

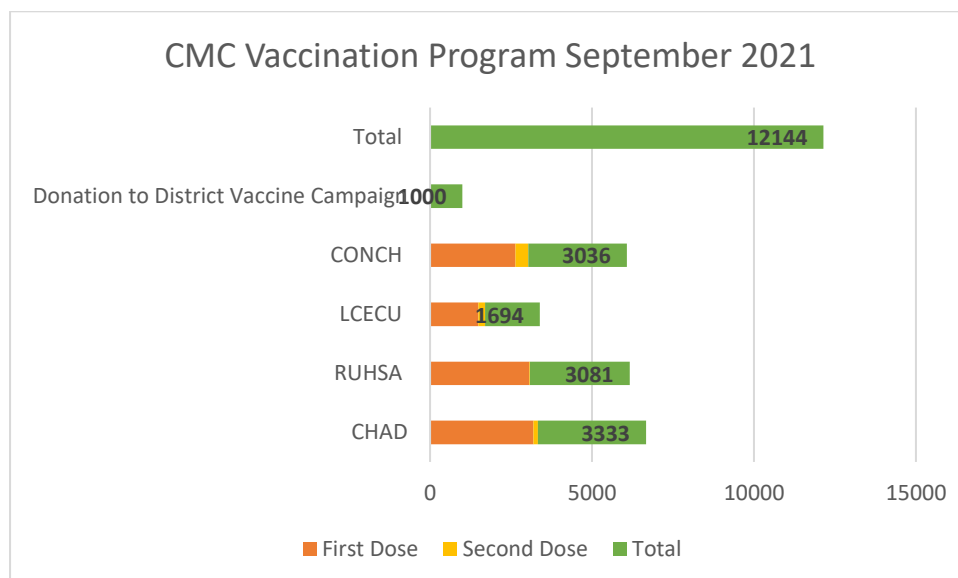
COVID Vaccination update

September 2021

Vaccination has become the main thrust of the healthcare systems efforts to overcome the pandemic. CMC has been engaged in the COVID 19 vaccination program since its first implementation in January of 2021. We have been involved in the first and second phases of the national roll out national vaccination program targeting first the health care workers and subsequently the priority groups, as defined in the national program.

As an Institution, We had committed ourselves to the Vaccinate Vellore Campaign, committing to vaccinate 70,000 of the eligible population with 12000 doses being provided free of cost. We have been able deliver 23,572 doses in our district of which 12,144 have been given free of cost.

We I've been able to expand the vaccine program of CMC through four of our outreach programs: community health and development program from Community Health Department of the Medical College, rural outreach through the Rural Unit for Health and Social Administration (RUHSA), urban poor outreach through the Family Medicine department and the Low Cost effective care unit (LCECU) and rural community outreach through the Community Health Department of the College of Nursing (CONCH). The graph below shows the tally of vaccine delivery through the various programs.



We have continued to focus on our target groups, the people who face different barriers to receiving the vaccine: mobility, finance and transport. Our teams began by working with community volunteers creating awareness among them followed by clear vaccination. This was followed by awareness programs targeting the groups mentioned above. Small group interactions through customized materials such as flip charts, posters, slides and puppet shows that engaged with the community helped to overcome fear of the vaccine and counter the false information that was widely prevailing in the community about the COVID19 vaccination. This was followed by scheduling the vaccination in the villages, working around their convenient times and local festivals as well as village events. Teams would then go about the vaccination program, completing the demanding formalities of identification, registration in the national portal followed by vaccination and post vaccination observation as mandated in the program. All sites were fully equipped for any eventuality with emergency equipment and an ambulance on standby.

Scenes from the Vaccination programs:



Vaccinations Awareness program on a dry lakebed. Some of these communities are far-flung and poorly connected by regular transport services. Staff often work under less-than-ideal situations to bring about awareness and clarify persisting doubts about the vaccine.



