



Masks, Vaccines, Testing: Staying Prepared for COVID-19 in Your Community

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 | 3:00PM ET / 12:00PM PT

NACHW
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

 Vaccine Equity
Cooperative

Para escuchar la presentación en español, haga clic en este ícono en la parte inferior de su pantalla



Interpretation

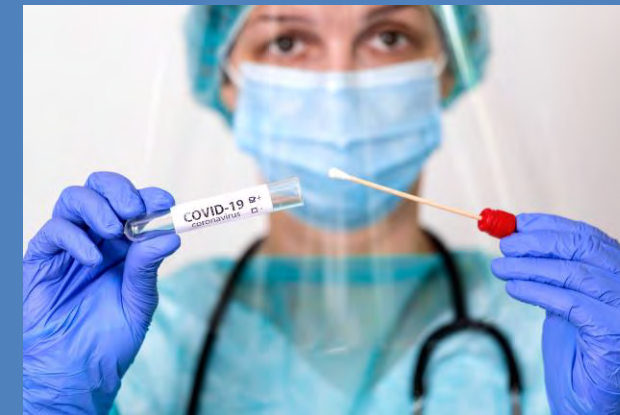
Being COVID-19 Prepared Means Using All the Tools in our Toolbox



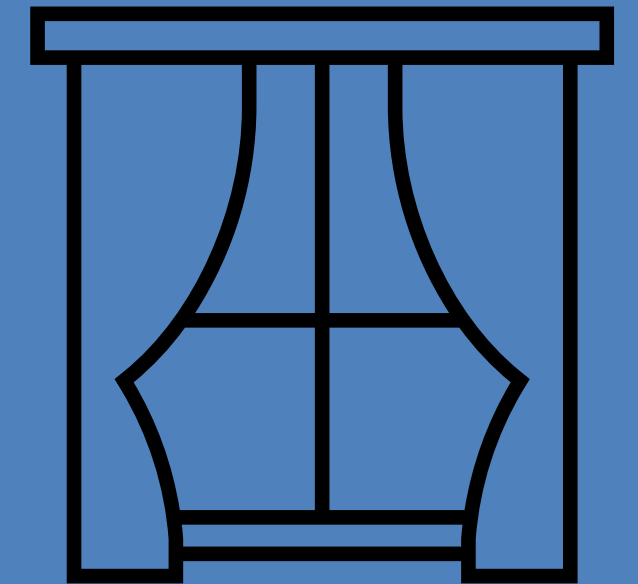
Vaccines



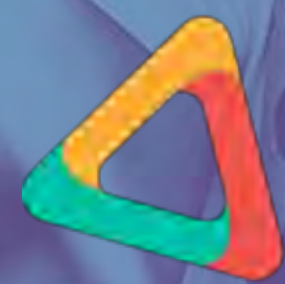
Masks



Testing



Ventilation



Vaccine Equity Cooperative

OUR APPROACH

Aim: to help our nation rebuild from the pandemic in a way that sets us up to begin to overcome deeply-rooted racial health inequities and better address future crises

The VEC's work is focused in three areas:



