



Office Hours: COVID-19 Planning and Response

January 29, 2021



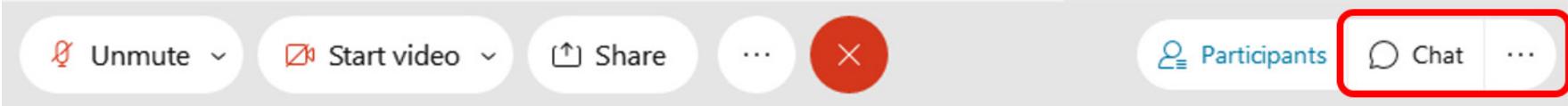
Housekeeping

- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-webinars-and-office-hours>

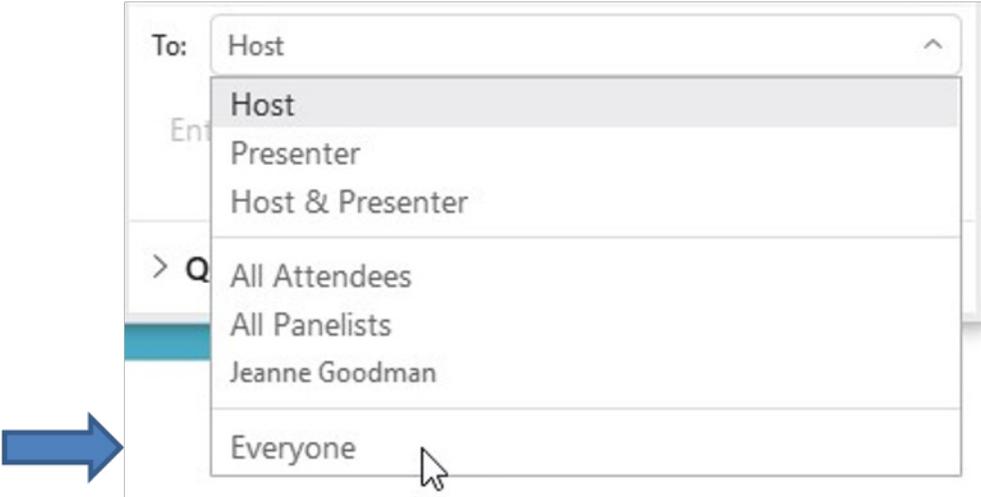
- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:
+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 610 976 677
(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

Chat Feature



Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

Be certain the To field is set to **Everyone**



Speakers & Resource Advisors

Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
 - Norm Suchar
 - Karen DeBlasio
 - Marlisa Grogan
 - Brett Esders
 - Ebony Rankin
 - William Snow
- Chris Pitcher, HUD TA, ICF
- Michele Williams, HUD TA, Michele S. Williams, LLC
- David Canavan, HUD TA, Canavan Associates

Community Crisis Services, Inc

- Timothy Jansen, Chief Executive Officer



Speakers & Resource Advisors

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Emily Mosites, PhD, MPH- COVID-19 At-Risk Population Task Force, Senior Advisor on Health and Homelessness

