



# Office Hours: COVID-19 Planning and Response

November 19, 2021



# Housekeeping

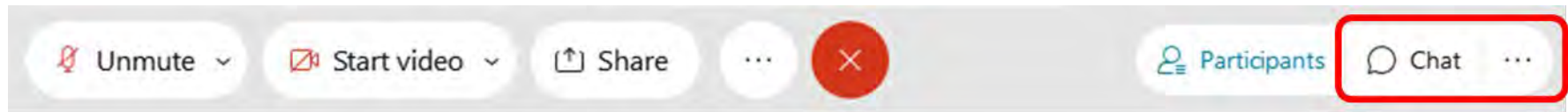
- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:

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

- Password for all COVID Office Hours: **HUD456**
- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:  
+1-415-655-0002      Access code: 185 207 6880

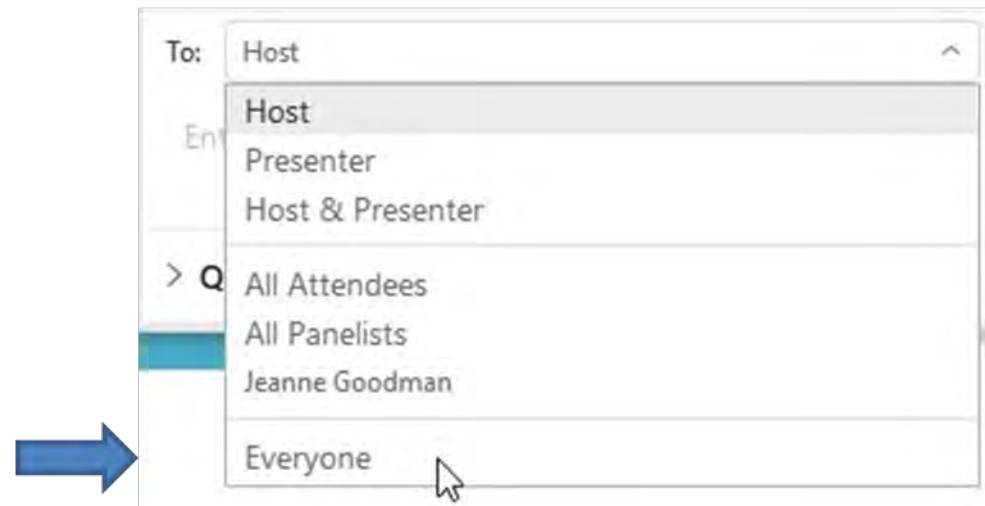
(If you need to call in toll-free, call 1-855-797-9485)

# 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
  - Brett Esders
  - Sharon Price Singer
  - William Snow
  - Lisa Coffman
  - Latesha Balam-Totten
- Rita Harcrow, Director, Office of HIV/AIDS Housing
- Brian Roccapriore, HUD TA, The Cloudburst Group

## Lawndale Christian Health Center/Chicago, Illinois

- Thomas Huggett, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Mobile Health



# Speakers & Resource Advisors

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Ashley Meehan, MPH, Homelessness Unit, COVID-19 Response, State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) Support Task Force

## National Health Care 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 Programs Office





# HUD Office Of HIV/AIDS Housing: World AIDS Day 2021

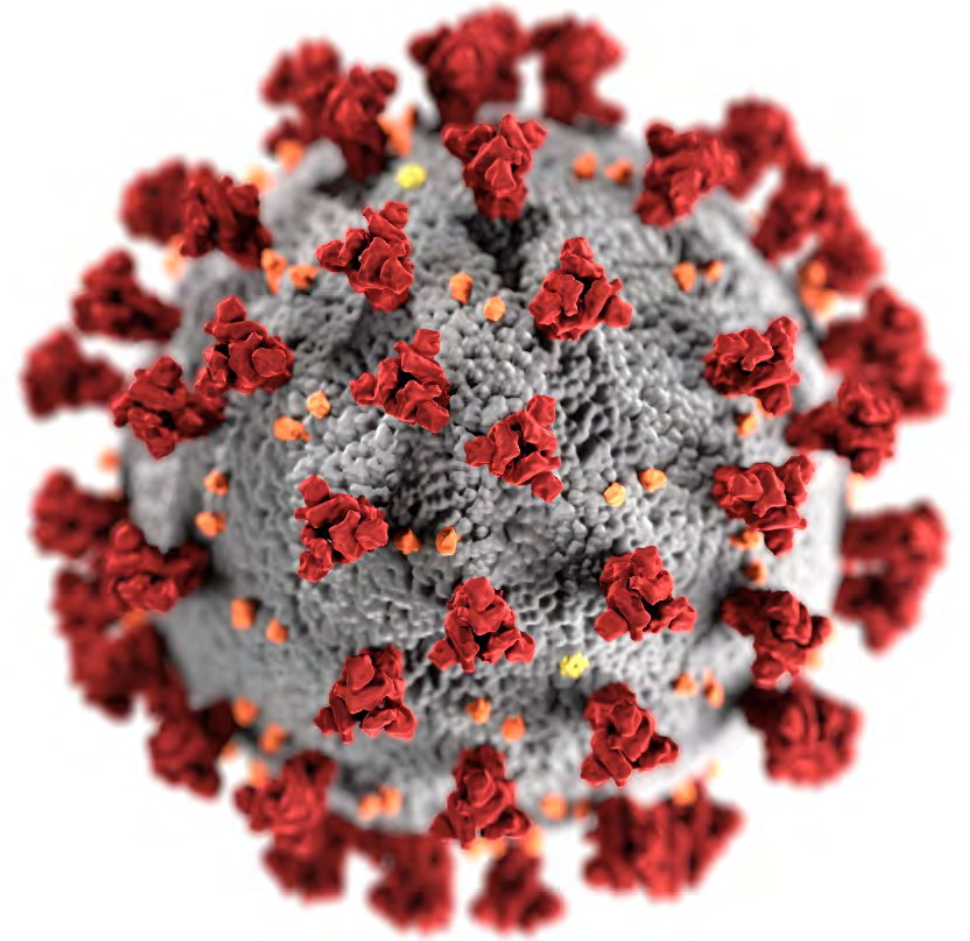
- December 1 marks the 33<sup>rd</sup> World AIDS Day
- HUD programming over the next few weeks:
  - In Focus message and post on HUD website
  - Blog post on hiv.gov
  - HUD HQ building ribbon
- Check out the HOPWA Twitter account @HUD\_HOPWA for updates