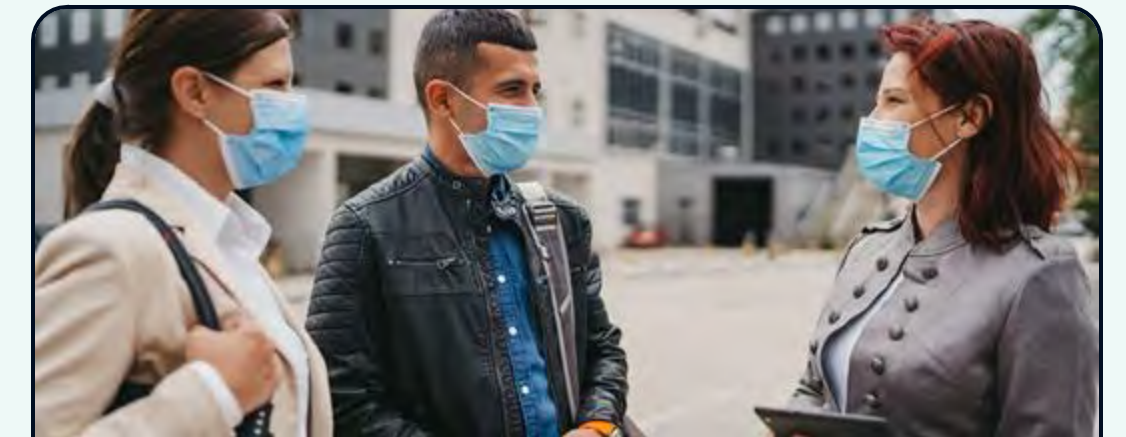
1

Democratizing information, research, data, & best practices, and ensuring access to trusted resources



2

Convening, collaborating and facilitating learning to expand funding and support to local community-based organizations



3

Advocating and capacity building locally, including strengthening policy in support of community-based & public health workforces

COLLECTIVE SCOPE AND REACH

Partners & Collaborators:

Collective Practice & Expertise:

Combined Membership & Reach:



- Active involvement in local vaccine distribution & public health efforts
