



**Prevention in Practice:  
The Power of Adult Vaccination.  
Protecting Adults,  
Strengthening Communities.**

*Presented by:  
Amy Harris, MPA, MS, FAEH  
Chief Implementation Officer  
Deputy Executive Director  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst*

**NAIIS Summit 2026**


**NYC  
HEALTH+  
HOSPITALS** | Elmhurst

**Who are we?**

- NYC Health + Hospitals (NYC H+H) is the largest public healthcare system in the United States
- We are New York City's safety net system, providing healthcare to ALL PATIENTS, regardless of insurance status, income, immigration status, gender identity or any other identity or status
- We are comprised of 11 acute care facilities, 70+ community clinics, 5 skilled nursing facilities and 1 long-term acute care hospital. All of them accredited by regulatory organizations at local, state and federal levels.
- Full continuum of care
- Over 45,000 employees
- Core principle: "Care for all. No exceptions."

**NYC H+H/Elmhurst**

- Where are we located? – The borough of Queens – across the East River from Manhattan and serve an area of over **2.4 million people**
- Specifically, neighborhood of Jackson Heights, Queens, NY
- Google, "What is the most diverse neighborhood in US?"
- With over 200 languages spoken and where the population accounts for the highest number of foreign-born residents in any part of NY, diversity is our greatest asset and our greatest challenge!
- We provide over 700,000 visits per year in our Ambulatory Care Services
- We have 45,000 primary care patients, of which 30,000 are adults



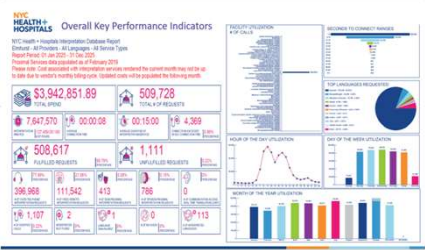
# Elmhurst


CHALLENGES

WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY AND VACCINATED?

- Patients come from countries with limited or no vaccine schedules
- Patients may have low-literacy levels
- Patients may have cultural and religious biases towards vaccines
- Social determinants of health may be significant and numerous especially for food, transportation, education and housing
- We spent \$3.9 million in interpretation and translation services in CY'25

- Partner with local elected officials for community events to – Benefit from their vast network of social media spread and “likes”
- Partner with houses of worship and faith groups to “spread the good word” of vaccine benefits
- Provide nursing staff with **NPSO**: In NYS: **Non-Patient Specific Orders and Protocols** allows RNs, LPNs to vaccinate and run vaccine-only clinics! Patients can come to the clinics for vaccines and do not need to see a provider! Takes the pressure off providers!







# Elmhurst

WHAT WORKED BEST?