# COVID-19 and Homelessness

Updates

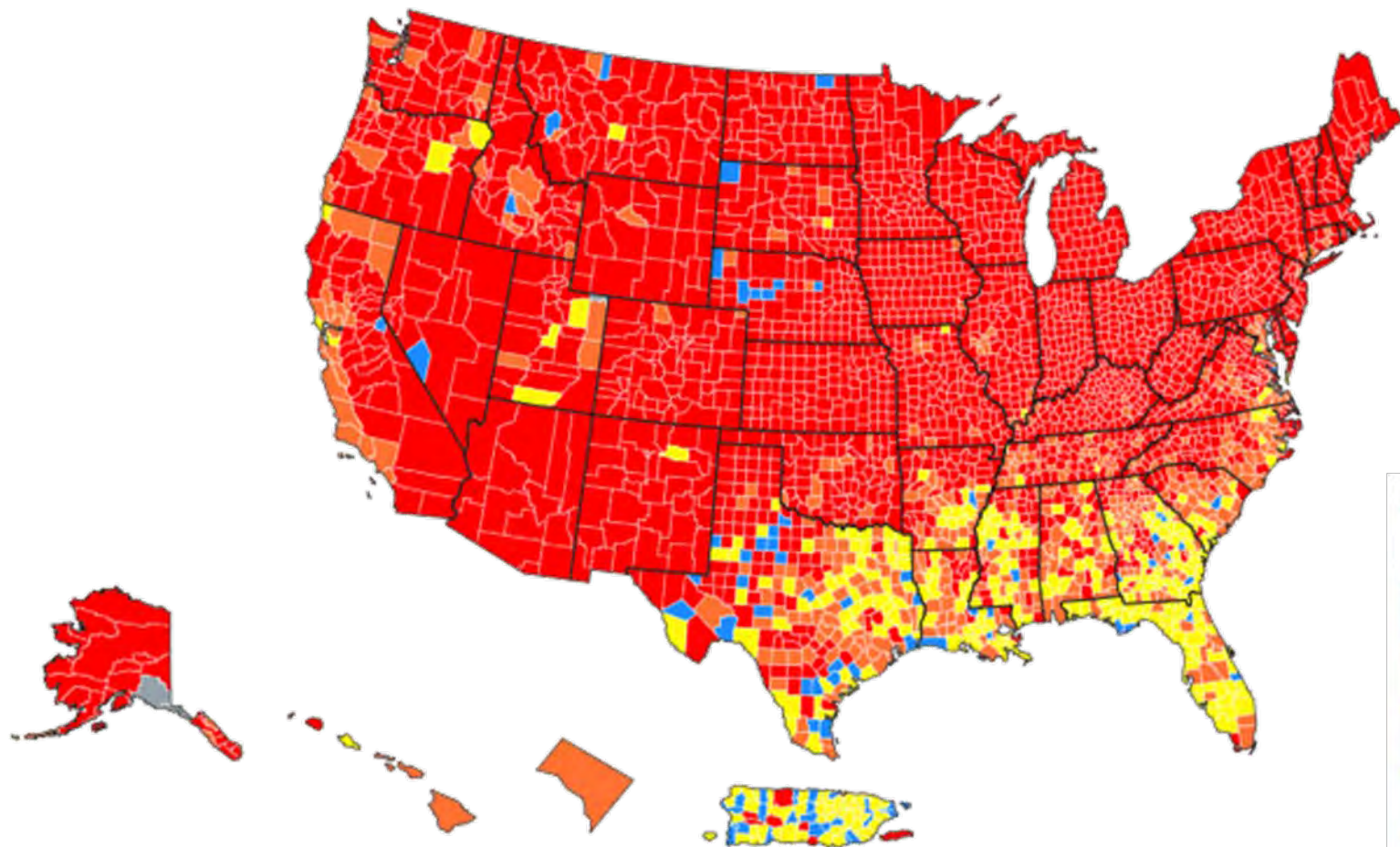
Homelessness Unit  
Corrections & Homelessness Section  
CDC COVID-19 Response



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# Community Transmission of COVID-19 by County