National Healthcare for the Homeless Council

- Barbara DiPietro, PhD, Senior Director of Policy

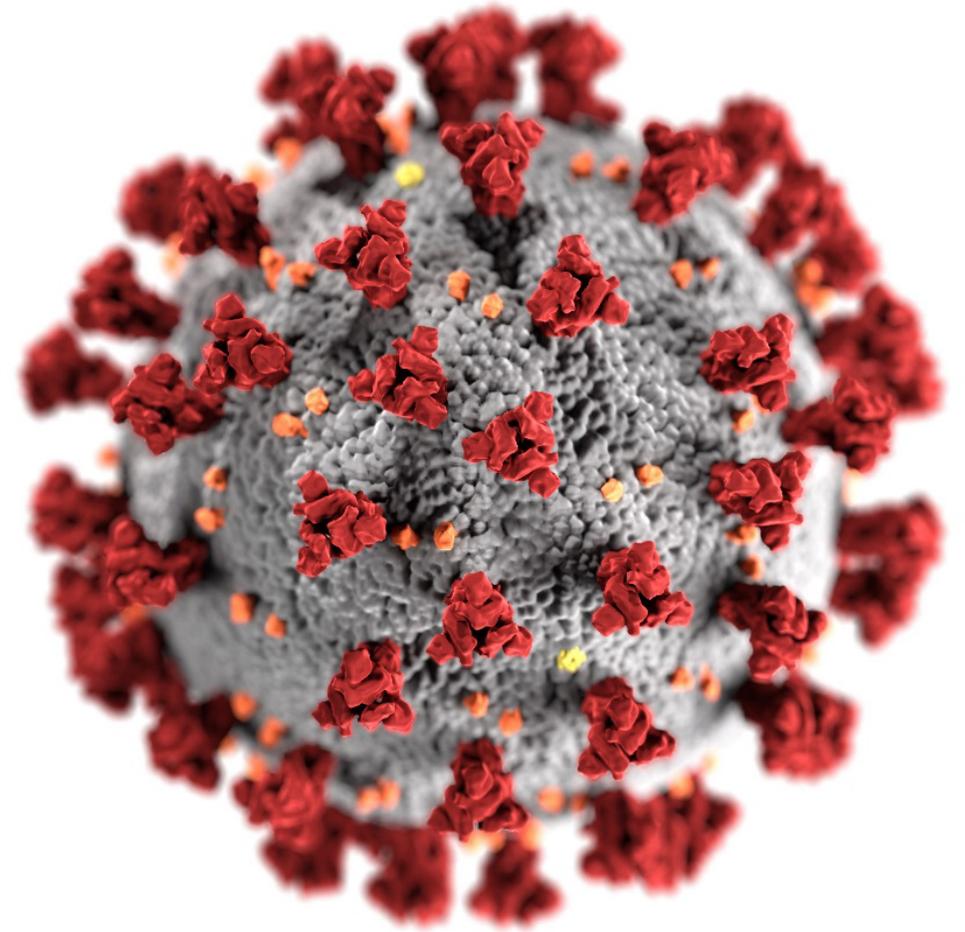
Department of Veterans Affairs

- Jillian Weber, PhD, RN, CNL, Homeless-PACT National Program Manager, VHA Homeless Program Office
- John Kuhn, LCSW, MPH, National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families

