



Office Hours: COVID-19 Planning and Response

March 5, 2021



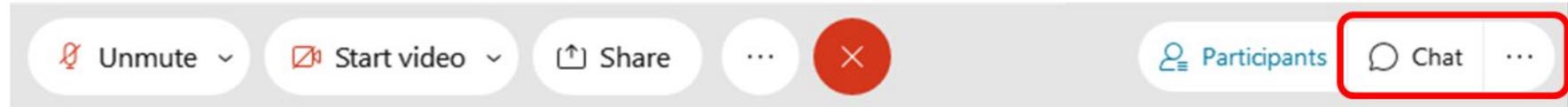
Housekeeping

- 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>

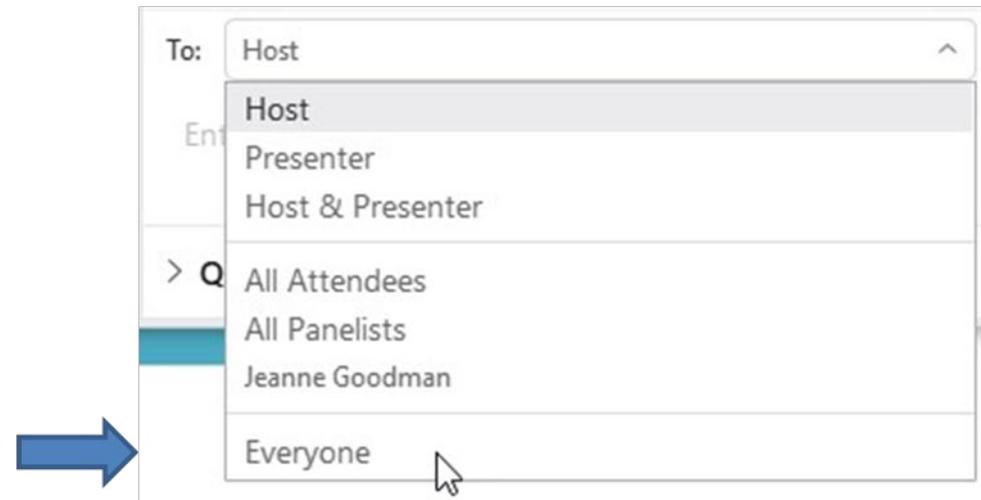
- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:
+1-415-655-0002 Access code: 610 976 677
(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

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
 - Sharon Singer
 - Lisa Coffman
 - Ebony Rankin
 - Brett Esders
 - William Snow
- David Canavan, HUD TA, Canavan Associates

Boston Health Care for the Homeless/Public Health Commission

- Sonja Spears, JD, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, HCH
- Denise De Las Nueces, MD, MPH, Medical Director, HCH
- Gerry Thomas, MPH, Interim Deputy Director, PHC



Speakers & Resource Advisors

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Lindsey Barranco, PhD, Homelessness Unit, Disproportionately Affected Populations Team

National Healthcare for the Homeless Council

- Barbara DiPietro, PhD, Senior Director of Policy

Department of Veterans Affairs

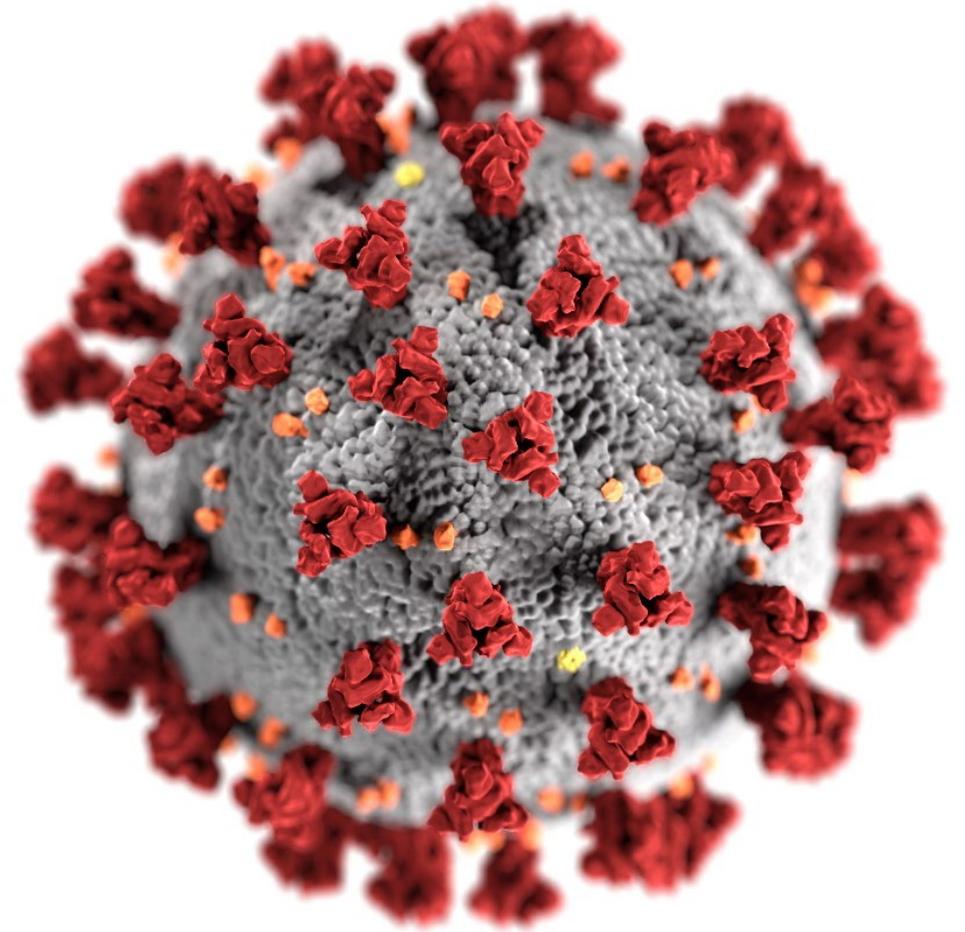
- Dina Hooshyar, MD, MPH, Director, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans (The Center), VHA Homeless Program Office
- Jillian Weber, PhD, RN, CNL, Homeless-PACT National Program Manager, VHA Homeless Program Office