Community Transmission in US by County

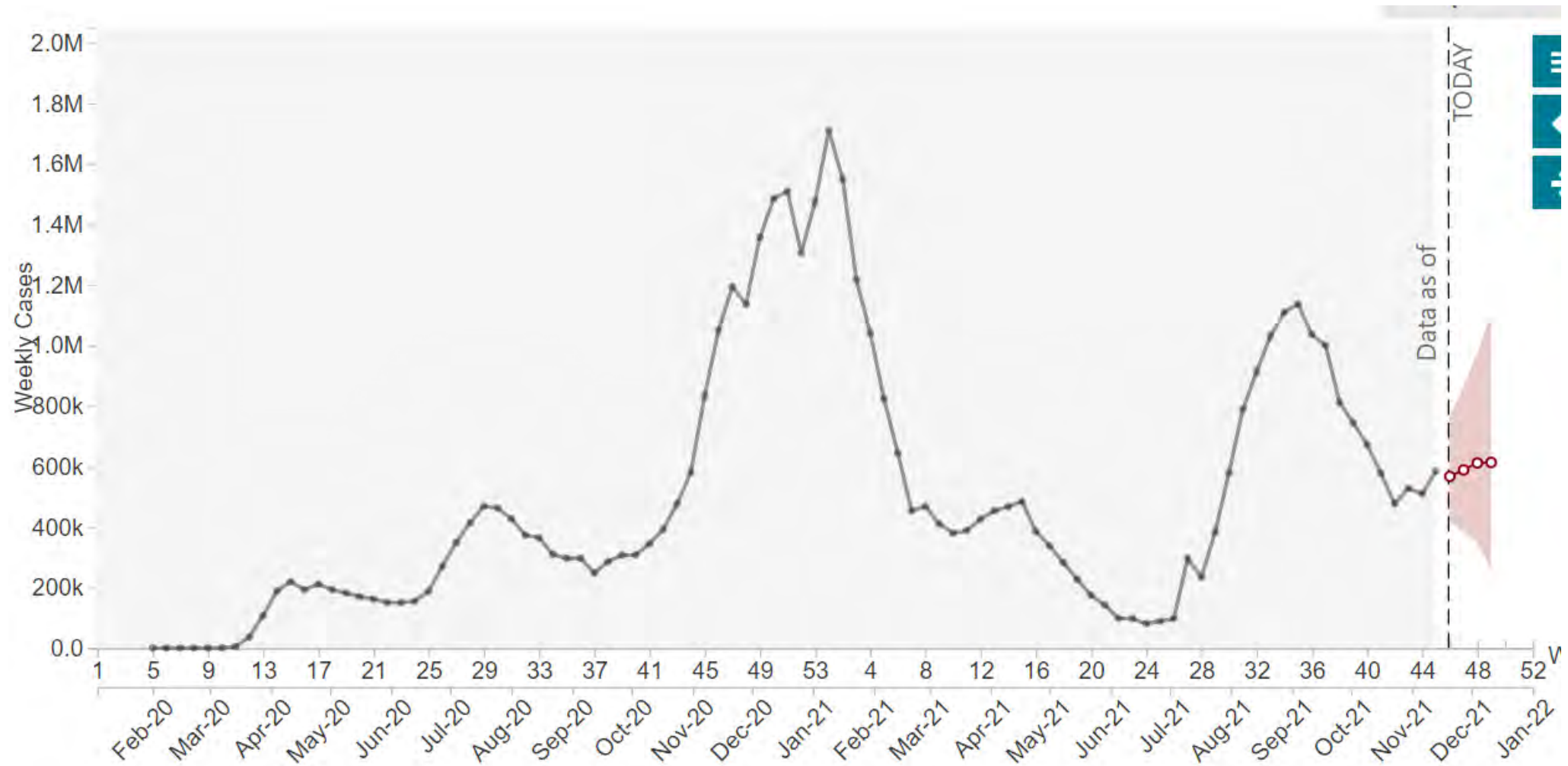
	Total	Percent	% Change
High	2305	71.54%	1.86%
Substantial	462	14.34%	-3.38%
Moderate	362	11.24%	0.96%
Low	90	2.79%	0.56%