- Leaders & practitioners from communities most impacted by COVID-19
- Decades of experience leading national & local community health and health equity programs
- Global leaders in vaccine hesitancy research & community health
- Leading innovators in digital engagement, design, and data

2,000+ local community health workers & embedded public health professionals

450,000 combined social media followers

Tens of thousands of combined members, alumni, & volunteers

Member/programmatic footprint in **50 states from coast to coast**

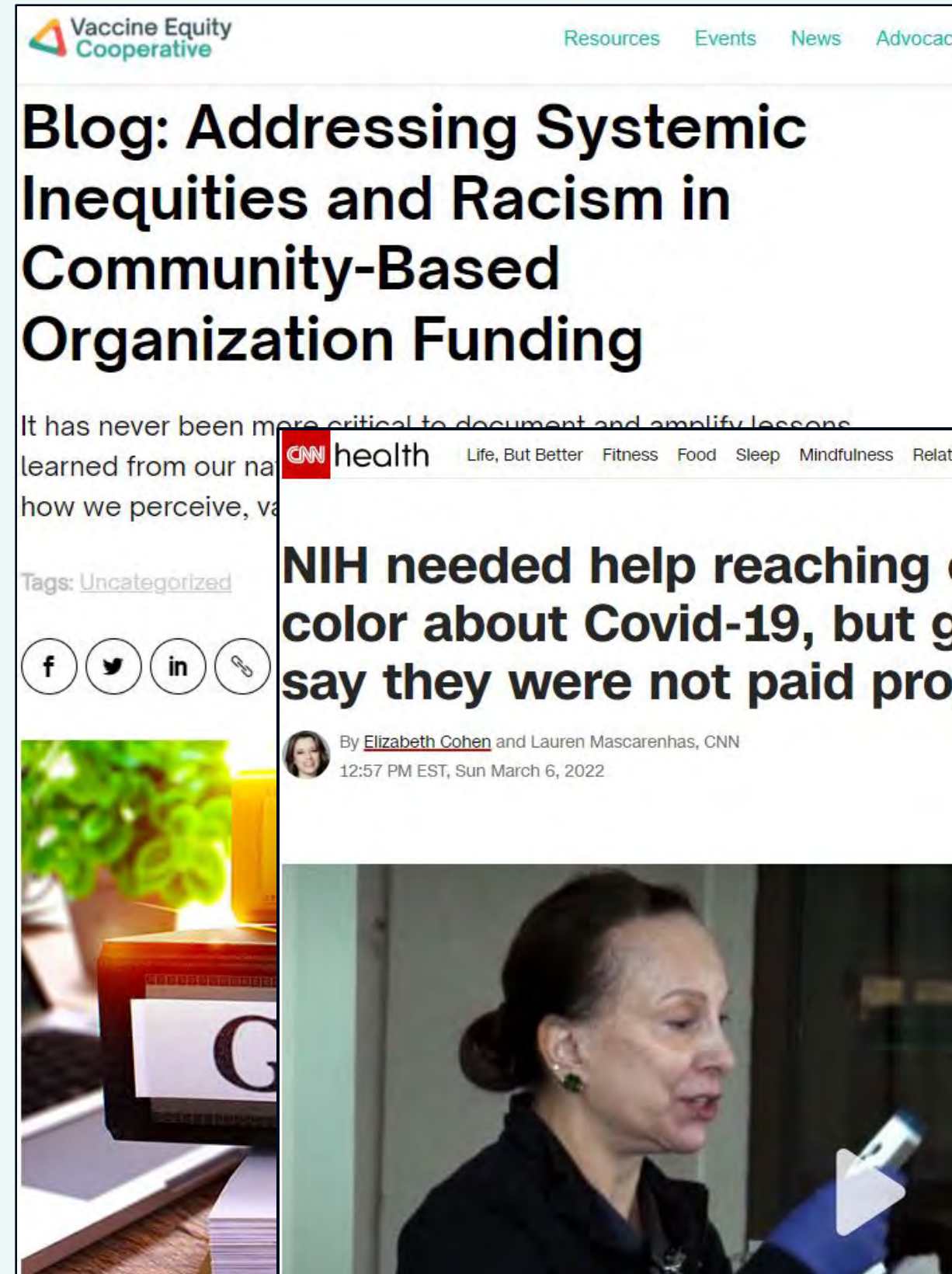
Relationships/network from **hyper-local to municipal, state, & federal gov't**

