

## Summit National Award Winner

### "Immunization Neighborhood" Champion Award

- Recipient: **Krista D. Capehart, PharmD**



## The WV Way – COVID-19 Vaccines and our Immunization Neighborhood

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## WV One Big Neighborhood

- ~ 1.8 million people; ~370,000 are 65+; another ~370,000 are 50-64 years
- Ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in rate of Diabetes, 3<sup>rd</sup> in cancer, 4<sup>th</sup> in Lung disease, 10<sup>th</sup> in heart disease and 12<sup>th</sup> in stroke
- WV is all about community and we recognized we were very vulnerable to COVID-19 and a novel vaccination strategy was vital
- Patients in Long term care facilities made up 7% of our cases but 70% of our deaths from COVID-19



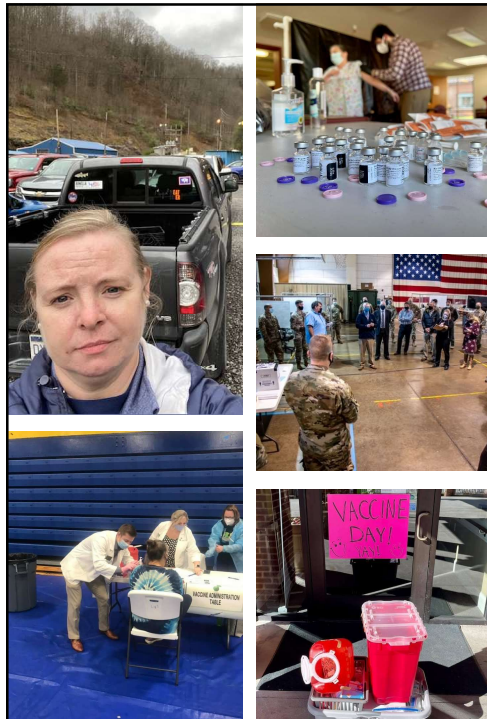
## WV Joint Interagency Task Force for COVID-19

- Created by Governor Jim Justice with a representative from each stakeholder of the immunization “community”
- As the pharmacist, my role was to **collaborate** and connect all groups and serve as the medication expert
- WV elected to not utilize the Federal Pharmacy Program for our Long term care programs and establish our own WV Program



## The WV Way

- Created a network open to all pharmacies linking the local pharmacy with the long-term care facility.
- Pharmacists, pharmacy staff, student pharmacists, facility nurses **collaborated** together the 2 weeks before Christmas 2020 and WV had completed ALL of our LTCF and assisted living facilities in WV in 14 days!
- Two months into 2021, deaths in nursing homes had decreased 85%.
- **Communication** amongst all stakeholders was VITAL.
- We took this network and **collaborated** with all community stakeholders and repeated this model throughout the state with a variety of populations.



## So many to thank!

- Joint Interagency Task Force
- WV Health Care Association
- WV Pharmacy Association and WV Pharmacists!
- Local Health Departments
- Community Health Clinics (FQHCs)
- Hospital staff
- WV Department of Education
- WV Department of Health and Human Resources
- WV National Guard
- WVU School of Pharmacy