

COVID-19 Outreach to Precariously Employed Worker Communities in the Chicago-Area

Preethi Pratap, MSc, PhD

Susan Buchanan, MD, MPH

Rolando Favela, MS

Caitlin Donato, MPH

Marsha Love, MA

JULY 27, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO

School of Public Health

Great Lakes Center for Occupational Health and Safety

GLC Outreach Program



Mission: Every person has the right to healthy work – a job that pays a living wage, a workplace that is safe, a work environment where everyone is treated with respect, and qualified occupational and environmental health professionals who advocate for their health.

- Workers' rights advocacy groups
- Community-based organizations
- Labor unions
- Workers centers
- Employers
- Workforce development programs

COVID- 19 Community Navigators Project

Developed and disseminated COVID 19-related health and safety guidelines for worker communities.

e.g. Supported the the Labor Brigade of COVID-19 Worker Navigators with the following outcomes:

- 52 worker leaders (mostly low wage workers) received NIEHS certification for COVID-19 Essential and Returning Worker Training
- 29 worker leaders completed a 12-week virtual computer literacy training program to develop their abilities in virtual organizing
- 29 worker leaders provided 32 hours of outreach on the Essential Worker Protection Program through personal networks of family, workplace, congregation and community



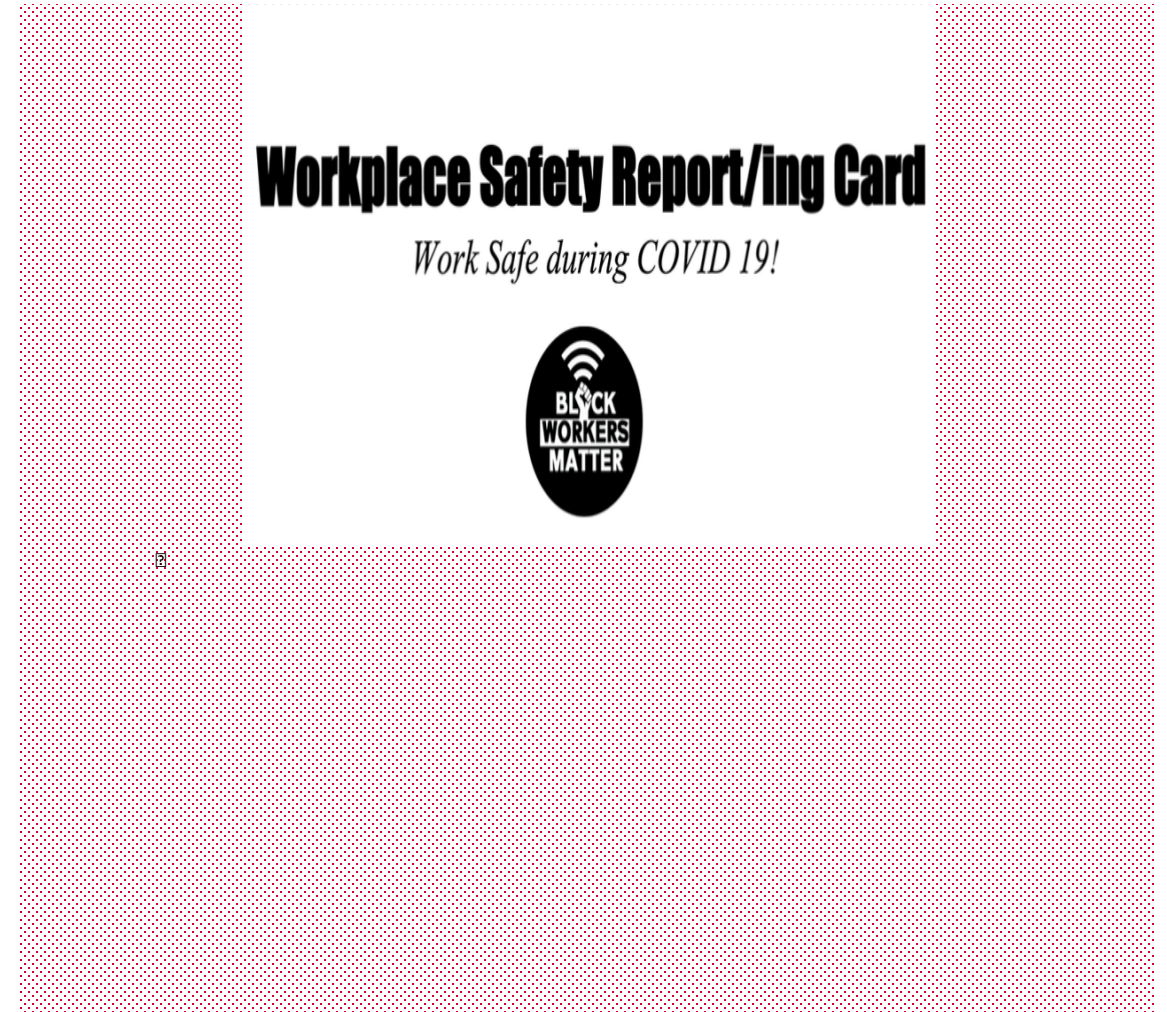
Source: <https://www.chicagoworkerscollaborative.org/programs>

Black Workers Matter Covid-19 Report Card Project

The Report/ing Card was developed as a tool to democratize COVID reporting and policy-making.

Designed to identify and grade actual COVID hazards, CDC compliance, and overall conditions in Chicago west side industrial bakeries—which suffered Covid outbreaks and deaths.

