Community partnerships and intentional engagement with faith-based organizations is highly encouraged during COVID-19 vaccine outreach
Introduction and background on your efforts

- Imam of Dar Al-Hijrah Mosque – the mother mosque of the East African immigrant community of MN (opened in 1998)
- Co Founder of Open Path Resources and the Islamic Civic Society of America – both nonprofits
- Interfaith Hospital Chaplain
- Active voice for health and wellbeing of E. African Muslim communities.
- Leader in promotion of community vaccinations since 2015
Partnering with Healthcare Systems

Short Video
How can immunization programs best support your faith community?

• Clear alignment between healthcare messaging and our faith principles and values
• Ensure shared roles in message development, delivery, and evaluation of impact
• Focus upon whole health in community, family, and individuals (these are interrelated)
• Healthcare decisions are guided by beliefs.
How can immunization programs build relationships with leaders of your faith who haven’t expressed interest in vaccination efforts?

- **Vision**: Have vision and purpose that extends beyond the vaccine program.
- **Roles**: Vaccination is just one of many critical issues the faith leaders address in community.
- **Trust**: Recognize that trust is a common issue that creates hesitancy.
- **Listen**: Listen – seek to understand why they have lacked interest or have hesitancy.
- **Understand**: Understand the role and capacity of faith leaders you want to work with.
- **Influencers**: Identify influencers who will lead by example.
What is the role of the faith leader in addressing public health issues?

• To be a resource to community to improve personal and community wellbeing
• To ensure that the faith center is a location for right information and timely opportunities
Examples:
• Trainings for critical health issues
• Mind Body Medicine training
• Mental health first aid
• Take on taboo issues – chemical dependency, MMR, mental health
• Partner in research
• Lift up community voice
• Vaccinations in mosque – flu, COVID