● High   ● Substantial   ● Moderate   ● Low   ● No Data



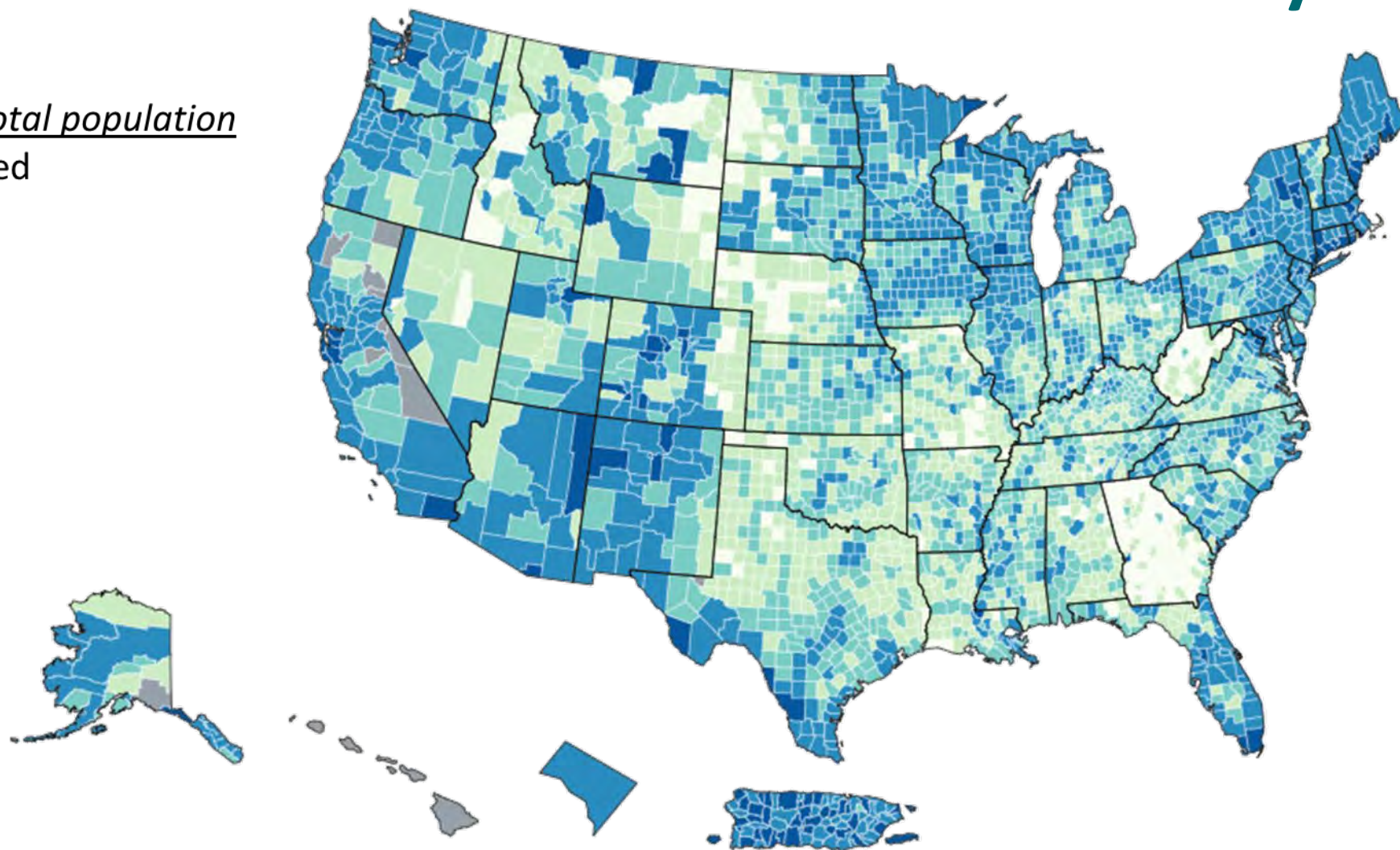


# 4-Week Forecasting of National COVID-19 Cases



# COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States by County

\*Percent of total population  
fully vaccinated



# Recent News & Publications

## Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

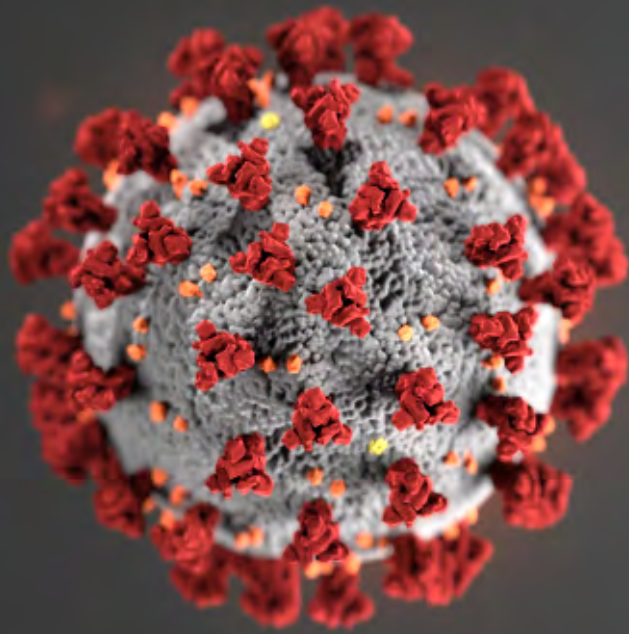
Effectiveness of 2-Dose Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Against COVID-19–Associated Hospitalizations Among Immunocompromised Adults — Nine States, January–September 2021

**8 dead, 89 infected after Covid outbreak at Connecticut nursing home**



[https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7044e3.htm?s\\_cid=mm7044e3\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7044e3.htm?s_cid=mm7044e3_w)  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/8-dead-89-infected-covid-outbreak-connecticut-nursing-home-rcna5696>





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





# **Biden Administration Vaccine Mandate Rules: Information for Homeless Assistance Providers & Partners**

Friday, November 19, 2021

# Top Line Take-Away: Two Rules, One Goal

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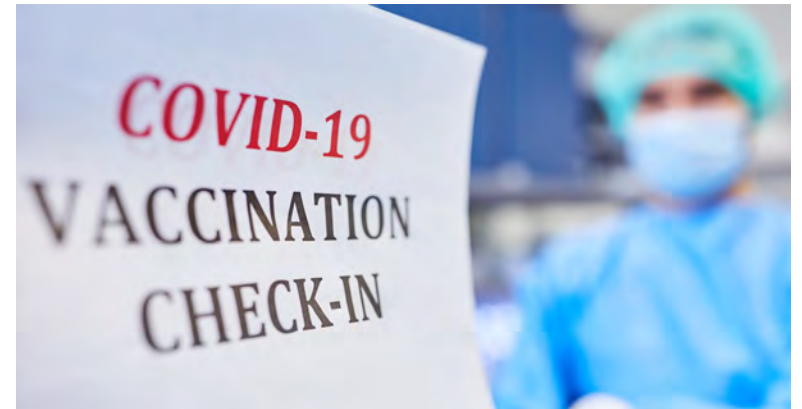
**OSHA Rule:** Applies to (non-health care) private employers with 100+ employees

- *Mandates weekly testing if unvaccinated*

**CMS Rule:** Applies to nearly all health care providers

- *Mandates vaccination, no testing option*

**Common goal:** Increase COVID-19 vaccinations



# OSHA Rule

- **Important Deadline Dates:**

- December 6: All requirements implemented (to include creating policies), except testing
- January 4: Testing requirements must be in effect

- **Important Details:**

1. Rule currently on hold pending legal challenges
2. Weekly testing is at employee time & expense
3. Rules are minimum standard and pre-empt state laws; states/employers may impose stricter rules
4. Federal law re: medical/religious exemptions apply (may be subject to state laws)
5. Unvaccinated employees must mask at work (unless 100% telework or outside)
6. Employers must track employee vaccination status and all testing results
7. Employers must provide up to 4 hours paid time off for workers to get vaccinated and “reasonable time and paid sick leave” for side effects
8. Employers must not discriminate against those who wear masks or get vaccinated
9. Employers must provide information in all languages spoken at worksite
10. Prior COVID-19 infection does not exempt employees from requirements



# CMS Rule

- **Important Deadline Dates**

- **December 6:** All employees must have at least one vaccination dose or submit for exemption
- **January 4:** All employees must have completed second dose (or just one dose, if J&J) or have an approved exemption

- **Important Details**

- Includes volunteers, contractors, students/interns, housekeeping, security, facilities staff, etc.—anyone who is ever onsite, or goes to offsite locations (e.g., encampments, supportive housing sites, etc.)
- Rules are minimum standard and pre-empt state laws; states/employers may impose stricter rules
- Federal law re: medical/religious exemptions apply (may be subject to state laws)
- Prior COVID-19 infection does not exempt employees from requirements

- **Wild Card: Navigating Homeless Services Spaces**

- Homeless services providers co-located with health care providers or who have contracting/close relationships may fall under this rule

**Engage in active discussions with your local partners!**





# More Information

- [OSHA rule summary \(full OSHA rule\)](#)
- [CMS Rule FAQ \(full CMS rule\)](#)
- [National Health Care for the Homeless Council FAQ](#)
- [What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws](#)