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

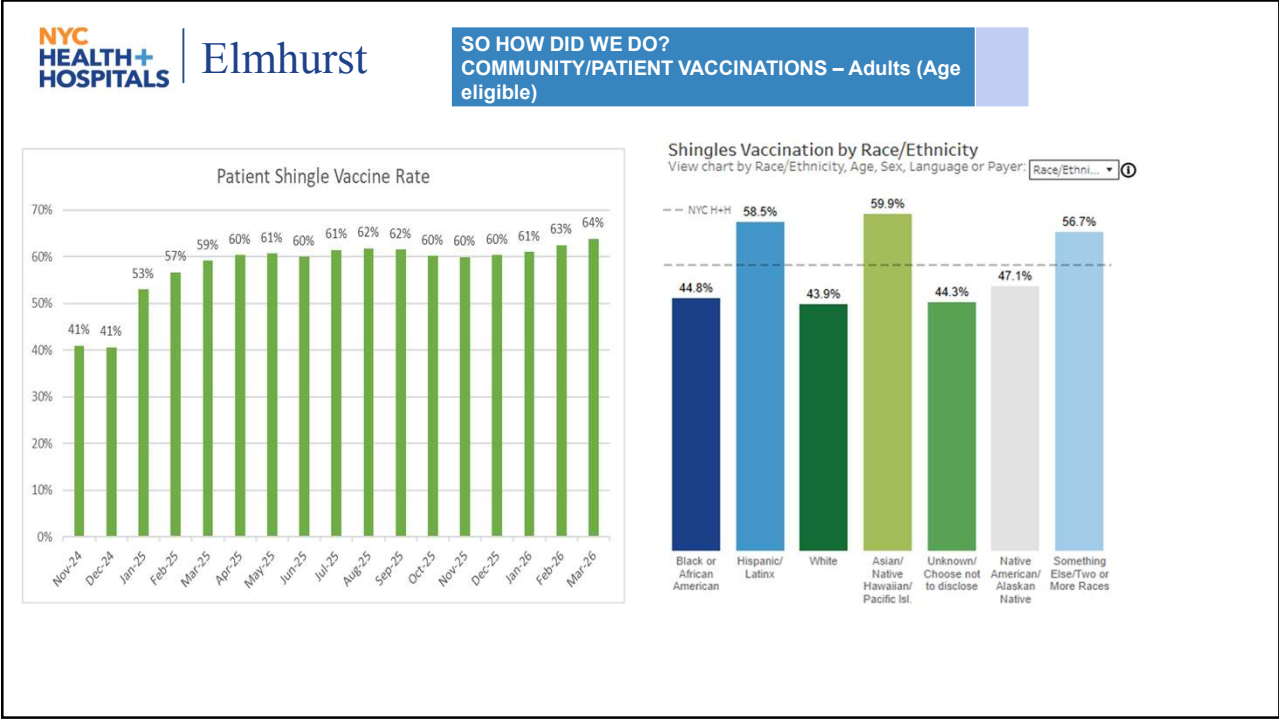
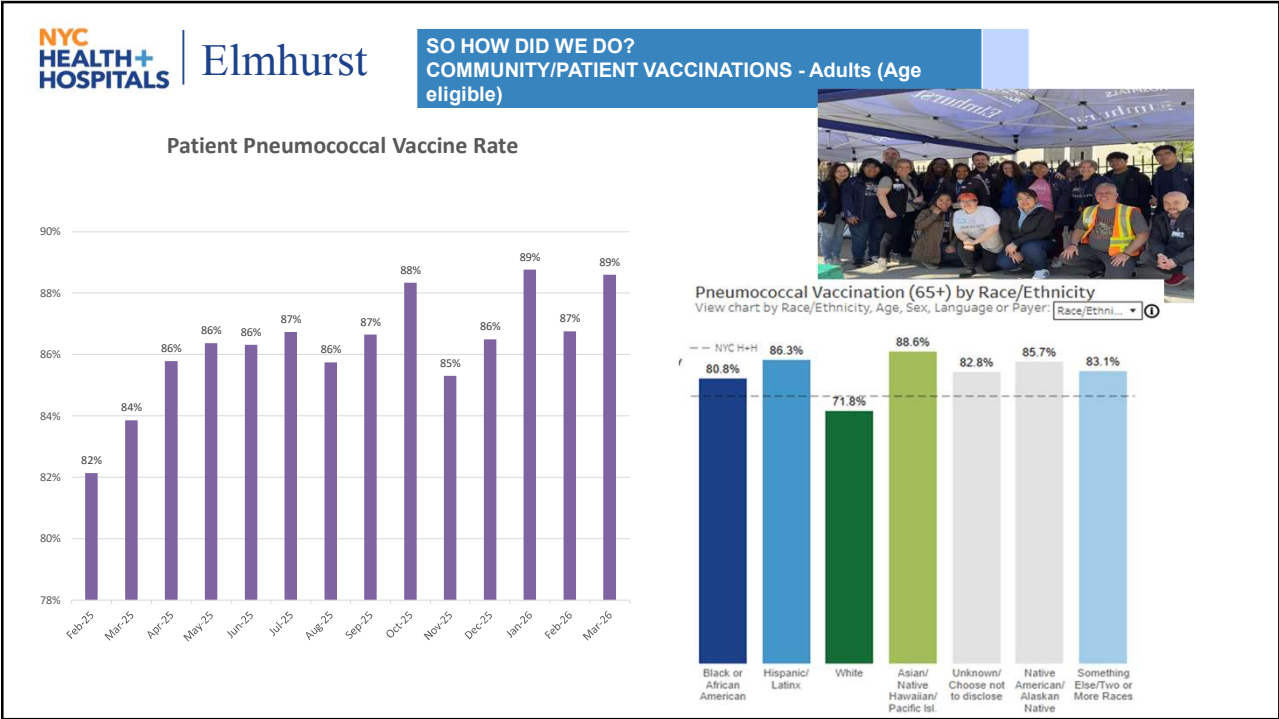
- Participate in community-based health fairs frequently and invite others to your own events!
- Partner with elected officials!
- “Bee” creative!
- GIVE AWAY FREE STUFF!
- Have a **Flu Fairy!**