- members collected print and digital “Covid-19 Report Cards” for industrial and service worksites
- organized and hosted a vaccination 'pop-up' for Black, Brown, and White essential workers immediately adjacent to Bimbo's huge Cicero commercial bakery



Source: <https://blackworkersmatter.org>

Documenting experience of rideshare drivers during the pandemic

Collaborated with ride-share advocacy group, Independent Drivers Guild, to survey app-based drivers in the Chicago metro area.

- to identify challenges rideshare drivers face during this pandemic
- how the virus is affecting the health and wellbeing of drivers
- what is being done for rideshare drivers to prevent the spread of coronavirus
- led to development of a Mental Health & Wellness Program



IDG WELLNESS FAIR

MAY 12, 2022 11 AM -3 PM

114 HIGGINS RD PARK RIDGE, IL

With IDG, you never ride alone!

Spending long hours behind the wheel? We invite you to take a break and focus on you!

Join us for an afternoon of free workshops where we will learn strategies to take care of our physical, mental and spiritual wellness and discover resources in the community.

- Nutrition, holistic wellness and meditation
- Yoga stretching for drivers (ALL body types and abilities)
- Learn about upcoming driver workshops and support groups available for IDG members
- Free Covid testing AND free Covid vaccinations and boosters (family members are welcome!)
- Enjoy a delicious halal lunch!

Source: <https://driversguild.org>

GLC OHIP Internship projects on temp worker experiences during the pandemic

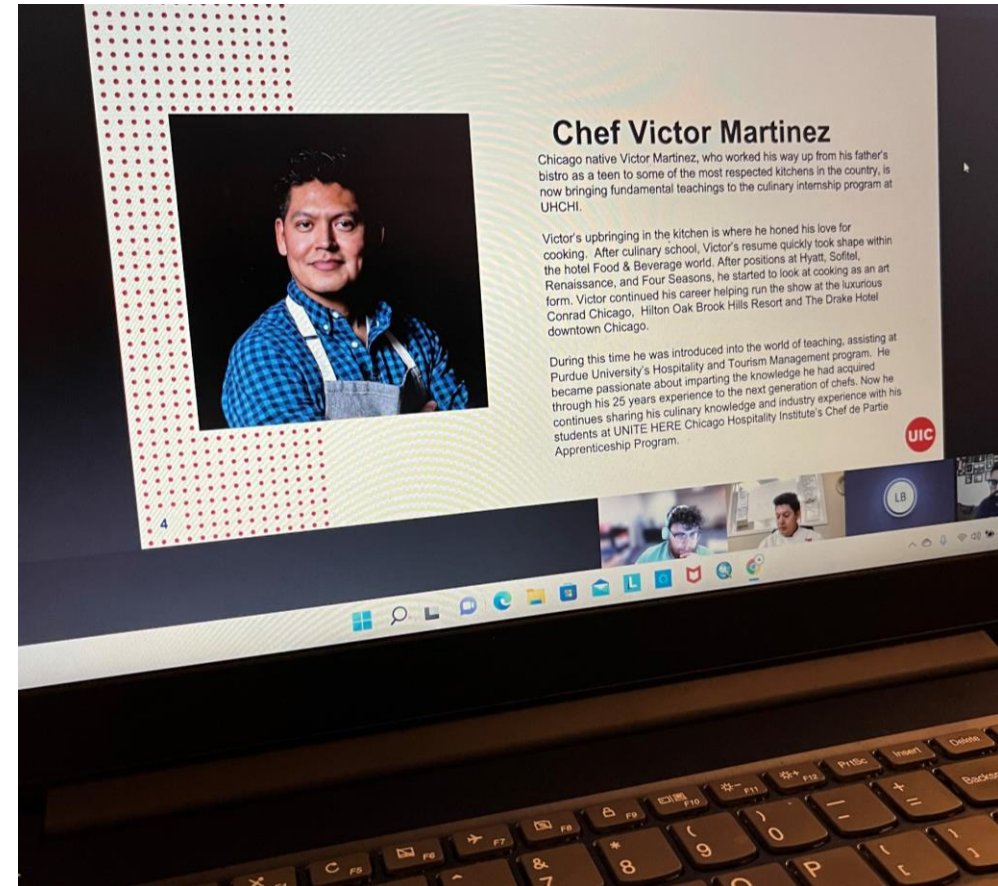
Partnered with the Chicago Collaborative Network and Temp Worker Union Alliance Program (TUWAP) to :

- document experiences of temp workers during the pandemic in summer of 2020
- report titled “We don’t have the luxury to work from home” based on interviews with 120 temp workers.
- made the case for the creation of an “Essential Workers Protection Program” based on widespread noncompliance with Illinois guidelines for food and assembly line workers, and a worker driven “co-enforcement” model between local health departments and workers center.
- this summer the interns are working on an updated survey to to gather data reflecting temp worker experiences with workplace COVID-19 safety protocols in 2022.



“Tele-Towns” and trainings on COVID-19 infection, vaccines, and prevention

- Telpochcalli Community Education Project
- Chi-Tracers contact tracing corps
- Leave No Veteran Behind
- UNITEHERE Chicago Hospitality Institute trainings for
 - hotel housekeepers
 - O’Hare airport concessions workers



Great Lakes Center Public Outreach



COVID-19 / Delta variant worker safety

Warehouse Workers for Justice



Immigrant workers rights

Chicago Workers Collaborative, Arise Chicago, Latino Union, Raise the Floor Alliance, Chicago Jobs With Justice, Warehouse Workers for Justice



Health and Wellness Fair

Independent Drivers Guild

