



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2022.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

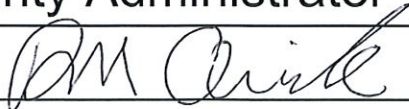
PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Richmond County
Program Title: Covid-19 Testing & Immunization Clinics
Program Category: Health & Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: R. Morgan Quicke
Title: County Administrator
Signature: 



Richmond County Department of Emergency Services

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6/28/2022

Program Overview

With the introduction of the Covid 19 virus into our area in early 2020, Richmond County faced the problem of dealing with a pandemic in a very rural area where the citizens are already underserved as far as medical care is concerned. As the virus spread throughout the community the local physician's offices and hospitals were overwhelmed with symptomatic patients that were truly sick and non-symptomatic patients who wanted to be tested for the virus out of fear of contracting the illness. The problem became two-fold in that the county's emergency services were called upon to care for an increased number of sick patients but just as many patients were afraid of going to the doctor's offices or calling 911 as they did not want to face possible exposure to the virus. In the summer of 2020, Richmond County Department of Emergency Services joined forces with the Three Rivers Health District to assist in offering Covid testing and eventually Covid vaccination clinics to the residents of our county as well as neighboring counties. We were able to implement drive thru clinics so those waiting for their turn could wait in the safety of their own car. The program was very successful and these clinics were used as a template by other counties to implement testing & vaccination clinics in their jurisdictions as well.

The Problem Faced by our Locality



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Richmond County is a rural farming community located within the heart of The Northern Neck. Situated between the Potomac & Rappahannock Rivers on the eastern coast of Virginia, we have a population of approximately 10,000. We have a large number of residents that are elderly and considered on the lower end of the income scale. Our community is greatly underserved by the medical community as we are so rural. There are two small local hospitals, each with a ten-bed emergency room capacity, that serve our county as well as the 5 surrounding counties. When cases of Covid-19 were on the rise in the county, the local physician's offices and the hospitals were inundated with patients. The wait times to be seen by a physician at these facilities were unprecedented. Our emergency services department saw an increase in the number of patients that were Covid positive. Conversely, the number of patient transports for "normal" illness declined. Many patients refused to be transported to the emergency room out of fear of exposure to and contracting Covid 19.

How our Program Fulfilled the Award Criteria

When Covid-19 invaded our community, a need arose to be able to test individual community member on a large scale. Richmond County Department of Emergency Services then joined forces with the Three Rivers Health District to provide Covid testing and eventually immunizations. This service was provided at zero cost to the community. A template was designed using our facility and staff to provide this testing in a drive-thru fashion to prevent any



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further virus exposure concerns. Members of our staff volunteered to receive additional training on testing methods and processes so that they could work the testing site. We developed a seamless process of testing and monitoring the community members that was then used to create similar testing sites throughout the region and state. Once the vaccines became available, the same process was used to immunize the community members. Once again, some of our staff members agreed to receive additional training and made themselves available to work the clinics.

Richmond County was the first in the region to offer large scale testing and vaccinations and as such we delivered these services to many of the first responders from our county as well as many surrounding counties. These clinics were open to all citizens residing within the Three Rivers Health District region. Hundreds of citizens were tested and received immunizations at zero cost to them.

How This Program was Carried Out

Administrative staff from Richmond County and the Three Rivers Health District devised a drive-thru template where the citizen would arrive at the facility and receive paperwork to be filled out in the privacy of their vehicle. The vehicles would then move through a line until they reached the testing area. This was performed at the Emergency Services facility. There is a large bay with both front and rear doors that would allow for a vehicle to enter one side, have the



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occupants receive testing or an immunization and then exit through the opposite side. Upon exiting, the vehicle would then move to a parking area where the occupants would be monitored for any unusual side effects. For the testing process, the results would be reported to the citizen if they tested positive for the virus. The occupants of the vehicle never had to exit the vehicle for any reason thus limiting any further exposure risk.

Financing and Staffing

This project was carried out at virtually no cost. The facility was available at no additional costs above the daily operating cost of the rescue squad. Staffing was handled with Richmond County Department of Emergency Services personnel as well as volunteers from the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps. Supplies for the clinics were provided by Richmond County and the Three Rivers Health District with all costs being recouped through federal grant monies.

Program Results

This program allowed for hundreds of residents of this and the neighboring counties to receive Covid-19 testing and immunizations at zero cost. This provided a safe and convenient way to keep the community safe. Hundreds of tests were provided allowing patients to remain in quarantine if they tested positive or reduce anxiety levels if they were negative. Our clinics



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offered both first and second doses of the Moderna vaccine to over 600 residents equaling over 1200 vaccines administered. Due to the success of our clinics, we were asked to host a smaller clinic, in conjunction with Bon Secour Health System, to offer a Johnson & Johnson clinic that administered another 150 doses of vaccine. Additionally, this process provided a lasting template that can be used for any similar type of community health events such as flu clinics or other types of vaccination events.

Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic brought about a need to be able to keep our community safe in a medically underserved rural community. The medical facilities available were not able to handle the sheer quantity of services needed. The citizens needed to be able to be tested and eventually immunized in a safe and efficient manner. Richmond County, in conjunction with Three Rivers Health District, developed a drive-thru process for offering these services to the citizens of our community as well as neighboring counties. At zero cost to the community, this process proved to be a successful way to provide medical services on a large scale that was used in many neighboring communities and can be used for any similar event in the future.