# COVID-19 Outreach Efforts, Best Practices, & Lessons Learned Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Chicago

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
Office Hours

Thomas D. Huggett, MD, MPH

Medical Director - Mobile Health  
Lawndale Christian Health Center

Chicago, Illinois

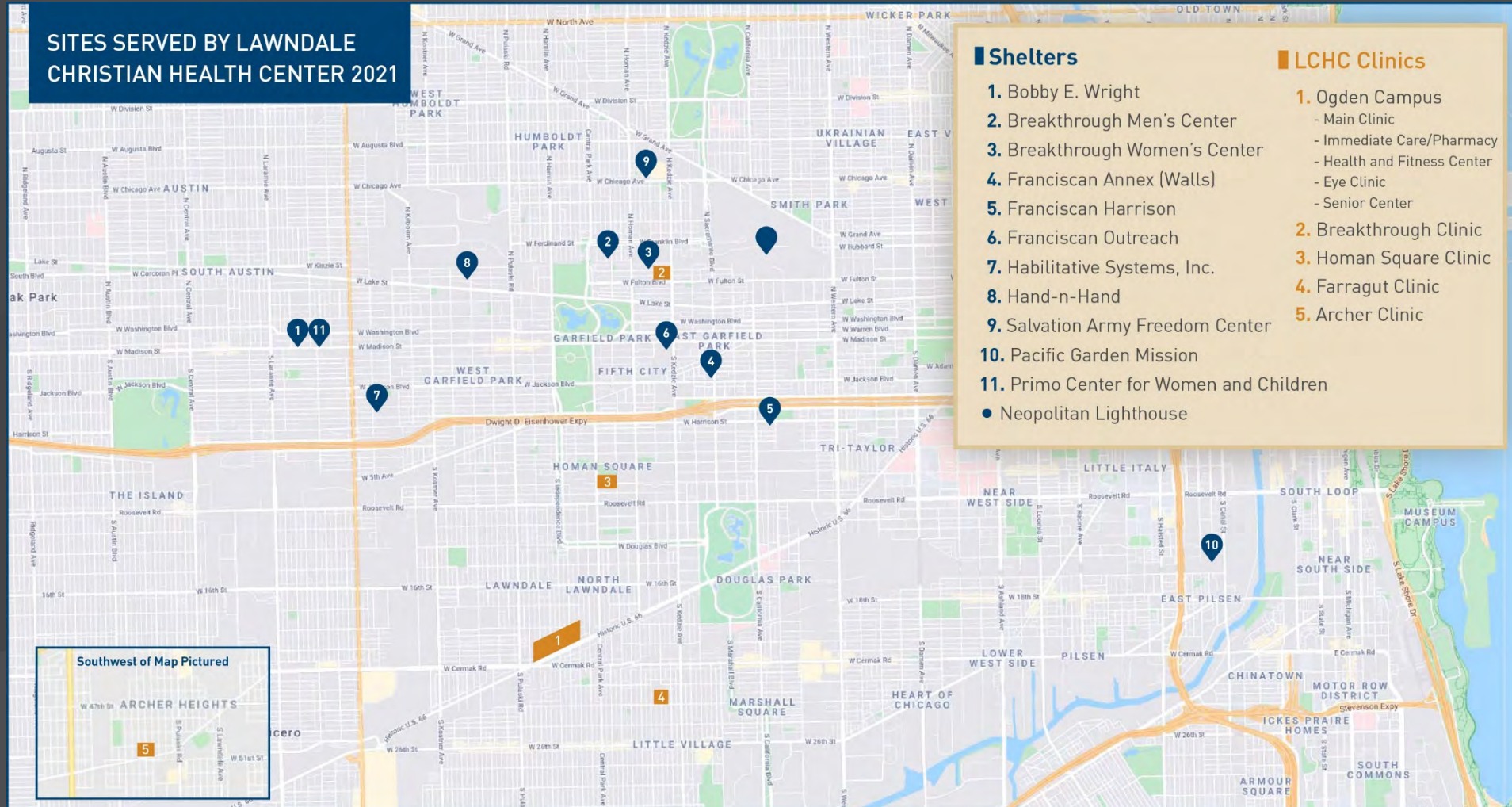
[thomashuggett@lawndale.org](mailto:thomashuggett@lawndale.org)

November 19, 2021



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Lawndale Christian Health Center Mobile Health Team: 17 providers including 1 psychiatrist; 5 Mobile Health Assistants; 3 Care Managers; 1 Referral Coordinator >>12 weekly MH sites; 1854 pts in 6,667 encounters in 2020-21 >>In 2021, the Point in Time Count noted 4,447 PEH in Chicago.



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# Lesson 1: Developing Standards of Care for Persons Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)





