



COMBATTING COVID-19

COVID-19's impact on the global society cannot be measured. As the dust settles, there needs to be pliable solutions to combatting the virus and rebuilding confidence as people return to work.

A green solution to get people tested, fortified and back to work.

JOHN BEARDEN MCADORY, MHA

Combating COVID-19

A green solution to get people tested, fortified, and back to work.

By John Bearden McAdory, MHA

“As a former professional athlete, I asked our design team to develop something to help our athletes get back on the field. God allowed me to see his vision for ProIV-19 Immune Boost was far greater.”

- Jamie Dukes, CEO, Drip Fusion Enterprise

Overview

DripFusion Enterprise (DFE) and *National Baptist Convention (NBC)* are partnering together to tackle the impact COVID-19 has had on the African American community. The healthcare disparity gap in the African American community has been well documented and has grown over the years. Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID Director and member of the President’s Coronavirus Task Force, highlighted the disparity and the impact of COVID-19 during his April 8th, 2020 press conference:

"We have a particularly difficult problem of an exacerbation of a health disparity. We've known literally forever, that diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and asthma are disproportionately afflicting the minority populations particularly African Americans."

Currently, 30% of COVID-19 deaths are in the African American communities while only making up 13% of the total US population. In cities where the African American population is concentrated in the urban centers, the death and hospitalization rates are even higher. Researchers are exploring the reasons why the infections and death rates are so high particularly in the African American community. When reviewing the data and understanding of the African American community, there are 2 underlying factors: 1) epidemic of metabolic syndrome and 2) socioeconomic disparities.

African Americans have shown a disproportionately higher prevalence of obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes (metabolic syndrome) compared with whites. There are physiological and socioeconomic reasons why such disproportionality exists. Research shows that people with metabolic syndrome have compromised immune systems and increased susceptibility to viral infections. As we continue to learn more about the virulence COVID-19, research shows that infection and mortality rates are higher in those afflicted with these diseases.

Even though the unemployment rate in the African American community was at historic lows, the decades of socioeconomic factors limiting access to well-paying jobs and resources have not changed. As the world moved to shelter in place, jobs held by African Americans can not be completed remotely, requiring travel on public transportation and close working conditions. Remote working does not uniquely impact African Americans, it impacts all low income, marginalized and frontline workers. Therefore, due to lack of access to healthcare and resources, this has comorbidities, placing them in the COVID-19 risk population. These workers are at an increased risk of contracting COVID-19. The difference being mortal risk in the African American community.

Increased awareness of the health disparities in the African American community is long overdue as Dr. Fauci noted. It's unfortunate that it took a pandemic that has put this community at risk to bring the issue front and center. There needs to be a coordinated response to protect the vulnerable populations and those at greater risk.

NBC is taking the steps necessary to provide testing and assessments in the communities of its 31,000 member churches. These churches comprise 9.8 million members mostly of African American descent. Historically, the black church has been on the frontline of mobilizing a response to the crisis in the community. A faith-based initiative is imperative to deliver the test and assessments required for the African American community to combat this virus. DFE, as a minority lead consortium, is committed to providing the resources to combat the virus.

Combatting COVID-19

It has been more than 4 months since the first infection of COVID-19 in China. As the world watched, especially the United States, there was a sense that this disease/infection would not impact us. We are a first world industrialized nation. Our belief that the US government had the appropriate mechanism in place to prevent such an outbreak occurring on US soil was folly.

Currently, there is no vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released recommendations to avoid the infection. The preventative measure has slowed the rate of infection and we are seeing a flattening of the curve. In recent days, there has been a push to re-open the country and get people back to work. State governments and public health officials are concerned that relaxing the prevention measures prematurely will result in an increase in infection rates. Currently, the US is testing 150,000 people per day. Experts suggest there need to be 10 times that many tests per day to understand the true stream of the virus. Testing also must be coupled with tracing and antibody

collection. There has not been enough evidence indicating whether or not the body will produce an immunity after infection and re-infections have occurred. It is important to determine if the formation of a “herd immunity” can truly help the virus wane.

DripFusion Enterprise (DFE) is leading a coalition of American small businesses and entities such as the *National Baptist Convention (NBC)* to fight COVID-19. In addition, is the *Asian Convenience Store Association (AATAC)*. Company X is collaborating with the NBC and AATAC to address COVID-19 as DFE is leading a health care disparities solution for the urban community. Thousands of *Eco Tech Pro-IV Health Pods* will be deployed for permanent utilization for this Post Corona Virus world. Activities will center around Assessment and Preventative treatments, which includes, infected patients.