COVID-19 and Homelessness

Updates

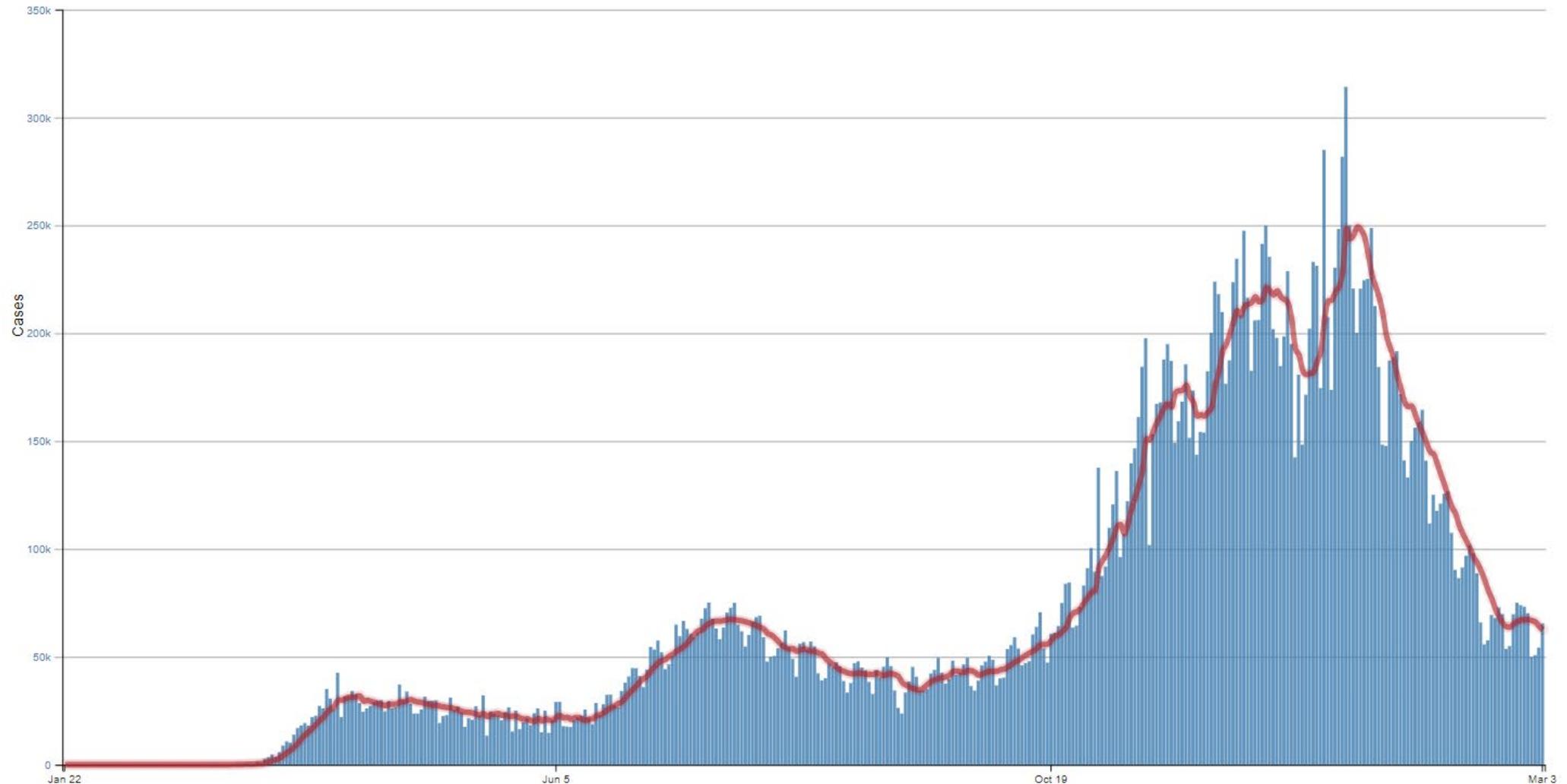
Homelessness Unit
Disproportionately Affected Populations Team
CDC COVID-19 Response



