



BurghMeetsWorld: Who is the vaccine for?

About

On Monday, April 19th, 2021 BurghMeetsWorld facilitated a series of conversations around the ongoing vaccine distribution in Pittsburgh and around the world. These conversations were centered around the growing inequalities around vaccine distribution which mirrors already existing systemic discrimination against marginalized populations. A focal point of these conversations was acknowledging trends such as vaccine gentrification and vaccine apartheid as well as other barriers and challenges to vaccination. We explored how these barriers play out on the world stage and the parallels between the rest of the world and Pittsburgh.

Impromptu Networking

The event started with three rounds of impromptu networking where participants were placed in breakout rooms of two and asked each other: *“what has been your experience learning about and or receiving the vaccine? What does that experience mean to you?”*

Following the impromptu networking, participants were asked to reflect on their various conversations with each other and answer the question:

[What stood out to you during your impromptu networking?](#)

Fishbowl Conversation

The next segment was a more intimate conversation with our speakers and partners. Through a series of questions, we engaged our partners in conversation on *“who is the vaccine for?”* They responded based on reflections of the various work they have been doing in vaccine education and distribution.

- Ben Gutschow - Casa San Jose
- Dr. Maya Ragavan - UPMC

The Global SWITCHBOARD

- Yesmina Salib - JFCS
- Miracle Jones - 1hood
- Aurora Ortiz - Allegheny Health Network Center for Inclusion Health

Butterfly Catchers

The fishbowl conversation was followed by small group discussions to reflect on the conversations with our partners and to think through ways of instituting concrete actions. These conversations were prompted by questions on “*What? So what? What else? Now What?*”

The notes can be found in our [Butterfly Catchers](#).

15% Solution

To conclude, we challenged participants to think about ways through which small changes in their everyday lives could illicit small yet gradual changes to bend the arches of vaccine distribution towards equity and justice. Most of the participants shared their 15% solutions verbally but a few were written and captured [here](#).

Chatterfall

What stood out to you during the impromptu networking?

- It is very interesting how everyone has viewed the vaccine distribution differently and received the information differently
- Someone had made a great point about the importance of community outreach in spreading info about the vaccine
- Thinking of others first when getting vaccinated
- It was easier to schedule an appointment once there was supply
- Similar experiences of being surprised at having the chance to be vaccinated
- How much misinformation is out there
- That lots of families all got different ones
- People had different side effects from same vaccine
- We are navigate incomplete truths
- I love that everyone that I spoke to was pretty receptive to getting the vaccine!
- How difficult it was for some people to schedule a vaccine, especially at the beginning
- Process about learning about the vaccines needs to be less stressful!
- How much of a difference the world from a year ago (getting covid tests then vs now)

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15% Solution

What's one thing that you will start doing, stop doing, or experimenting with in the next day or two?

- Normalizing interpretation for languages other than English
- Find ways to spread information that doesn't require a person to be good with technology!!