Government Contractors, Weber Solutions, Eco Tech Health, EData Networks, and more “Company X” anonymous businesses have come together to provide the first integrated solution for tracing, daily testing, daily screening, and containment, for the virus. *DFE* has engaged *Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis (CBRE)* to manage deployment. We are partnering with *United Parcel Service (UPS)* to run our logistics, ensuring efficiency in our deployment.

We are offering a customizable service and a solution that spans multiple industries:

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| • Pre-Diagnostic Telemedicine | • Green Pharmaceutical Treatment Solutions |
| • In-home/On-site Testing | • Research Data Collection |
| • On-Site Lab Diagnostics | • Personal Protective Equipment |
| • Off-Site Containment Units | • Jobs creation initiatives |

We provide boots on the ground, green initiative, centered on factories/centers of excellence, providing thousands of jobs that allow community-based access to getting tested for COVID-19, a novel immune-boosting treatment that is being tested to prevent worsening of the virus, and a quarantine strategy to help save the hospital beds for the worse viral cases.

Screening: *Innovation in Testing*

Telemedicine reduces the barrier to access to healthcare. With stay-at-home orders in place in the majority of states, tele-health visits become a key tool to provide care without the risk of leaving your home. This is a key component in flattening the

curve. *DripDocs TeleHealth* powered by *GoMD* is a leading provider of tele-health medicine with 1,500 doctors and 38,000 nurses available to conduct screening visits for COVID-19. We offer tele-health COVID-19 screenings based on the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation (PUI) guidelines. If further evaluation is necessary, *DripDoc Tele-Health* physicians will evaluate each patient and coordinate additional care. Through this initiative, we can screen up to 50,000 people per day based on the CDC guidelines. If we identify a suspected infection, we have a 2-pronged approach toward testing through *Nexus Laboratory* and the *Natural States Genomics*:

- 1) **In-Home testing**: *Nexus* will mail an FDA approved in-home test kit to the patient. The patient will receive instructions on collection through our tele-health systems. Once the collection is complete, the patient will mail the test back. *Nexus* has sent and received thousands of in-home test kits and the error rate is less than .5%. The patients can receive the results back in 48 hours. A follow-up visit will be scheduled to review the results with the patients and provide instructions for care if infected, which may include in-home treatment with PRO-IV-19.
- 2) **On-Site Testing**: For cases that need more immediate testing and to ensure we are lowering the risk of infection in the workplace, patients can visit an EcoTech Green pod. There, patients can receive a 15-minute COVID-19 test. While on-site, we can administer a more comprehensive examination from one of our Drip nurses. Once the examination is completed, eligible patients will receive PRO-IV-19 prevention.

For patients that test positive, professional protection equipment (PPE) can be provided to the patient and caregiver through our government partner *Weber Solutions*. Weber will also provide PPE for all health staff at the EcoTech Pod and in-home visits.

Research is ongoing to understand and remediate the virus. A key component is the collection of biologic and surveillance data from those that have been infected. We understand the importance of antibody collection to determine the prevalence of the virus and also for the development of a vaccine and treatment. While at our EcoTech Pods, we are exploring the possibility of antibody collection. The CDC has identified tracing as a key component in the multi-pronged approach to combat the

COVID-19.^[1] We are developing a contact tracing tool based on the CDC guidelines^[2] with our partner at *eData Solution*.

Get Back to Work

With our partnership with the *National Baptist Convention* (NBC) and the *Asian Convenience Store Association* (AATAC), we have begun deploying our solution in Prince George County and will be expanding nationally. The *National Baptist Convention* (NBC) sees this as an integral piece to ensure under-represented communities, where the black churches exist, have access to testing and treatment. COVID-19 has created a “toxicity storm” in the black community. Black people make up 13% of the US population but 1/3 of all COVID-19 deaths. In these urban communities, there is a lack of access to healthcare. Lastly, minorities make up a large percentage of frontline workers or do not work from home. This trifecta has driven a sense of urgency among the leadership of NBC and AATAC to act. As social distancing eases and people return to work, businesses and the community needs a convenient, on-the-ground solution to get a health screening, testing, and treatment within close proximity to where people live and work.

[1] <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/principles-contact-tracing.html>

[2] <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/digital-contact-tracing.pdf>