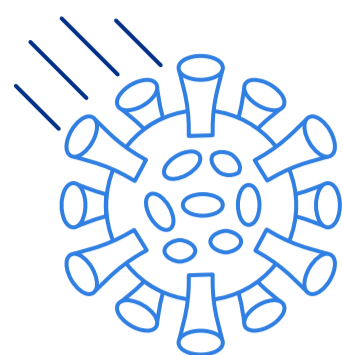


## A DIVERSE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO CREATE A COVID-19 RESPONSE WITH LASTING BENEFITS



Aspirus Health in Wausau, Wisc., serves a region that is home to a large population of Hmong and Hispanic community members for whom English is not a first language.



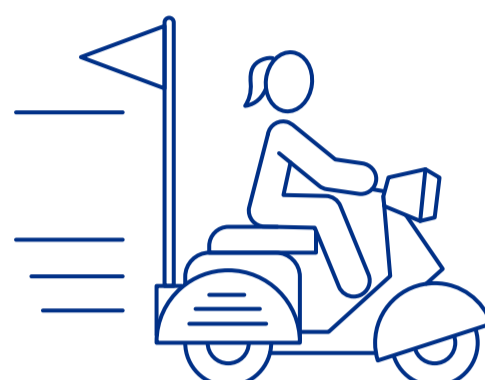
When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Aspirus immediately turned to trusted partners from both of these communities to collaborate on a pandemic response.

Most pandemic health literature was in English, and inaccurate translations created confusion over social distancing, quarantines, vaccinations and more.



Together, the partners addressed language challenges and other barriers that prevented residents from receiving critical pandemic guidance and support.

The partners were able to hit the ground running and provide COVID-19 support by drawing from their previous collaboration on a community health assessment.



▶ They already had established a way of working together.

▶ They knew how to coordinate, problem-solve and collaborate.

As a first-line strategy in their COVID-19 response, the partners established the Hmong and Hispanic Communication Network Project.



H2N, supported by the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service, became and remains the primary channel to deliver COVID-19 information to Hmong and Hispanic community members.

### During the pandemic, H2N:



Supported community health workers in providing translated health information, outreach and connections to Hmong and Hispanic community members.



Increased access to immunizations by providing vaccinations at pop-up clinics in rural areas and worksites.



Ensured needed resources like food and clothing were in ample supply and available to community members.

What began as a pandemic response grew into an ongoing collaboration to support the community when additional gaps, barriers and needs came to light.



### H2N has continued to play a vital role with efforts such as:



Expanding weekly food distribution.



Supporting periodic resource fairs, which include offering free car seats and helping install them.



Identifying opportunities to improve the health system's delivery of information in other languages.



Training bilingual community health workers in the evidence-based Healthy Living with Diabetes program and then delivering the program in a culturally relevant way.

*“With our community growing more diverse each year, H2N’s infrastructure and partnerships have laid the groundwork for sustained efforts to support our community.”*



Tara Draeger  
System Director of Community Health and Health Equity  
Aspirus Health