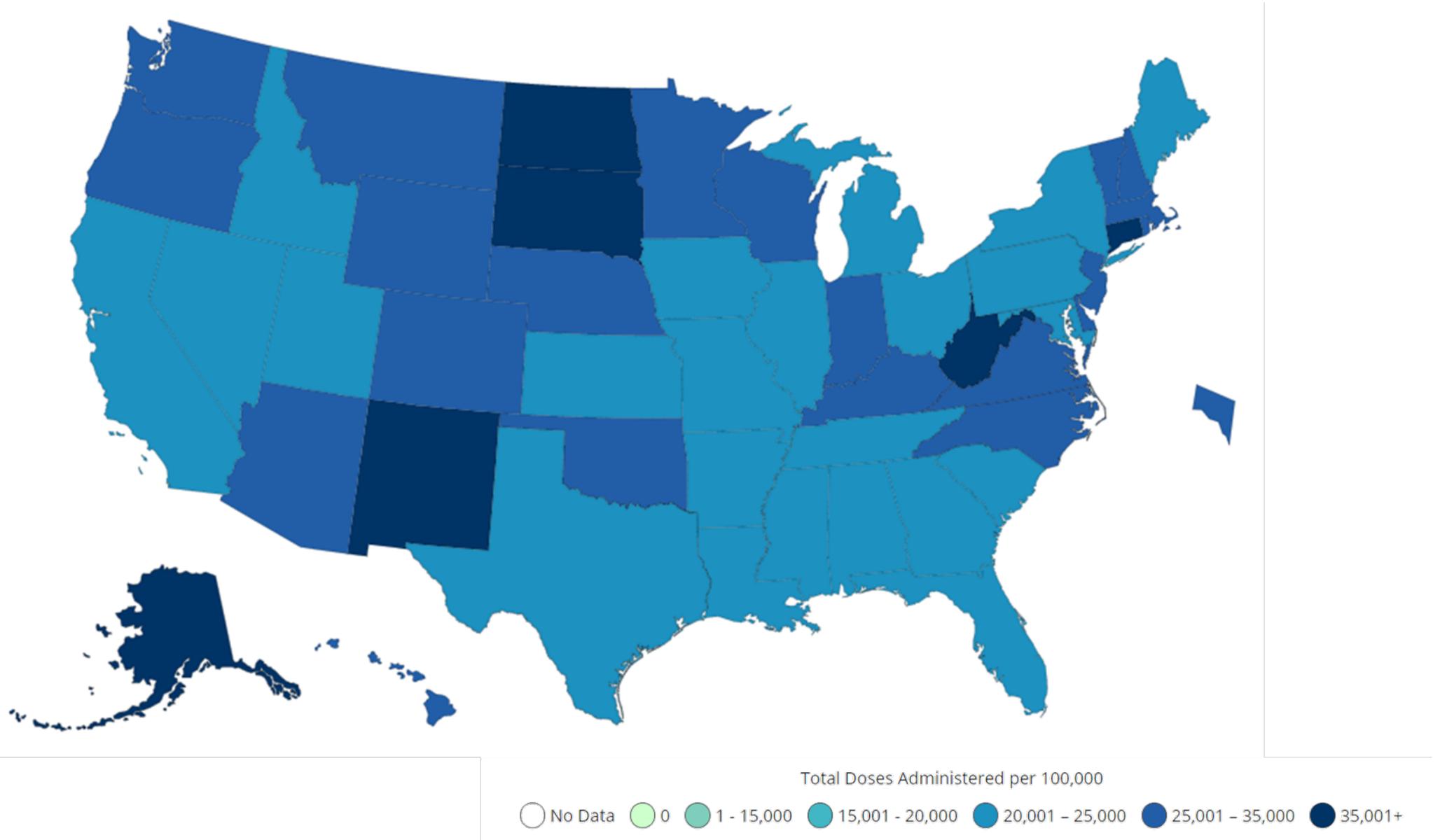
cdc.gov/coronavirus

National COVID-19 cases in low plateau

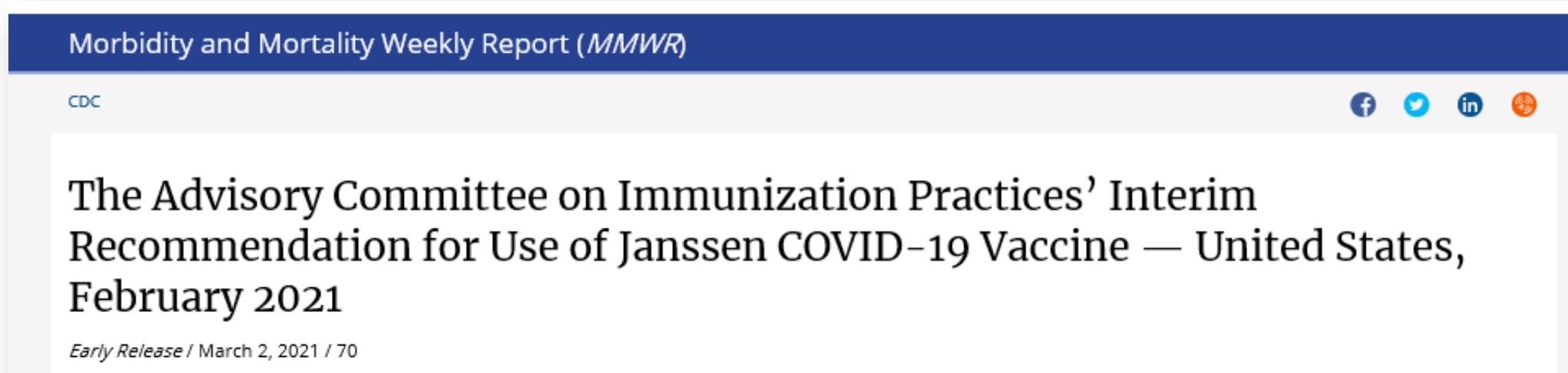
Daily Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases in the United States Reported to CDC