# Providing Care On-Site to Persons Experiencing Homelessness – Suitcase Model





# Providing Primary Care On- Site to PEH – Clinic Room Model



# Lesson 2: Antiracist Engagement

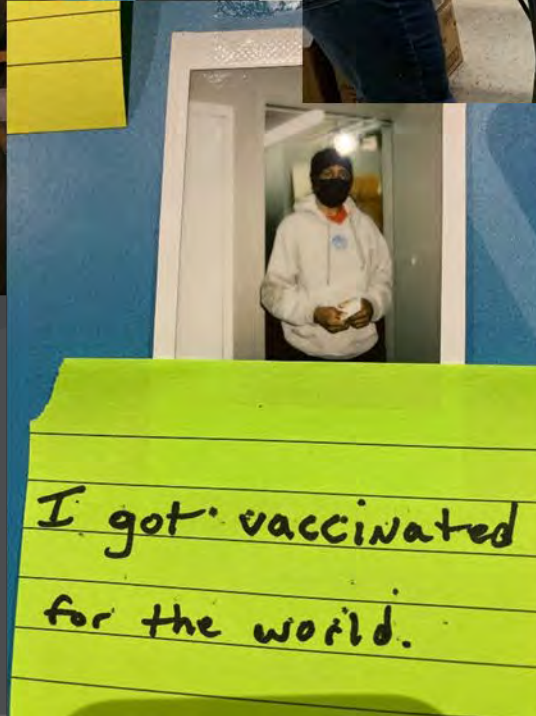
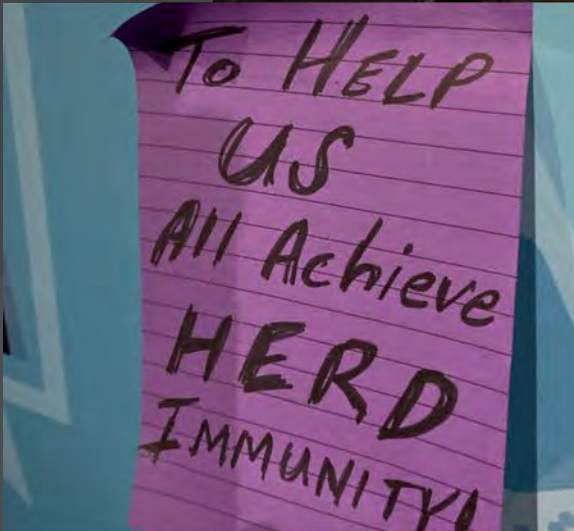
- Acknowledge past and present experience of systemic racism in health care
- Ask what have you heard; acknowledge the confusing information in social media
- Ask permission to share scientific information and provider's own experience
- Affirm person's strengths and interest in their own care
- Emphasize messengers from the same racial/ethnic background, but ALL must be involved
- Work with person to develop their own plan and respect that plan
- No matter what their decision, emphasize that we will always be happy to see you in the future



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Engagement efforts led to shelter-based coronavirus vaccination efforts with >2700 doses given by LCHC, with >52.0% of PEH in Chicago receiving at least one dose



<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid19-vaccine/home/blog/cdph-and-dfss-join-shelter-and-community-health-leaders-to-share.html>



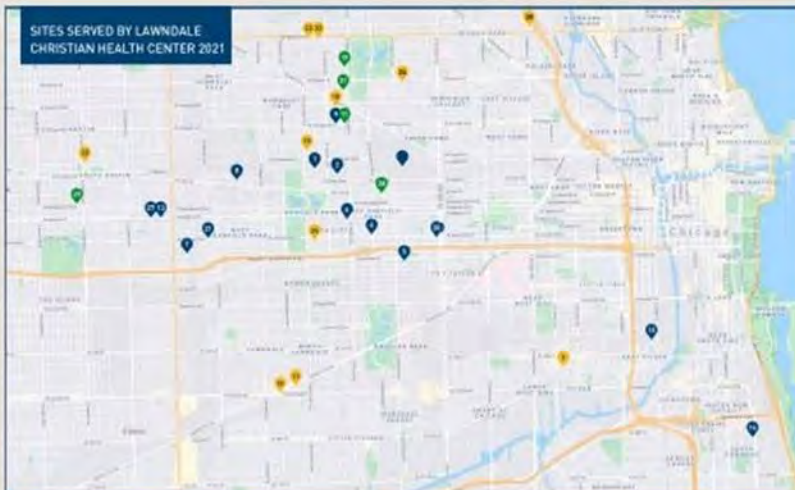
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# Shelter Infection Control, Testing, and Vaccination

## MOBILE HEALTH UPDATES

January - September 2021



COVID-19 Guidance for Homeless Shelters as Chicago Cautiously Reopens and Gradually Resumes

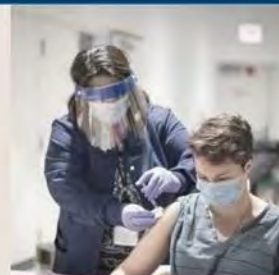


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July 14, 2020



12 SHELTERS SERVED  
WEEKLY



9 BINAX NOW (COVID  
TESTING) TRAININGS  
COMPLETED



19 COVID VACCINE  
ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

28 PLEXIGLASS SHIELDS  
INSTALLED



155 HAND SANITIZER  
STATIONS INSTALLED



2721 COVID VACCINE  
DOSES ADMINISTERED



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# Lesson 3: Challenges in Data Sharing: HMIS, City Departments, Health Care Providers, & Housing Providers

- Just to start: How to determine an accurate denominator= the total number of PEH
  - HMIS numbers may be more accurate than Point In Time count, but challenges and misconceptions remain with HMIS data sharing with city departments and health care providers, even for important public health information such as vaccination status
  - How could data sharing be improved?



Housing is Health Care: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 259 high-risk PEH received protective housing at a downtown Chicago hotel from April-Sept 2020 ; 132 achieved housing using AMEs



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# 104 PEH Assessed by Medical/Mental Health Teams before Accelerated Moving Events (AMEs) in Feb-Mar 2021

- 20 were being seen for the first time
- 69 needed case management
- 26 had problems with stairs
- 46 had problems emailing or texting
- 20 needed medications
- 27 needed meds for Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- 51 had ANY mental illness
- 28 were opened for ACT/CST/RST support
- >>>We STRONGLY advocate for the health care team to see every PEH in shelters AT LEAST ONCE to ensure PEH have the supports they need once housed



# Lesson 4: The Intersection of Health Care and Housing

- Would CoCs benefit from representation by active clinicians who serve PEH face to face?
  - Aim to increase housing success and retention with supports for: medical, behavioral health, SUD, SMI, social isolation, and spiritual issues
- Would appropriate housing and the health of shelter residents be improved by requiring PEH to see a health care provider at least once to discuss unmet needs for health, including vaccination?
- What are the accountability mechanisms for CoCs?





We think sometimes  
that poverty is only  
being hungry, naked  
and homeless.

The poverty of being  
unwanted, unloved  
and uncared for is  
the greatest poverty.

We must start in our  
own homes to remedy  
this kind of poverty.

