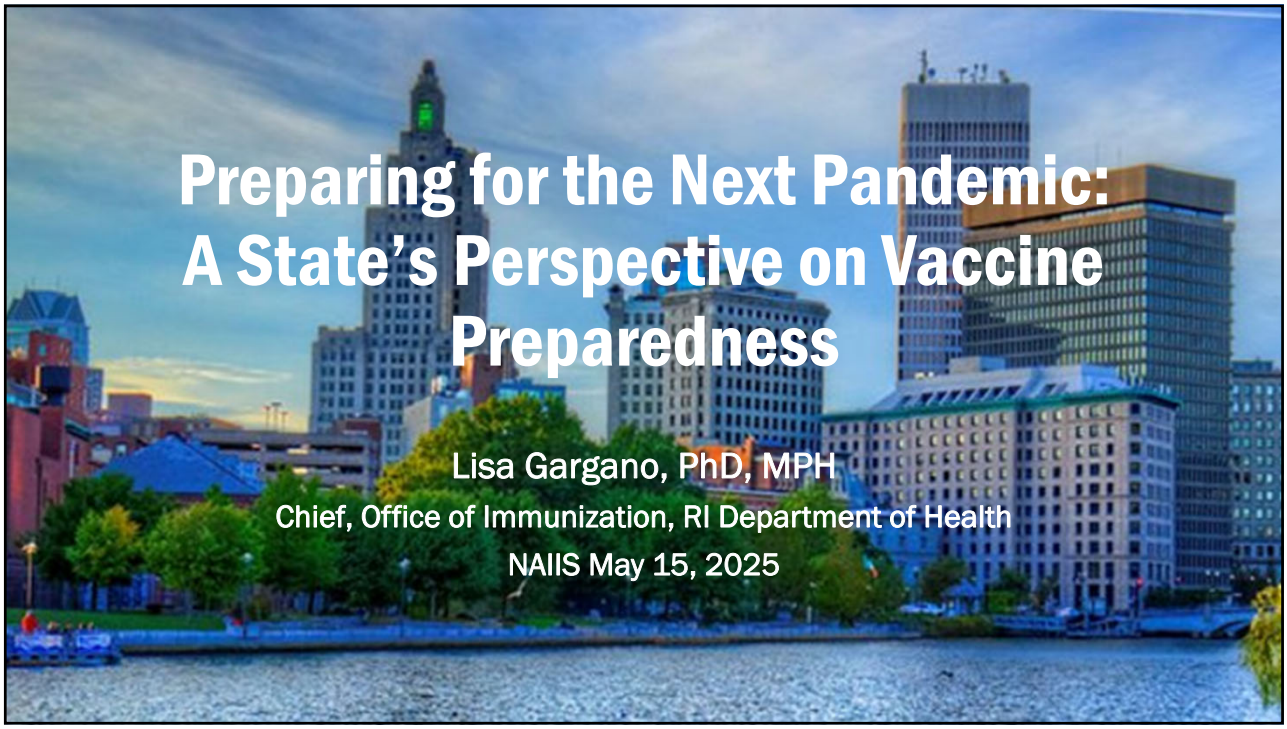

Importance of Vaccine Preparedness

- **Purpose:** Emphasize the need for robust state-level preparedness, specifically around vaccines, to minimize the impact of future pandemics.
- **Context:** Vaccines were a critical tool in managing the COVID-19 and mpox pandemics, while also presenting challenges (distribution, equity, public hesitancy).
- **Objective:** This presentation focuses on what could be doing right now to strengthen their vaccine distribution infrastructure, research capabilities, and public health communication systems.

Lessons Learned from COVID-19 & Mpox Vaccine Responses

- **Vaccine Distribution Challenges:**
  - Cold chain storage issues for some vaccines (e.g., Pfizer, Moderna).
  - Supply chain disruptions and the global competition for doses.
  - Coordination between federal, state, and local governments for distribution.
  - Different ordering system
- **Data and Technology Challenges:**
  - Universal registration system
  - Vaccine availability locations – Vaccines.gov did not meet the need – community clinics were one and done
  - Required reporting
- **Public Hesitancy and Misinformation:**
  - Misinformation around vaccine safety and efficacy.
  - Addressing distrust, particularly in vulnerable or marginalized communities.
  - Importance of clear and transparent communication.

Current Challenges States Face in Pandemic Preparedness

- **Vaccine Distribution:** Slow or uneven vaccine rollout during the COVID-19 pandemic revealed gaps in distribution infrastructure.
- **Equity Issues:** Vulnerable populations, rural areas, and underserved communities were disproportionately impacted by delayed vaccine access.
- **Public Confidence:** Vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and lack of trust in government bodies hindered mass adoption.