COVID-19 and Homelessness

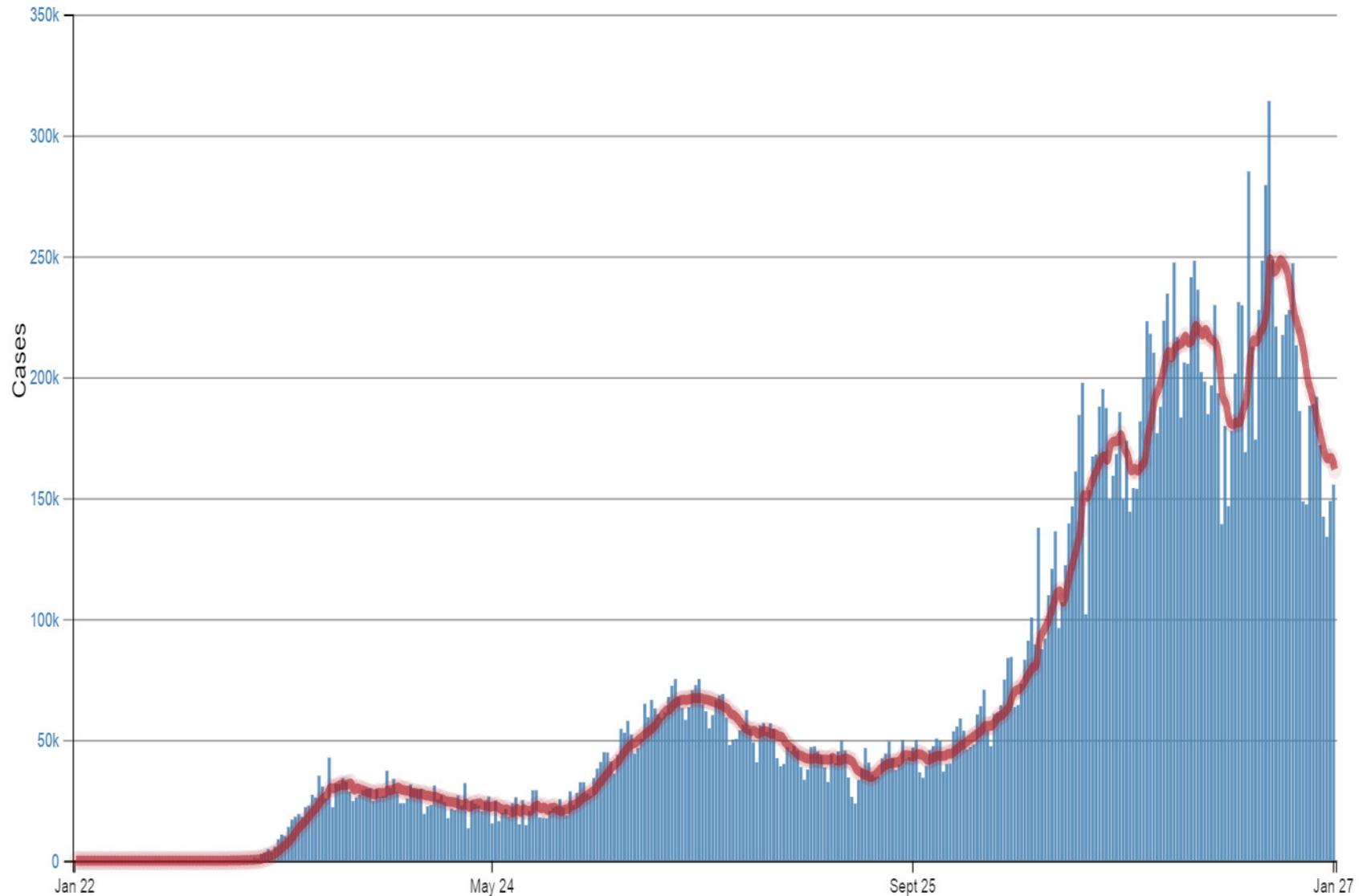
Updates

Homelessness Unit
Disproportionately Affected Populations Team
CDC COVID-19 Response



cdc.gov/coronavirus

Over 25 million cumulative cases of COVID-19 in the United States



CDC Vaccine Resources

Overall COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

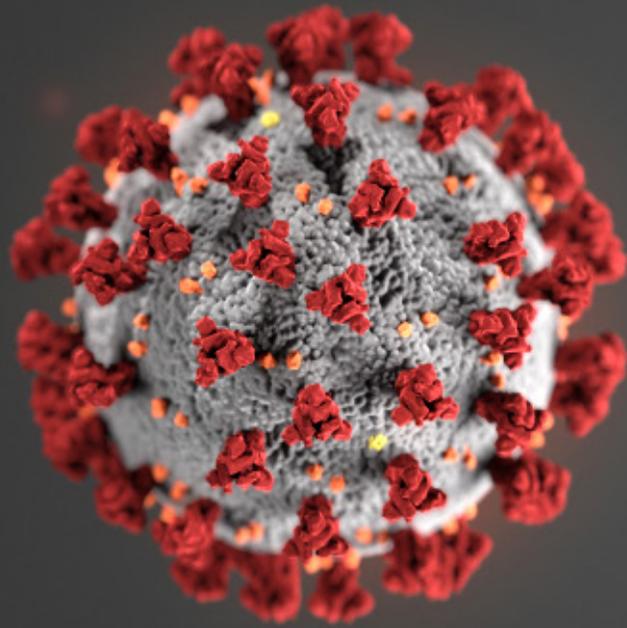
COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions related to homelessness:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/vaccine-faqs.html>

Vaccination for people experiencing homelessness guidance:

Coming soon





For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

John Kuhn, LCSW, MPH

National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families
(SSVF)

Jillian Weber, PhD, RN, CNL

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT) National Program
Manager

VHA Homeless Program Office (HPO)



- [COVID-19 Vaccination Plan for the Veterans Health Administration](#)
 - Plan outlines VHA activities for COVID-19 vaccination where VHA provides health care to enrolled Veterans.
 1. VHA COVID-19 Vaccination Plan Guiding Principles
 2. VHA COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Goals



- VHA COVID-19 Vaccination Plan Guiding Principles
 1. The primary goal of the VHA COVID-19 vaccination plan is to lower the risk of infection, severe disease from COVID-19, and spread of SARS-CoV-2
 2. Safety of Veterans and staff is the highest priority
 3. Vaccine risk stratification, distribution, and accessibility should be fair, evidence-based, equitable, transparent, and aimed at maximizing benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.



- VHA COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Goals
 1. Develop and implement a plan to procure, distribute, and administer COVID-19 vaccine for Veterans and VA staff.
 2. Develop a population-based risk stratification plan for COVID-19 vaccine administration and implement as required by vaccine supply limitations.
 3. Implement solutions to track and report vaccine supply, administration, course completion, safety and outcomes for internal and external stakeholders.



- Getting Homeless Veterans Vaccinated
 - Health care eligible Veterans and VHA homeless program staff
 - Homeless Veterans prioritized early in the risk stratification table and currently being vaccinated at some VHA sites.
 - Residing in congregate settings (GPD & HCHV CRS)
 - All homeless Veterans (unsheltered, all other homeless programs)
 - [VHA Public Health: COVID-19](#)
 - Education and clear, consistent messaging
 - Informational resources for Veterans (VHA, CDC, HUD, etc.)
 - COVID-19 related statistics
 - List of VA medical centers providing COVID-19 vaccinations



VACCINE ACCESS PLAN - SSVF

- Health Care Navigators connect all SSVF participants
- Community access may be preferable to VHA (vaccine availability or transportation barriers)
- Coordination needed to ensure both doses scheduled and received



Group 1: VHA Eligible

**Group 2: Non-Veteran HH members, and
Veterans ineligible for VHA**

**Group 3: VHA Eligible best served by
community provider**

Vaccine Distribution Planning

Timothy R. Jansen, CEO



Community Crisis Services, Inc.