16.3% of US population has received at least one dose of vaccine



Janssen Vaccine: Interim Recommendations



https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7009e4.htm?s_cid=mm7009e4_w



Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Information

The screenshot shows the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccines page. At the top, there is a teal header with 'COVID-19' on the left and 'ACT NOW!' on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for 'Your Health', 'Vaccines', 'Cases & Data', 'Work & School', 'Healthcare Workers', 'Health Depts', and 'More'. The 'Vaccines' link is highlighted. Below the navigation bar, there is a sidebar on the left with a 'Vaccines' header and two expandable sections: 'Key Things to Know' and 'Information for Specific Groups'. The main content area displays the title 'Information About Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine', the update date 'Updated Mar. 4, 2021', and options for 'Languages' and 'Print'. At the top right of the page, there are three icons with text: 'WEAR A MASK', 'STAY 6 FEET APART', and 'AVOID CROWDS'.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/janssen.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/index.html>



CDC Vaccine Resources

Vaccination for people experiencing homelessness guidance:

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

Overall COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

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

COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions related to homelessness:

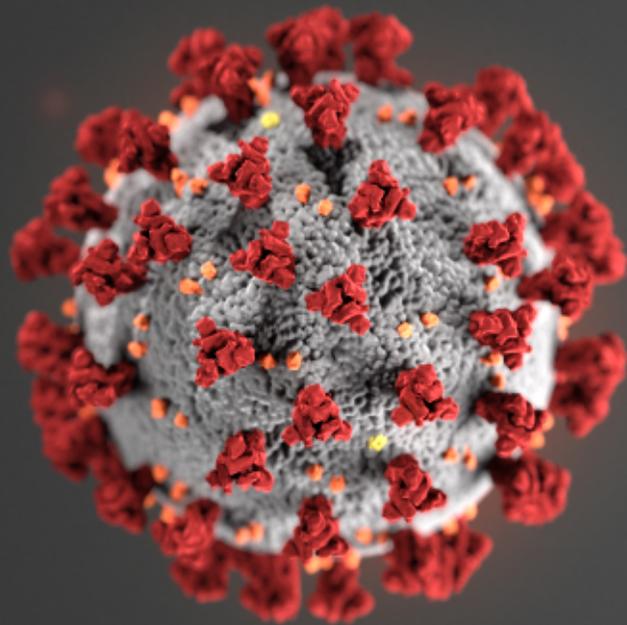
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/vaccine-faqs.html>



CDC COVID-19 Response and Health Equity

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/index.html>





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.



HUD OFFICE HOURS

March 5, 2021



Denise De Las Nueces, Medical Director, MD, MPH
Sonja Spears, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, JD

Gerry Thomas, Interim Deputy Director, MPH

Prioritizing health equity & racial justice

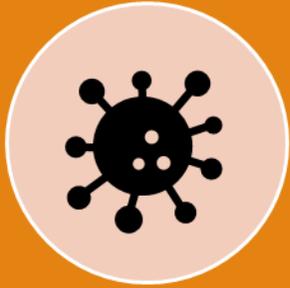
BHCHP

- For nearly 40 years has served some of society's most disenfranchised residents
- Provide on-site clinical care at 45+ individual and family shelters throughout Boston
- Are on the forefront of COVID-related care and treatment for those experiencing homelessness

BPHC

- Serve as Boston's public health department, longstanding commitment to racial justice and healthy equity
- As the pandemic emerged, we recognized that existing inequities would be exacerbated – goal was to reduce disproportionate impact
- Largest emergency shelter provider in New England

COVID was not the only crisis facing Boston



COVID-19



Drug Crisis



Housing Crisis

Racism

A large, light orange double-headed arrow pointing left and right, positioned below the three crisis boxes.

