

COVID-19 Stories: Odam Medical Group, Community Cares Clinic

TRANSCRIPT

[Dr. Robert Larbi-Odam MD, MPH] People say, “Oh, you know what I got uncle, I got a sister, I got X, Y, Z at home, I’m gonna bring them.” The next day, they come in numbers.

[Abena Larbi-Odam] And then we’re looking at the zip codes and realized that all the people that came here are people from the neighborhood.

[Narration] There is a small community focused clinic that has vaccinated tens of thousands of Minnesotans.

[Abena Larbi-Odam] From February to July. We had done 18,000 patients and 32,000 individual shots.

[Dr. Larbi-Odam] Our goal is to be able to deliver health care where the people are. My name is Dr. Robert Larbi-Odam. I’ve been in practice here, in this community, for the last six years.

[Narration] Long before the pandemic, Dr. Odam was connecting with the Minnesota Department of Health and building trust of vaccines in his community.

[Dr. Larbi-Odam] When we started six years ago, we partnered with the Minnesota vaccines for children program and the adult underinsured program. But then we’ve been able to build on that relationship in helping us sign up as a COVID vaccine site.

[Dr. Larbi-Odam speaking in the clinic backroom] And this is Pfizer...

[Dr. Larbi-Odam] Making sure that we have the resources and helping us to go out into the community. Providing us the teams that come along.

[Abena Larbi-Odam] MDH coming in to fund us, helped us to do more. A lot more, without any stress. Because then we know that the team that is going with us, are going to get paid. And the stuff that we need to spread our wings. It will be available.

[Narration] Odam Family Medical Group has worked with local cultural organizations, schools, restaurants and leveraged social media to give every Minnesota information on vaccines and the opportunity to be vaccinated.

[Abena Larbi-Odam] When we go, we always have people that speak their language. Whatever they are doing, we become part of it. They trust us. You go for a picnic, we go for a picnic. So that is what has made our vaccination events very successful. It’s not them against us, it’s us all fighting COVID.

[Narration] One of the keys to their success is explaining vaccines and immunity in ways that patients understand.

[Dr. Larbi-Odam] Being able to convince one family member in a very simple logical explanation within the context of what they can understand, I think has been our greatest achievement.

[Narration] At their core, Odam Medical Group's success comes from a deep commitment to their community and caring for the well-being of their neighbors. Find more stories of community outreach and partnership on our website.

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