Key Areas of Vaccine Preparedness for States

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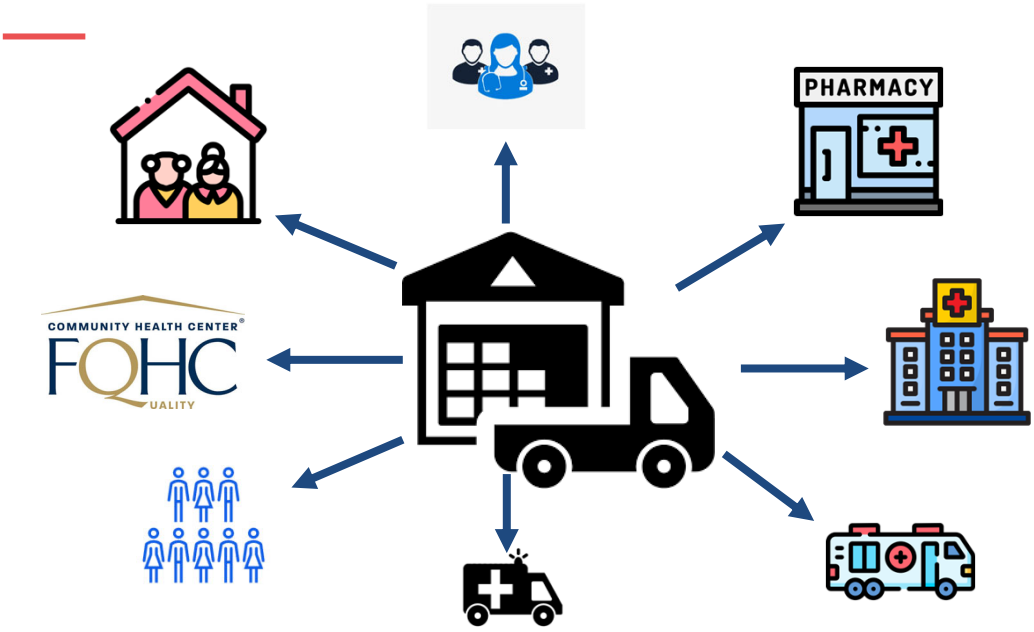
Strengthening Vaccine Distribution Infrastructure

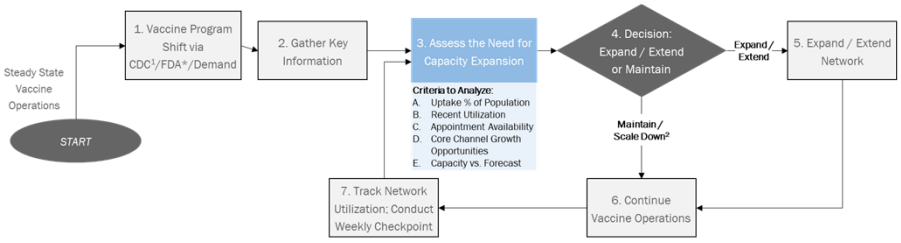
- **Investment in Cold Chain Storage:**
  - **What States Can Do:** Invest in infrastructure for storing vaccines that require cold temperatures (e.g., mRNA vaccines), such as ultra-low temperature freezers in public health centers, hospitals, and mobile vaccination units.
- **Enhance Delivery Networks:**
  - **What States Can Do:** Develop and test systems for distributing vaccines to remote and underserved areas, including partnerships with pharmacies, community health centers, and mobile vaccination clinics.
    - Hub and Spoke Model
    - Scenario planning/Playbook
- **Improve Supply Chain Management:**
  - **What States Can Do:** Strengthening partnerships with suppliers to ensure a steady supply of syringes, vials, and other necessary materials.
    - Pre-negotiated contracts with manufacturers
    - Implementing inventory management systems to track vaccine stocks and prevent shortages.

Hub and Spoke Model of Redistribution



7

Scenario Planning – Scale Up/Surge



Section I:

Assessment & Decision

Making the assessment & decision to temporarily expand the vaccination network

There are 3 sections that facilitate an expansion assessment & decision outlined in Scale-up Playbook:

I. Establishing a baseline capacity
II. Outlining the process to decide if the baseline is enough to meet demand
III. Selecting the procurement option and vendor to support the expansion

There are 3 representative scenarios outlined to walk through processes, decision criteria and the selection of expansion options:

I. COVID-19 annual boosters are recommended
II. The <5-year-old population becomes eligible for COVID-19 vaccination
III. A new pandemic resemblant of COVID-19 occurs and requires a new vaccine