THE VACCINE EQUITY COOPERATIVE RESOURCE HUB

ADVOCACY

The Vaccine Equity Cooperative is committed to supporting national, local and institutional policies designed to:

- **Increase investment and improve funding systems and processes for community-based organizations**
- **Strengthen and sustain community-based workforces**
- **Build better connected, more transparent public health data infrastructure**



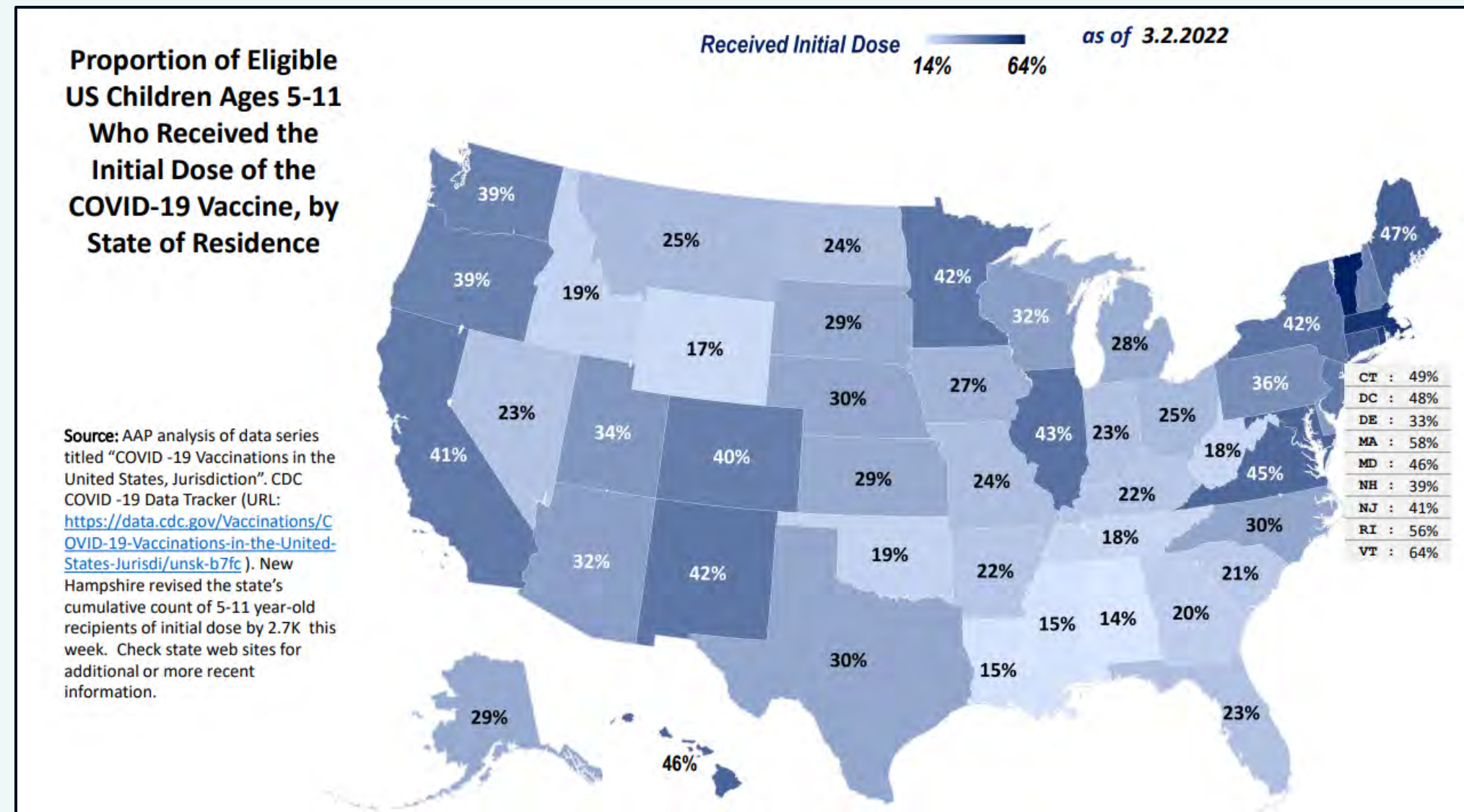
The image shows two overlapping screenshots. The top screenshot is from the Vaccine Equity Cooperative website, featuring the logo and navigation links (Resources, Events, News, Advocacy). The main heading reads "Blog: Addressing Systemic Inequities and Racism in Community-Based Organization Funding". Below the heading, there is a partial paragraph: "It has never been more critical to document and amplify lessons learned from our na... how we perceive, va...". The bottom screenshot is from a CNN health article. The headline is "NIH needed help reaching communities of color about Covid-19, but grassroots groups say they were not paid properly". The byline reads "By Elizabeth Cohen and Lauren Mascarenhas, CNN" and the date is "12:57 PM EST, Sun March 6, 2022". The article includes a small image of a person at a desk and a larger video player showing a woman in a black coat and blue gloves talking to another woman in a leopard print top.