We are now beginning the administration of the second dose for the persons who have received the free first dose from our programs, in the period from June to August and anticipate return of 100% of the first dose recipients.





On the 12th of September, the Tamil Nadu State government conducted a state-wide campaign. CMC participated with the provision of 536 nursing staff, post graduate and UG nursing students to 88 vaccination camps in the district, including one at CMC Hospital. Besides this, we also donated 1000 free doses to this campaign.



Through careful planning and minimizing wastage, we have been able to maximize the coverage through our vaccine program.

Thanks to your support we have been able to acquire vaccines directly from the manufacturers to distribute to our special target groups, the communities with whom we have been working for decades now. The trust built up through various healthcare and development programs stood in good stead during this time.

Evidence from our own data, has led to studies, one of which has been published, and the other in the pipeline, has shown us the key role of the vaccine in breaking the cycle of transmission, reducing infections, and mitigating the severity of infections when they do happen, due to variants. We believe that resumption of any normal activity that includes education and commercial activity will depend upon vaccine coverage and therefore are committed to continue the campaign.

We are truly grateful for your ongoing support of the vaccination program. In the coming weeks we hope to engage further with the District administration and organize targeted vaccination camps in the areas that are as yet unreached or partially covered under the earlier campaign.

About Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore is a 200-bed teaching, and healthcare facility in the southern state of Tamil Nadu in India. Over the last 120 years, CMC continues to offer a spectrum of care ranging from primary healthcare work among local communities and tribal areas to highly advanced tertiary care involving high-end surgeries and organ transplant programs. The Medical College offers Undergraduate, Post-graduate and higher specialty training in several medical specialties and sub-specialties. CMC College of Nursing, recognized by the Nursing Council of India, conducts graduate and postgraduate and Doctoral training programs for nurses. CMC also organizes a number of allied health training courses, many of which are at the graduate level, accredited by the TNMGR University. CMC has always worked for the benefit of the poor and marginalized, helping reach the unreached beginning with leprosy in the 1940s and 1950s, polio in the 70-s and 80-s to HIV-AIDS in the 90-s, the H1N1 pandemic in 2009 and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

CMC Vellore, designated as a COVID hospital, has been a constant presence at the forefront of the “war on COVID”. From the time our first case was reported in March 2020, we have offered comprehensive care ranging from testing, fever clinic, in-patient care for all levels of patients, including over 100 ICU beds at the peak and extending services to the neighbouring districts. The Hospital Infection Control team has coordinated the development of protocols that have been developed into training modules; training has been offered to healthcare workers (HCW) within and outside the institution through video conferencing, coordinated by the Distance education department. Faculty members have served on state and national level committees, providing expert advice. We have also reached out to the local community through supply of medicines, food, and health care during lock down. Besides this there was an active home isolation management program and a community help line (UDHAVI) in collaboration with the local chapter of Indian Medical Association (IMA) and local Non-government organizations. Patients travelled from far and near for our care. In the first wave until February 2021, we treated more than 10,000 patients and more than 6000 in the second wave.

Although the Second wave has subsided, we continue to be a designated COVID diagnosis and treatment centre, with approximately 80 beds allocated for COVID work in 2 campuses, in two states, where we have hospitals. Realizing the value of vaccination in the prevention of COVID, CMC began its efforts in January 2021, with the first National phase, targeting healthcare workers, later expanding to vulnerable groups and since May 31st offering to all age groups above 18 years. We also have an active community vaccination program through our peripheral departments, targeting those who have difficulty in accessing immunization for various reasons. Beginning June 2021, We have delivered more than 23,000 doses of vaccines, of which more than 50% have been given free through our community outreach program and in partnership with the local district government authorities.

CMC is a registered charitable society CMC and eligible for tax exemption under Sec 12 of the Indian Income Tax Act. Donors are eligible for tax exemption. To support CMC's COVID and other programs visit: <https://givecmcv.org/>