

Doctor For A Day Outreach Program: Addressing Health Disparities with COVID-19 Pandemic Using Virtual Learning and Mentorship

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Doctor for a Day (DFAD) is an outreach program that offers hands-on interactive workshops and educational curriculum that highlights an array of health professions for underrepresented disadvantaged middle and high school students in the greater Seattle area. DFAD Objectives:

- Provide hands-on interactive workshops to engage student interest
- Highlight allied health and health professions to expose students to a wide array of health careers
- Expose students to medical students, residents, fellows and attendings from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in medicine to allow the students to “see themselves” as health professionals.

Due to COVID-19, DFAD canceled the remaining in-person hands-on workshops for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. We recognized the impact COVID-19 on communities of color, especially the communities our participants were from. Recognizing the need to provide critical COVID-19 pandemic public health information specific to communities of color and utilize the real life example through the pandemic of the impact these students can have on their communities, we shifted our program to a digital platform. We created a 2-hour digital session partnering with the School of Informatics, School of Public Health, Infectious Disease, Respiratory Therapy and Pulmonary Critical Care. We addressed topics of how to identify fake news, explanation of the microbiology of coronavirus, public health explanation of a pandemic, respiratory therapy explanation of ventilation and pulmonary critical care of COVID-19 impact on the lungs. We sent evaluations to learners and received their feedback on the content presented and interactivity of the session without being in-person hands-on. Challenges were the length of time and the learners’ wanted more time with the session. The learners also discussed the need for more interactive sessions which will be the biggest difficulty in translating an in-person hands-on program to the virtual space. Moving forward we will incorporate more pre-recorded videos showing anatomy, interactive medical equipment and medical procedures we were unable to show previously to highlight the work of a health professional and attempt to replicate the interactivity that was the driving force of the prior in-person workshops