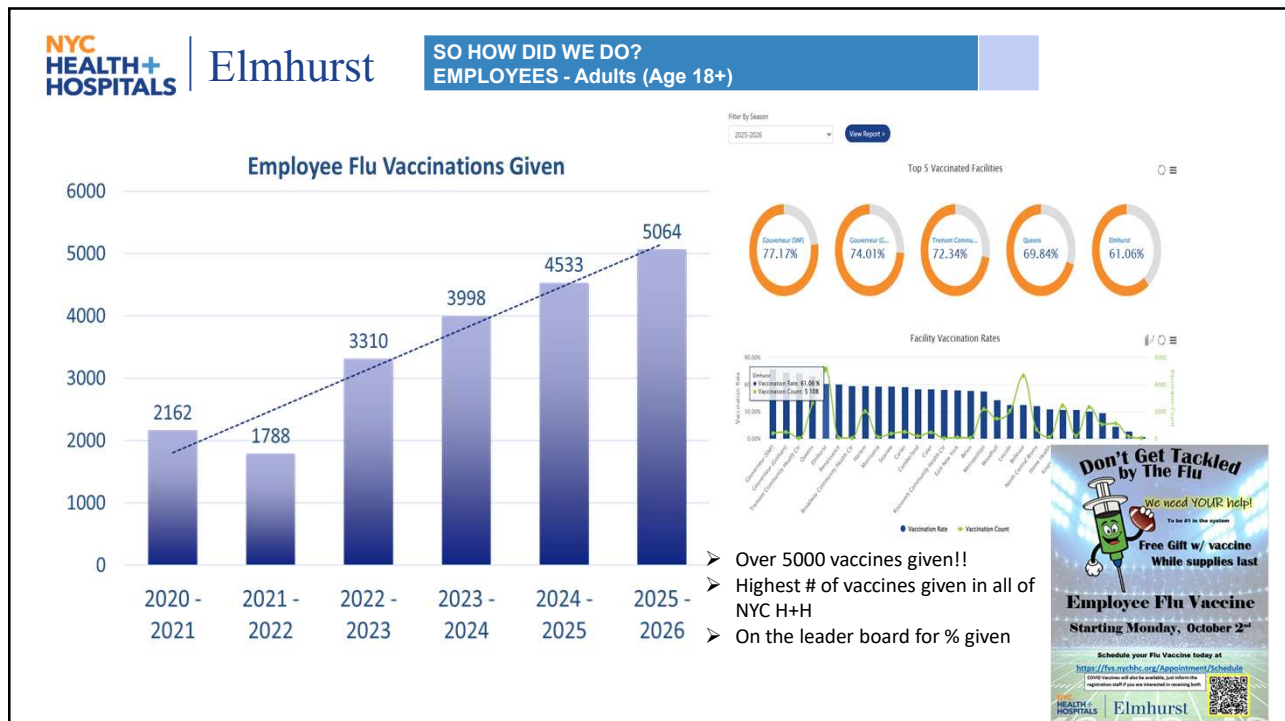
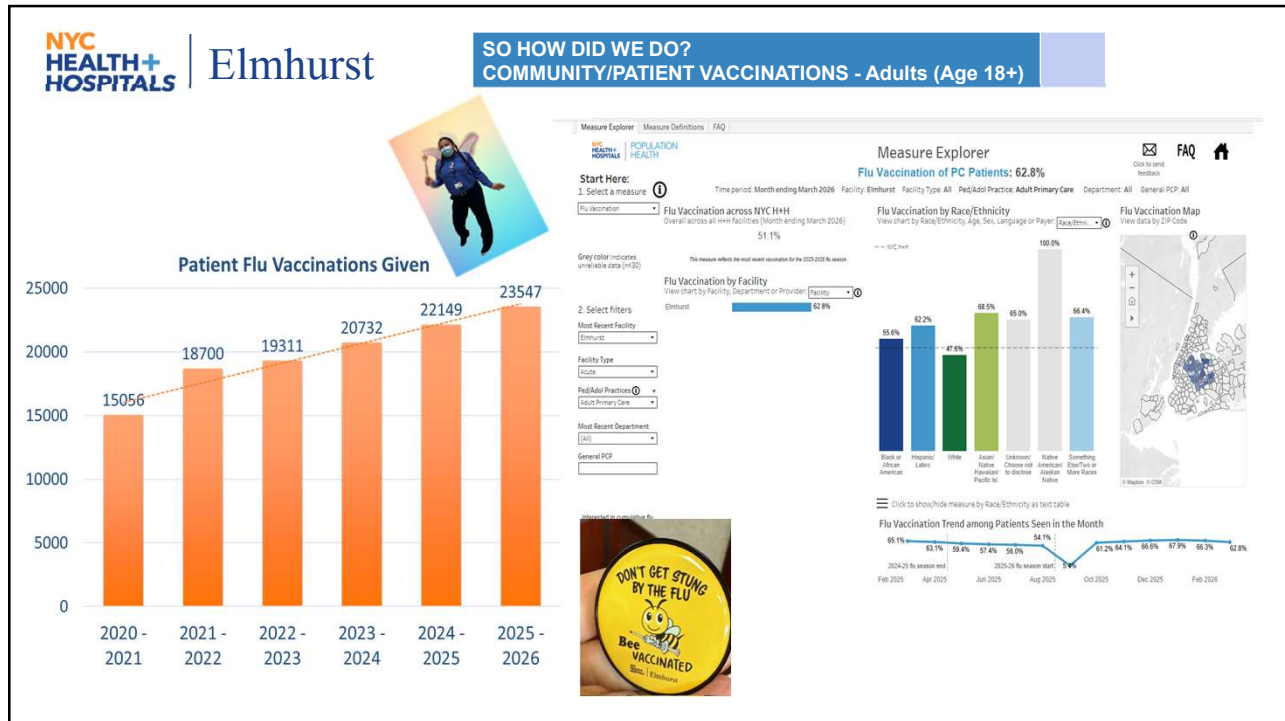
- Review any gaps or disparities
- Pull more data and drill down on areas of opportunity
- Question WHY?
- Spring/Summer plan for Fall 2027
- Create a theme or campaign – be ready for roll-out













## Elmhurst

For more information:

Amy Harris, MPA, MS  
Chief Implementation Officer/Deputy Executive  
Director  
NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst  
79-01 Broadway, Suite D8-11j  
Elmhurst, NY 11373  
[colaluca@nychhc.org](mailto:colaluca@nychhc.org)  
[linkedin.com/in/amy-harris-1003d](https://www.linkedin.com/in/amy-harris-1003d)

718-334-2500 (work)  
917-992-8669 (cell)