

TITLE: A Novel Global Public Health Service: Seafarer Covid Vaccinations

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: This presentation is about a novel public health service to provide covid vaccinations to seafarers coming to the Port of Coos Bay. Anyone interested in global health, covid vaccinations, collaboration may find this presentation of interest.

ABSTRACT: Context: This presentation is on covid vaccination delivery during the pandemic to seafarers through the Port of Coos Bay supported by Jones Stevedoring, Coos Health & Wellness (CHW) and the Coos County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). The Port of Coos Bay, the busiest seaport in Oregon, provides a safe entrance bar for deep draft cargo vessels from open ocean and an international maritime labor force. Study Aim: This study provides a perspective on a novel global public health initiative for covid vaccinations to foreign seafarers and longshoremen at Coos Bay terminals. Approach to solving the Problem: The first U.S. western port to initiate this free-of-charge unique service through local collaboration, prompting other ports to follow suit. Nurses, CHW staff and MRC volunteers provided vaccinations for over 20 international seagoing vessels and over 300 seafarers. Summary: This collaborative public health service initiated west coast port vaccinations for seafarers between June 2021 and the present. The partnerships identified above provides a needed service for seafarers traveling worldwide ports to reduce transmission of covid. Implications for public health: Vaccination access by seafarers reduces covid transmission on ships, provides a healthier workplace, and reduces concerns of Covid transmission in port communities.

OBJECTIVE(S): 1) Understand the impact of Covid on the international seafarer population and port communities. 2) Discuss the importance of local collaboration in global Covid vaccination access. 3) Explain how Covid vaccinations enhance the health and wellness in port communities and the seafarer population. 4) Identify the critical nature of this service towards goodwill in global relations from a local perspective.