The Scene in Boston

- ❑ Robust healthcare system
- ❑ Robust homeless provider network
- ❑ Very low street homelessness
- ❑ Political will and very supportive Mayor (Mayor Walsh)
- ❑ Strong advocate community

Two Phases of the Pandemic

First Surge

- Very high levels of infection over 1/3 of emergency shelter guests
- Testing
- Mitigation

Mar.–Sep. 2020

October – present

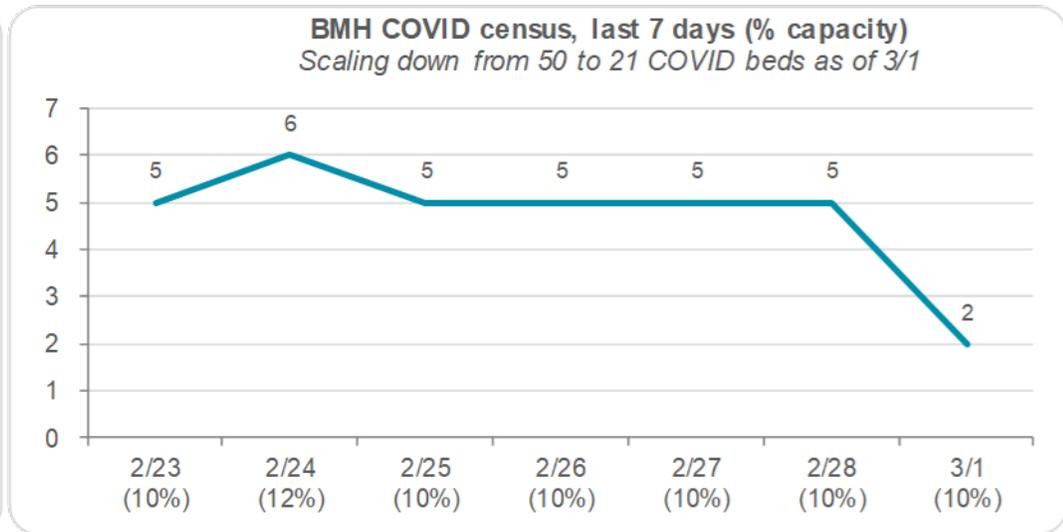
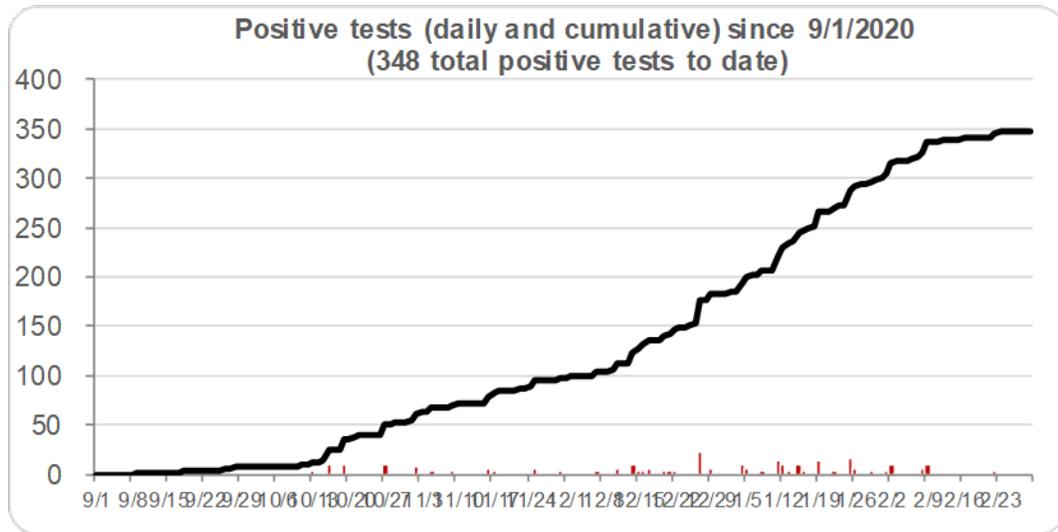
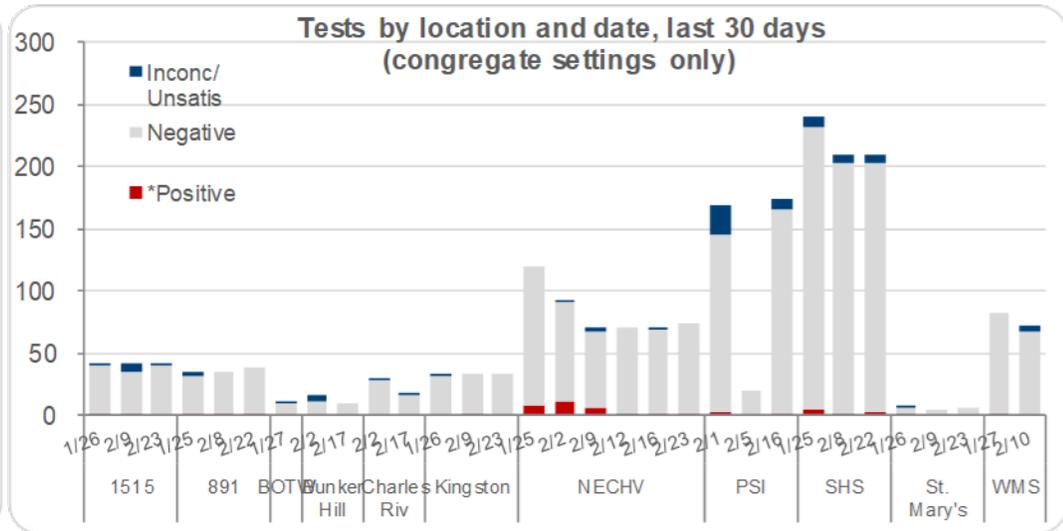
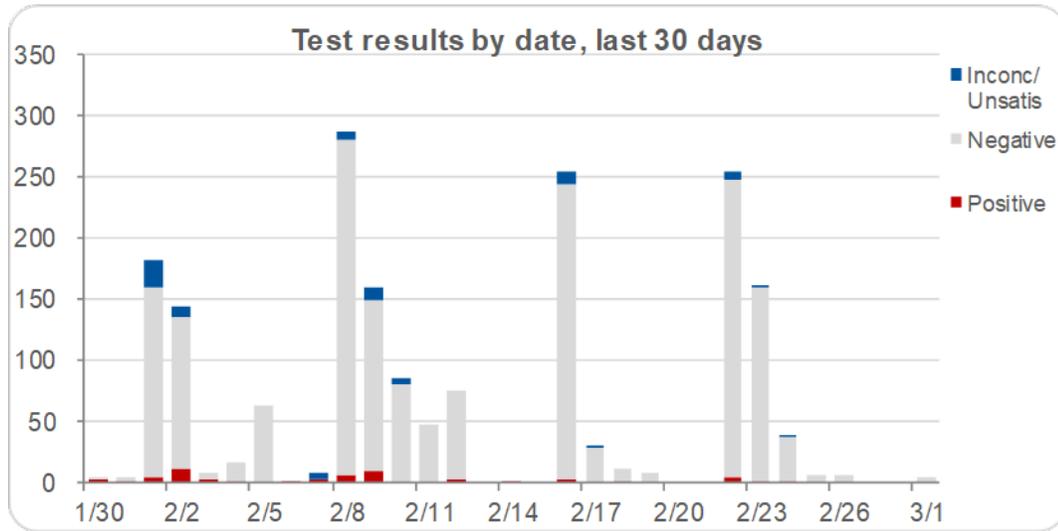
Second Surge