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta

*Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*



# HUD TA RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

## Transportation Considerations Vaccination Events in Unsheltered Settings



# Transportation Considerations

- [Transporting Participants to a COVID-19 Vaccination Event](#)
- Detailed plan needed for safely and efficiently transporting clients for offsite vaccination
- Explore community transportation partnerships
- Explore ESG, CDBG, and/or HOPWA funding to cover costs
- Consider rural vs. urban logistical challenges
- Communication is key!
- Proactive planning to be ready at a moment's notice

# Vaccination in Unsheltered Settings: Guiding Principles

- [Vaccinations in Unsheltered Settings: Event Types and Considerations](#)
- Multipronged approach
- Inclusive
- Trauma-informed
- Communicate using trusted individuals and locations
- Ease and access
- Maximize time with clients
- Safety



# Vaccination in Unsheltered Settings: General Considerations

- Case Study: [Oahu, HI](#)
- Use HMIS and by-name lists, street outreach and street medicine teams to identify where people are located and map out distance between vaccination event(s), central hub for supplies, and consider how to move between the two during the event.
- During the observation period, collect UDEs and other information in a private location.
- Offer vaccination events frequently at the same location and time – *ex. come to the library every Tuesday from noon-2pm for a vaccination*

# Vaccination in Unsheltered Settings:

## Strategy #1 - Encampments

- Sync vaccination event hours with times when individuals are most likely to be at the location, including at night.
- Encampments can be formal or informal, so if there is existing leadership within the encampment, include these individuals in the planning process to ensure better turnout and acceptance by the individuals living there.
- To minimize intrusion into personal space, set up vaccination events at the outside perimeter of encampments with street access or other routes that can be used to bring additional vaccine supplies.

# Vaccination in Unsheltered Settings:

## Strategy #2 - Rural

- Identify regular gathering places (libraries, food banks, faith centers, transit centers, gas stations) that can be used for vaccination events.
- There may be no local homeless service providers or health department, so partner with a healthcare provider or community stakeholder who can connect with the resources needed to bring the vaccine to unsheltered people.
- Get creative when seeking out vaccine ambassadors (church leaders, postal workers, park rangers, convenience store clerks).
- Equip team with Wi-Fi hot spots and paper collection forms if there is not broadband available.

# Vaccination in Unsheltered Settings:

## Strategy #3 – Mobile Vaccination

- Outreach staff can ask individuals what time works best for them and accommodate their preferences to the greatest extent possible. Attempt to identify multiple individuals who can receive vaccines at the same time to maximize vaccine supplies.
- Mobile vaccination requires less infrastructure, so consider the minimum setup (supplies, staff) needed to vaccinate safely.
- Staff may be limited to a set number of hours for vaccination attempts depending upon their travel schedule (distance, punctured vials), so factor this into planning.



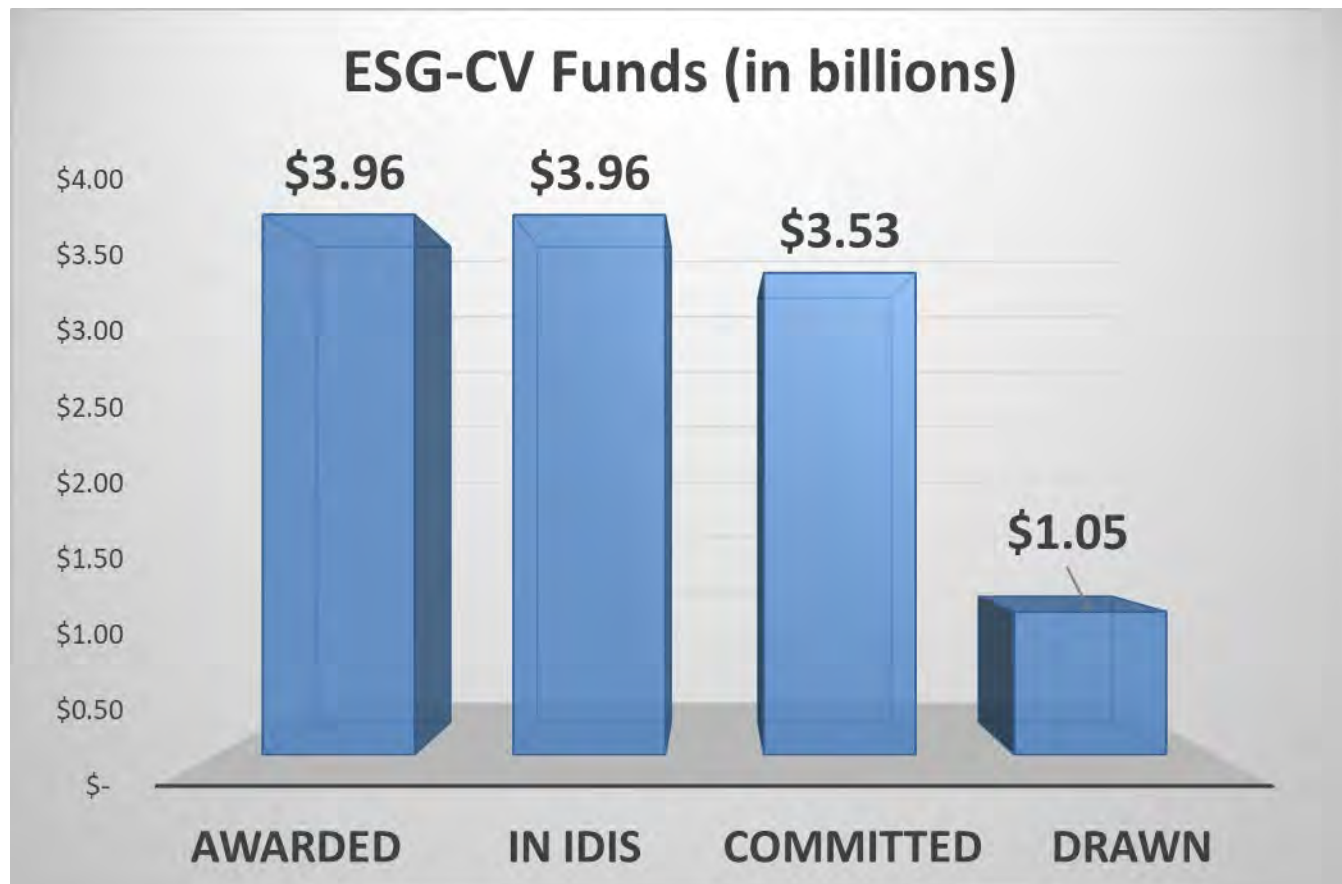
# Vaccine Incentives

- Vaccine incentives have always been one of the tools to support and encourage individuals to get vaccinated, along with opportunities to talk with and ask questions of trusted sources and easy and frequent access to vaccination events.
- ESG-CV funds can be used to pay for incentives
  - \$50 per dose
    - Boosters (if applicable) – another \$50

