

# "Enhancing Interprofessional Collaboration and Learning for Strengthening Primary Health Care"

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## TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	COVID-19 PREVENTION EDUCATION AND AWARENESS THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH: THE ROLE OF PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Innovative Ways for Community Mobilization and Engagement of Stakeholders</i>
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Abstract N <sup>o</sup>	TUFH544
Content	<p><b>BACKGROUND</b> The first two cases of Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Ghana were confirmed in March 2020. Strategies adopted by the Government of Ghana to reduce community spread included hand hygiene, social distancing, basic etiquette and education through various media (television, and print/social media). There was also the need for face-to-face interaction with communities. This is a report on a community project that was executed by the healthcare workforce of an urban primary care facility. The aim was to educate and create awareness of COVID-19 in the neighboring communities around the Manna Mission Hospital of the Ledzokuku Municipality of Ghana. <b>METHODS</b> The primary care workforce of the hospital consisting of nurses and midwives, laboratory technicians, public health officers and doctors embarked on a house-to-house community outreach to educate households on COVID 19 prevention. The households were selected randomly. The project was done for 3 weeks, from September 3, 2020 to September 24, 2020. Prior to this, there was a workshop led by the in-service training coordinator of the facility. <b>OUTCOMES</b> A total of 189 households were reached by 15 health workers. Members of the community were very receptive. Few challenges included the request of hand sanitizers and facemask by households which health workers did not have. <b>CONCLUSION</b> Awareness of COVID-19 has increased. Community outreach education has contributed to decreasing active cases. The primary care workforce have a key role to play in their communities to reduce community spread of COVID-19.</p>