- Provided services in Prince George's County since 1970
- Our mission is to provide compassionate crisis support through our hotline, safe shelter programs and information and referral services.
- Homeless Shelter– NCS model serving more than 250 households, includes families with children and the County's Isolation and Quarantine unit
- Domestic Violence Safe House Program – 43 bed capacity serving any victim and often includes victims with children

Early Vaccine Planning

- Established relationship with Public Health Partners
- Engaged in planning sessions with them to outline the needs of both the Domestic Violence and Homeless Shelters
- Identified what our priorities were i.e. not having DV survivors go to a public vaccination site
- Public Health agreed to bring a mobile unit on site to the DV shelter and we did not do any pre-registration. – First use of mobile unit in the County.
- Negotiated to be able to use shelter ID's with and alias if needed
- Provided address of Address Confidentiality program
- Identified the resources we bring to the table – vans, staffing and scheduling support

Process

- Able to bring our plan to public health and solve for them the issue of how to get our participants and staff vaccinated
- Asked for flexibility with photo ID - Provided a shelter ID
- The registration process through the links provided included information we don't normally collect
- Created a pre-registration form using Google forms to collect the info needed for participants and staff
- Scheduled homeless shelter participants on two days and provided ran shuttle vans to transport to the site and back using social distancing measures.

Engagement and Education

- Engaged our participants in early conversations to provide information, discuss what we could do to support those who wanted to be vaccinated and those who were more hesitant.
- 75% of our shelter populations are African-American and 15% are Latino so we identified trusted African-American and Latino staff to serve as initial vaccine ambassadors.
- Set up information tables and posted flyers we received from the HUD Team and our County Health Department to provide information and engage in two-way dialogue.
- Based on conversation with the people we serve and vaccine ambassadors we identified other items like gift cards that would be an addition to our approach. A thank you for taking the time out to receive the vaccination.

Challenges and Continued Planning

- The first couple sets of links provided to us were also provided to the public so before we could get everyone scheduled all the appointments were taken.
- We focused our process fully on pre-registration while we waited for new links. Once we had them we had two staff enter the information and schedule the appointments. It as time intensive - 8 hours total spent in the registration process.
- The process for scheduling second doses is challenging. Everyone was provided with a link but when you used it no appointments were available. True for everyone in the County , not just us.
- We are paying close attention to our relationship with public health - Everyone is overwhelmed so we are doing all we can to make it easier for them and us.

ESG-CV Grants Status Report

As of January 22nd, of the 362 ESG-CV Recipients and \$3.96 Billion allocated:

- 59.72% of funds are NOT Committed
- 97.40% of funds have NOT been Drawn
- 29 recipients do not have ESG-CV1 allocation in IDIS
- 156 recipients do not have ESG-CV2 allocation in IDIS
- 35 recipients are 100% Committed
- 38 recipients have passed the Obligation Date + 240 days
- 94 Grantees have \$0 funds Committed/Obligated
- 144 Grantees have \$0 funds Drawn/Expended

HUD TA RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

- [Staffing Options for ESG-CV Administration](#)



Staffing Options for ESG-CV Administration

- ESG and ESG-CV Recipients are often understaffed
 - Scope of the Program: ESG-CV is ~15 times annual ESG (plus FY 2020 and FY 2020 ESG)
 - Hiring Freeze and Furlough
 - Loss of Staff and Tax Revenue
- Lack of staffing is causing delays in:
 - Funding Allocations
 - Contractual Agreements
 - Reimbursement Requests
 - Monitoring and Evaluation of Programs

Staffing Options for ESG-CV Administration

- Hiring Options
 - Term-limited staff
 - Mentoring and Coaching
 - Lived Experience
 - Racial Equity
 - Professional Services Consulting Firms

Staffing Options for ESG-CV Administration

- Workplace Staffing Considerations
 - Remote work during COVID-19
 - Remote ESG-CV Administration
 - Technology
 - Remote Supervision
 - Remote Case Management

New Resources Posted

- *COMING SOON!*

Visit www.hudexchange.info

Key Websites

HUD: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/infectious-disease-prevention-response/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>

NHCHC: <https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/>

USICH: <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/coronavirus-covid-19-resources/>

VA: <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/n-coronavirus/index.asp>

HRSA: <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions.html>

Federal Partner Contacts

For additional information or assistance, contact:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/COVID19; 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636); TTY: 1-888-232-6348
- Department of Housing and Urban Development:
[HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question \(AAQ\) Portal](#)

Q & A