Section II:

Execution

Guidelines & best practices in executing day-to-day operations during a surge

Program Management
I. Policy & Governance
II. Ambient Impacts
III. Reporting

Network Management
I. Healthcare Systems
II. Pharmacies
III. PCPs & Other SSVs
IV. Mass-Vaccination Sites
V. Municipalities
VI. Mobile / Pop-Up Clinics

Supply Chain Management
I. Demand Forecasting
II. Inventory Management
III. Logistics
IV. Ancillary Supplies

Cross Functional Support
I. IT
II. Communications
III. Customer Service
IV. Budgeting
V. Procurement

Depending on the State's desired response structure in a Scale Up/Surge scenario, the various Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) may need to be engaged [Logistics ESF, Data Analytics ESF, Public Affairs ESF, other components of RIDOH ESF (incl. Epi-Ops for shared customer experience services)]

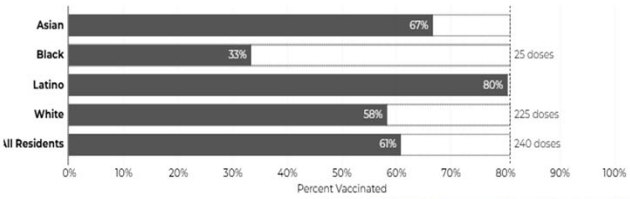
8

Planning for Vaccine Equity

- **Identify Vulnerable Populations:**
  - **What States Can Do:** Use demographic and geographic data to identify populations that may face barriers to accessing vaccines, such as those in rural areas, racial/ethnic minorities, or those with disabilities.
    - Set up processes to track vaccination rates, demographics, and coverage (in real time).
- **Targeted Vaccine Distribution:**
  - **What States Can Do:** Develop targeted outreach and distribution programs to ensure that underserved and vulnerable populations receive vaccines as quickly as possible.
    - Non-traditional sites and mobile units
    - Using data analytics to identify gaps and ensure that all groups are being reached effectively

Project Signal - Closing the Gap in COVID-19 Vaccination

What communities had the largest vaccine gaps?



In Warren, the largest gap was among Black residents. Only **33% of Warren residents** were vaccinated compared to 81% statewide. Approximately **25 more Black residents** needed to receive a dose to close this gap.

How do we reach people who need the annual vaccine?

People with fewer resources have a harder time getting vaccinated.

- Without cars, people might have trouble traveling to certain vaccination sites.
- Without health insurance, people might have trouble paying for healthcare.
- Without internet access, people might have trouble making appointments online.
- People who speak limited English might have trouble understanding materials in English.

Considerations	Community	State
No Vehicle Available	22%	9%
No Health Insurance	8%	4%
No Home Internet	26%	11%
Limited English	13%	5%

https://signal-ri.org/dataset/vaccine-gap?date=2022-06-15&town=All+of+Rhode+Island&stat=total&zoom=false&cluster=-1

Investing in Workforce Training

- Upskill Healthcare Workers:
  - **What States Can Do:** Provide ongoing training for healthcare professionals on the latest vaccine technologies, distribution methods, and crisis response protocols, including monitoring for adverse reactions.
    - Develop Just In Time (JIT) trainings
- Expand Vaccine Administration Capacity:
  - **What States Can Do:** Develop programs to train non-medical personnel (e.g., dentists, volunteers) to administer vaccines in emergencies.
- Develop Staff Skills Assessment:
  - **What States Can Do:** Conduct onboarding and annual surveys of staff of skills that may be outside their current job role
    - Determine level of retraining needed, if activated

Strengthening Public Health Communication & Vaccine Confidence

- Address Vaccine Hesitancy:
  - **What States Can Do**: Develop proactive communication strategies to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation before a crisis. This can include campaigns focused on vaccine safety, efficacy, and the importance of vaccination.
    - Need to be quick to respond to misinformation on social media
- Engage Trusted Community Leaders:
  - **What States Can Do**: Partner with local healthcare professionals, community leaders, and trusted figures to communicate the importance of vaccines in an accessible and culturally sensitive manner.
    - Providing platforms for experts to engage with the public, especially in local communities.

"Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair" – Dhar Mann

Key Takeaways

- **Investment in Infrastructure:**
  - States must invest in vaccine-related infrastructure, including cold storage, technology, and healthcare workforce training.
- **Equity is Paramount:**
  - Ensuring vaccines reach all communities is essential for controlling a future pandemic.
- **Ongoing Preparedness:**
  - Pandemic preparedness isn't just a one-time effort—states should continuously improve and adapt systems based on lessons learned.

Thank you!

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