*\*ESG-CV funds may only be used for vaccine incentives to the extent other vaccine incentives are inaccessible or unavailable to people experiencing homelessness within the community.*

# ESG-CV Grants Status Report

## Updated November 15, 2021



**99.96% of funds obligated in IDIS**

1 ESG-CV 2 grants remaining to load

**89.2% of funds Committed**

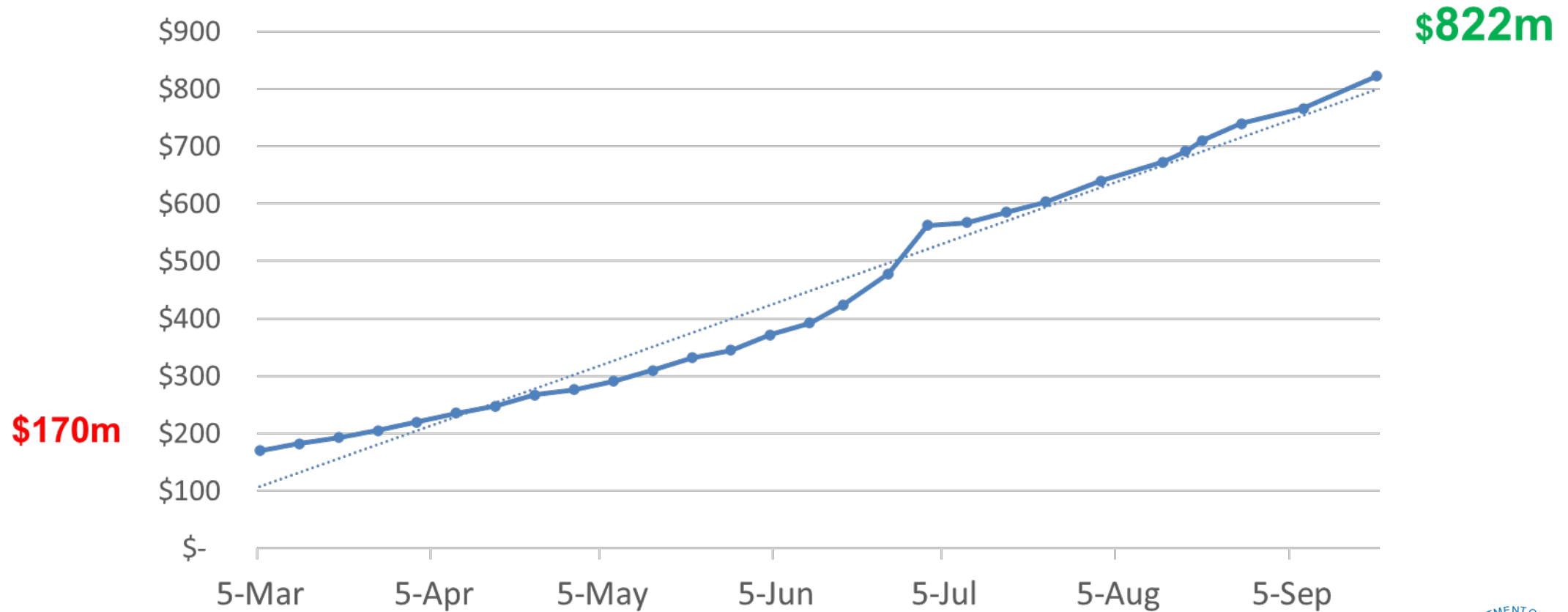
**26.5% of awarded funds Drawn!**

***Thank you for all your hard work!***

**80% of ESG-CV grant allocations must be expended by March 31, 2022**

# Keep it going!

ESG-CV Draws (in millions)



# Upcoming Webinars

- [2022 Point-in-Time Count Office Hours- 11/23/2021, 2pm EST](#)

To prepare for your upcoming count, HUD will be hosting a webinar to talk through the Notice and answer any questions that CoCs may have. HUD recognizes that the pandemic is not over. HUD worked with its partners in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Healthcare for the Homeless Council (NHCHC) to update safety information available on the Point-In-Time (PIT) Count page on HUD.gov.

- [Detection and Mitigation of COVID-19 in Homeless Service Sites and other Congregate Facilities- 12/1/2021, 3pm EST](#)

The CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) and HUD are hosting a series to highlight best practices for communities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Login information will be posted to the HUD Exchange in advance.

- [Emergency Housing Vouchers Office Hours- 12/7/2021, 3pm EST](#)

HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) is hosting weekly Office Hours to support the implementation of the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) program. These Office Hours will be held on Tuesdays from 3:00 - 4:00 PM EST. The EHV Office Hours on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, will provide guidance pertaining to portability and provide Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) with an opportunity to ask questions during an expanded Q&A session.





# New Resources Posted

- [Winter Planning Resources \(updated\)](#)
  - [COVID-19 Preparedness Checklist for Shelter Facilities](#)
  - [Meeting Winter Shelter Needs and Mitigating Health Risks](#)
  - [Informational Flyer: What to Do in a Shelter When Someone Shows COVID-19 Symptoms](#)
- [Summary of ESG Program Waivers and Alternative Requirements](#)
- [Honolulu Housing Fair](#)

# 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](https://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

