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As local concern grows about Delta variant, local organizations launch campaign to boost vaccine confidence

Multimedia effort debuts this week

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Causewave Community Partners, Common Ground Health and the Finger Lakes Vaccine Hub and Task Force partnered with local marketing firm Truth Collective to develop a campaign to increase vaccination rates and vaccine confidence in the Finger Lakes region. The new media campaign, called “You Deserve Answers,” features real people in our region asking real questions about the COVID vaccine and getting answers from local experts.

The campaign uses television, radio, online display and social media advertising to cut through the noise of polarizing viewpoints on the vaccine, and encourages people to visit GetYourAnswers.org to get all their questions answered.

The group collaborated with local health departments, health care providers, and community partners to ensure the campaign dovetails with other community efforts. The campaign was heavily informed by regional listening tours and focus groups that aimed to understand Black, Latinx and rural residents’ concerns about the vaccines.

The campaign was made possible through contributions from the Community Crisis Fund, organized by Rochester Area Community Foundation and United Way, along with a second Community Crisis Response grant from United Way, Common Ground, Truth Collective, and many volunteers.

As COVID-19 cases increase rapidly across New York State, regional data show areas where vaccination rates remain dangerously low, with fewer than 40% of people 12 years and older having received at least one dose in several zip codes in Seneca, Monroe, Wyoming, Yates, and Livingston counties.

The campaign was developed in pursuit of the goal to ensure the equitable, transparent, and efficient immunization of at least 70% of the adult residents in all areas of the Finger Lakes region. The “You Deserve Answers” campaign provides answers to
common questions and concerns about the vaccine, provided by trusted local medical experts.

The campaign site, GetYourAnswers.org, is part of the Finger Lakes COVID-19 Vaccine Hub website, which provides regional vaccination data and information on nearby vaccination sites.

“This campaign is an important addition to all our efforts to share honest, thorough and true information about the COVID-19 vaccines,” said Nancy “Nana” Bennett, Professor of Medicine and Public Health Sciences, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and co-chair of the Finger Lakes Vaccine Task Force. “Everyone does ‘deserve answers’ and we will continue to do our best to provide them. Anything we can do to communicate the effectiveness and safety of these vaccines is a gift to our communities. Increasing everyone’s knowledge to the point that they decide to get vaccinated is the only way we can stop this deadly pandemic.”

“We are grateful to the many community members who shared their concerns about the vaccine,” said Wade S. Norwood, CEO of Common Ground Health and co-chair of the Finger Lakes Vaccine Task Force. “Like many people we heard from, I too had questions about vaccine safety and testing. Getting those concerns answered by experts gave me the confidence I needed to get my shot. I am thrilled that this campaign will help more people get the answers they deserve, so that together, we can stop this pandemic in its tracks.”

“This campaign is a natural follow-up to our work on “Six Feet Saves,” the community outreach campaign that helped save lives in the early stages of the pandemic,” said Todd Butler, Causewave’s President & CEO. “For this effort, we really listened to the community, and we heard loud and clear that the path to vaccine confidence requires straightforward dialogue. When people feel like their questions are respected and answered by experts they can trust, they actually engage in this decision, rather than avoiding it. That’s the core of “You Deserve Answers” – respecting people and getting them the information they need to make their own, informed decision.”

“We live in a world where everyone has opinions they want to share and yet no one seems to want to allow anyone to respond,” said John Roberts, co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer at Truth Collective. “We’re all telling and talking, not listening. Truth is, that doesn’t work. People don’t want to feel manipulated, they want to feel in charge of their choices. This campaign encourages them to do just that.”

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About Causewave Community Partners
Causewave Community Partners is a nonprofit organization that partners with causes and organizations to ignite change in our community. Local businesses and professional volunteers partner with Causewave staff to serve hundreds of nonprofits each year. Causewave was founded in 1950 as The Advertising Council of Rochester. Find out more at causewave.org.
About Common Ground Health
Founded in 1974, Common Ground Health is the health research and planning organization for the nine-county Rochester-Finger Lakes region. We bring together leaders from health care, education, business, government and other sectors to find common ground on health challenges. Using the region’s most comprehensive health data, together we hammer out strategies for better care, smarter spending and healthier people. Learn more about our community tables, our data resources and our initiatives to improve health equity at www.commongroundhealth.org.

About Truth Collective
Truth Collective is one honestly creative company that believes in crafting great brand stories, big business growth ideas and above all, the truths that make an impact. Founded in 2013 with a different vision from other traditional agencies, Truth Collective set out to work in a way that makes sense for brand clients – project-based, with a focus on truthfulness and improving the brand’s bottom line. Because of this, Truth Collective has been incredibly successful, working with clients on creative storytelling and strategy, including well-known brands such as LensCrafters, Unilever, Fannie Mae, Capital One, Luxottica and more. Since its founding date, Truth Collective’s work has been nationally recognized and applauded for its creativity, purpose and overall results. For more information, please visit www.truthcollective.com.

About The Finger Lakes COVID-19 Vaccine Hub
The Finger Lakes COVID-19 Vaccine Hub at the University of Rochester Medical Center, is responsible for the equitable implementation of the NYS Vaccine Administration Plan. The COVID-19 Vaccine Hub ensures widespread, equitable distribution and safe vaccination within the nine-county Finger Lakes region and co-convenes the Health Equity Task Force representing local health care and community partners.