- Troubling increase in infection approx. 10%
- Resumed universal testing
- Advocate for PEH to be prioritized for vaccine
- Vaccines become available Jan 21, 2021

BHCHP Testing Data
as of 3/02/2021

Highlights since 9/1/2020 (current wave):

- Over 9,500 tests carried out by BHCHP
- Over 2,850 unique individuals tested by BHCHP
- Overall % of patients testing positive since 9/1/2020: 11.3%
- Overall % of patients testing positive in the past 7 days: 1.3%



Vaccine Planning

Vaccine planning and logistics included awareness of mistrust and lack of confidence in BIPOC:

- Looked to have trusted staff to promote vaccine
- Use of multilingual message
- Building staff confidence could translate to guest confidence
- Convenience and accessible locations

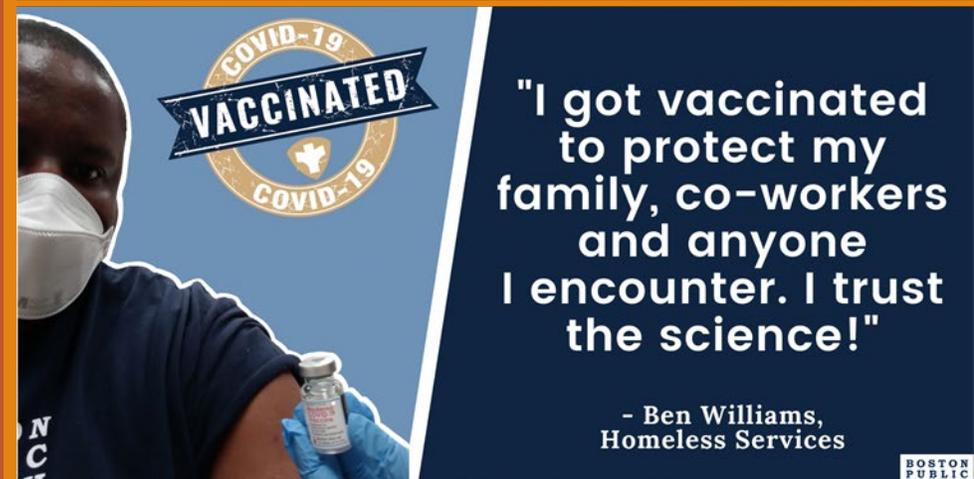
Vaccine clinics

Logistics

- Tracking vaccine by R/E – stress good data
- Offering at convenient times and anticipating some folks may have side effects

Communication

- Lots of word of mouth
- Signage
- Trusted staff outreaching to shelter - guests



Total Vaccinations Among Congregate Site Staff and PEH

- 2,133 vaccinated (across 2,978 doses):
 - 1,065 congregate site staff as of 3/1 (1,065 1st doses, 500 2nd doses)
 - Out of 1,666 total staff
 - Estimate 64% of congregate site *workforce* has received at least 1 dose
 - Estimate 30% of congregate site *workforce* has received 2 doses
 - 1,068 PEH as of 3/1 (1,050 1st doses, 363 2nd doses)
 - 851 sheltered out of 1,875 total
 - Estimate 45% of congregate site *guests* have received at least 1 dose
 - Estimate 18% of congregate site *guests* have received 2 doses
 - 217 street or housed (eligible in phase 2.1 or 2.2)

