



For Immediate Release

CVHHH Collaborates with Norwich University Nursing Students to Vaccinate Central Vermonters

Barre, VT – Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice (CVHHH) partnered with Norwich University nursing students to administer COVID-19 vaccines to homebound Central Vermonters this spring. 18 junior-level nursing students were matched with members of CVHHH’s vaccine team and accompanied CVHHH’s nurses on home visits to administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Nursing students administered vaccines, provided education to clients on the vaccine, side effects, and what to expect after being vaccinated.

Meronica Cowan was matched with Sara Sikora, RN, CVHHH’s Quality-Nurse Manager and Norwich University graduate. Meronica noticed that the clients she visited during her CVHHH rotation were talkative and seemed more comfortable and at ease than she is used to. “The experience of providing care to a person in their home was more personal. It felt easy to connect and engage with the patients in a short amount of time.”

Corey Bennett, RN, Lecturer in Norwich’s School of Nursing, and CVHHH Board Member, says that through this partnership students gained insight into home care nursing, which is beyond the traditional clinical rotation. “Students experienced the role of the home care nurse and saw first-hand the value of providing person-centered care at home. It brought to life information, such as how social determinants impact a person’s health, that they learned in a lecture setting and gave them the chance to see what it means to be a nurse outside of the inpatient hospital setting.”

“I was excited to play a role in helping nursing students at Norwich gain hands-on experience during a public health pandemic response,” says Sandy Rouse, CVHHH’s President & CEO. “It allowed students to give back to their community, understand CVHHH’s role as a community-health provider, and gain first-hand exposure to a reality that they will likely experience in some shape or form again over the course of their healthcare careers. Community health is about more than providing a service or responding to a need. It’s about understanding what your community needs and providing care and supports to help people achieve optimal health and wellbeing.”

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