Demographic data: Vaccinated PEH (overall)

As of 3/01/2021

	Total # of Vaccinations	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Patient Refused	Unknown
Grouped by Race/Ethnicity	1,413	260 18.40%	1,062 75.16%	10 0.71%	81 5.73%
American Indian	15 1.06%	2 0.14%	13 0.92%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%
Asian	31 2.19%	3 0.21%	28 1.98%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%
Black/African American	520 36.80%	76 5.38%	434 30.71%	0 0.00%	10 0.71%
Pacific Islander	6 0.42%	5 0.35%	1 0.07%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%
Patient Refused	30 2.12%	18 1.27%	2 0.14%	10 0.71%	0 0.00%
Unknown	156 11.04%	76 5.38%	23 1.63%	0 0.00%	57 4.03%
White	689 48.76%	98 6.94%	575 40.69%	0 0.00%	16 1.13%

Next steps and future actions

Despite efforts inequities persist

- some shelter sites reaching more Black and Latinx guests
- remain committed to addressing

Use of Ambassadors

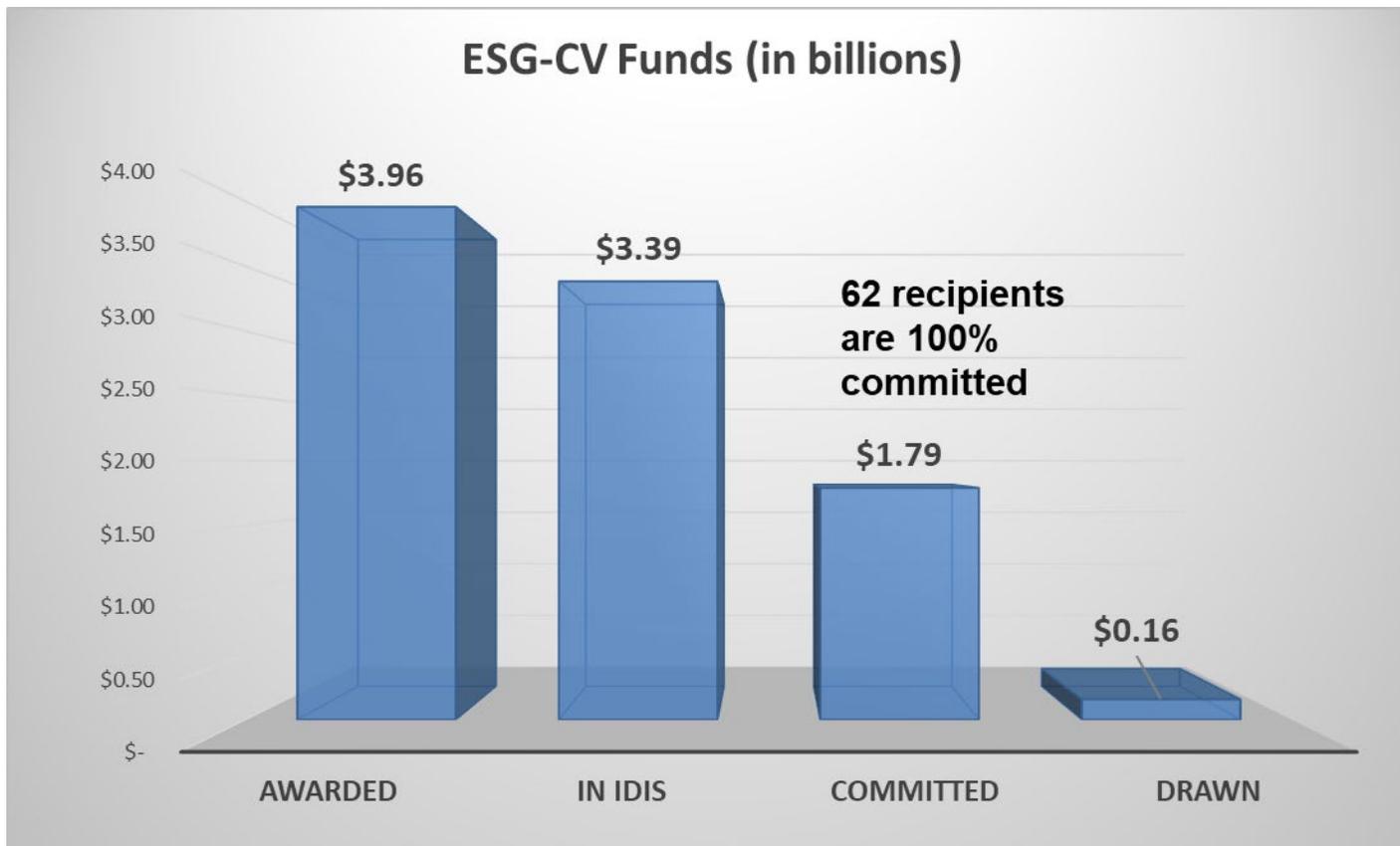
- modeled on peer support and community health worker



Thank You

ESG-CV Grants Status Report

As of February 26, of the 362 ESG-CV Recipients and \$3.96 Billion allocated:



Percentage of total funds drawn:
4.66%

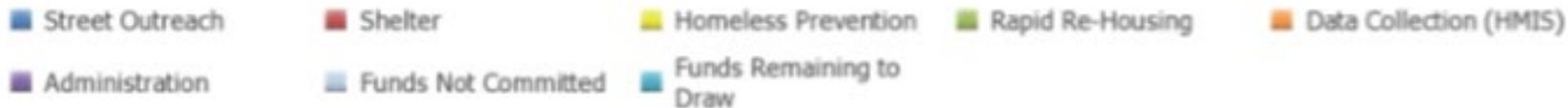
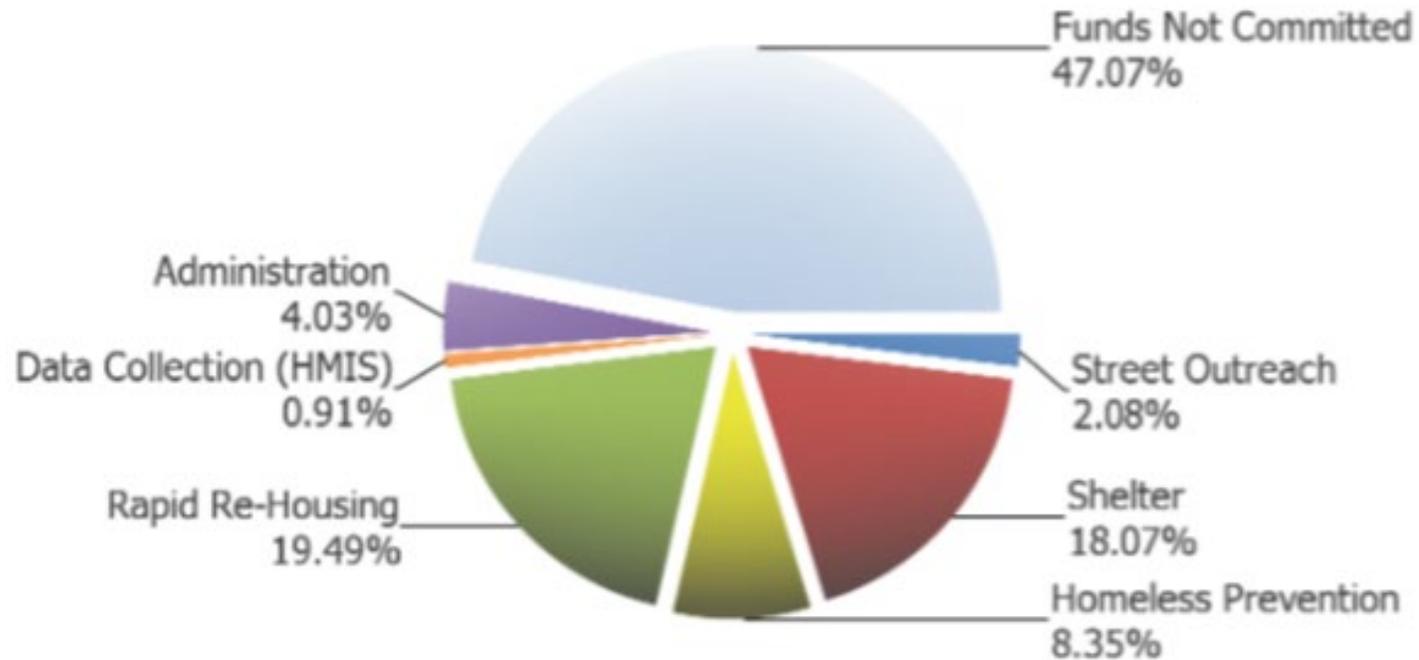
Increase of only .18%
over the previous week...

26 recipients are over
20% drawn

**20% of your grant allocation must
be expended by September 30, 2021**

ESG-CV Grants Status Report

Funds Committed



ESG-CV Grants Status Report

As of March 1, 2021, of 362 Grantees:

ESG-CV1

- 97% of Grant Agreements executed
- Only 11 to go!
- 18 allocations remaining to load into IDIS

ESG-CV2

- 75% of Grant Agreements executed
- 91 to go...
- 119 allocations remaining to load into IDIS

**Making
Progress!**

HUD RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

- FAQ-
The Department of the Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance



Masks Should Continue to be Worn By Project Staff and Participants

HUD expects homeless service providers to continue [following CDC](#) guidance related to mask-wearing, which states:

- All staff should wear a mask, consistent with the [guidance for the general public](#)
- All clients should wear [masks](#) any time they are not in their own room or on their bed (in shared sleeping areas)
- Children under 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious/incapacitated should not wear a mask

Masks Should Continue to be Worn By Project Staff and Participants

- Despite recent declines in cases, COVID-19 continues to spread rapidly across the country at rates higher than even the worst summer peak; new variants are emerging that could be more contagious and lethal
- Vaccines offer critical protection, but have not yet reached most people experiencing homelessness
- Wearing masks can drastically reduce COVID transmission, prevent asymptomatic spread of the disease, and protect other people at the shelter from getting sick and dying!
- Using all the tools we have -- **vaccines, masks, and physical distancing** -- saves lives and will help us get our friends and family back together sooner

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