CHILDREN (AGES 5–11) VACCINATION RATES

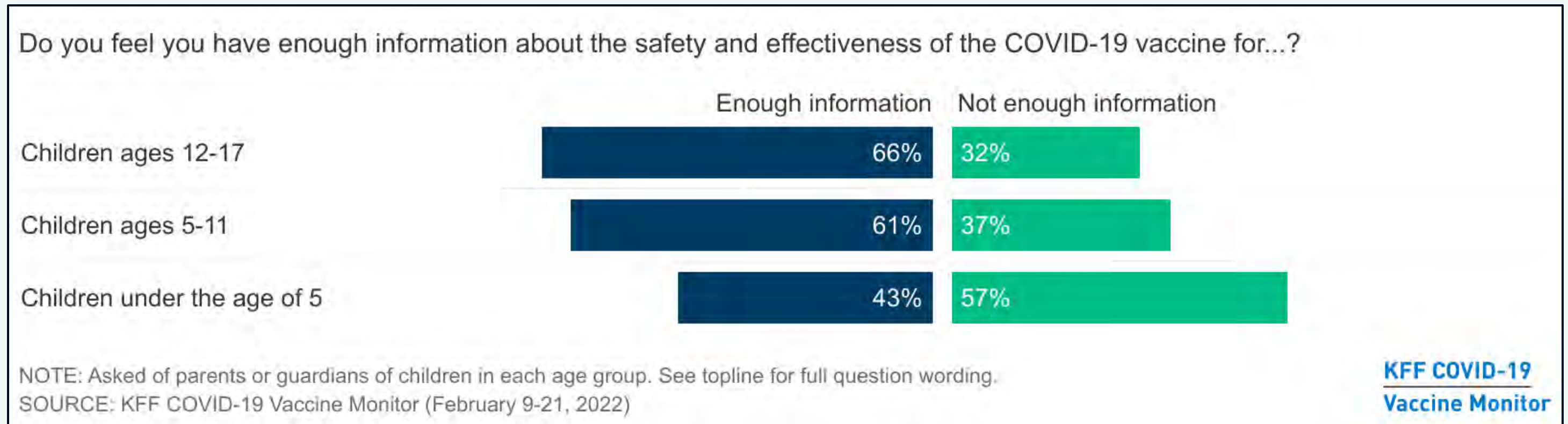
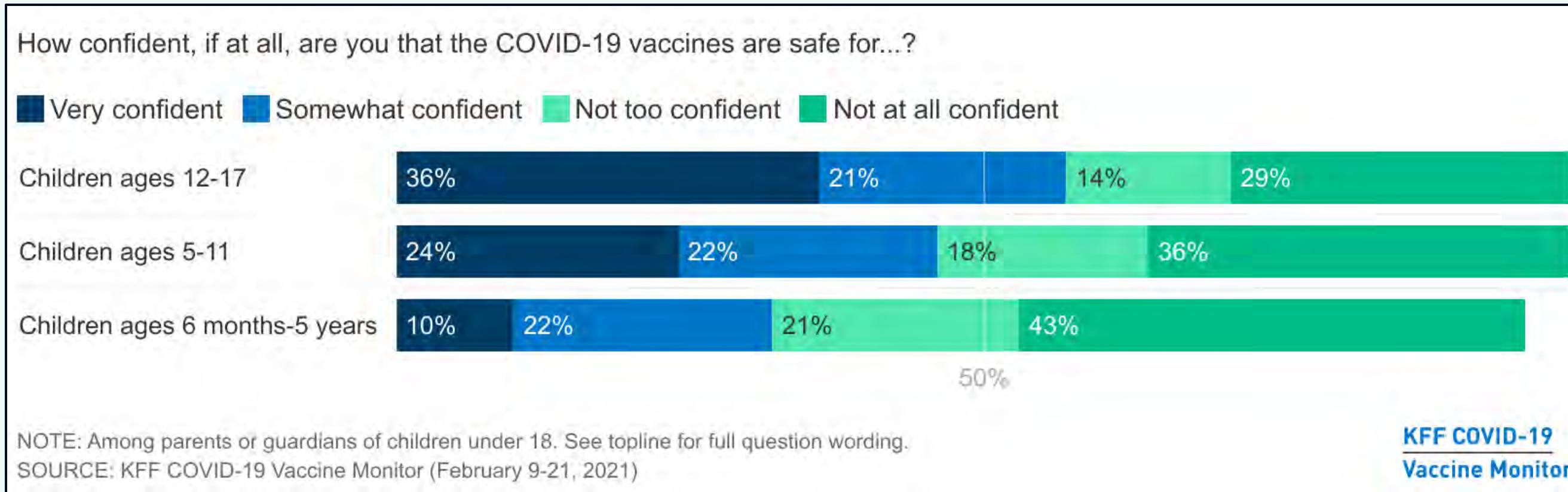
- 9.3 million US children ages 5–11 have received at least one dose of COVID–19 vaccine
- Representing 33% of 5–11 year-olds
- 7.3 million US children ages 5–11 completed the 2–dose vaccination series
- Representing 26% of 5–11 year-olds

Child vaccination rates vary widely across states, ranging from 14% to 64% receiving their first dose.

Source: [Children and COVID–19 Vaccination Trends, AAP Analysis of Data Posted by the CDC as of March 2, 2022](#)



INCREASE ACCESS TO INFORMATION WITHOUT INUNDATING



WHAT IS NEEDED RIGHT NOW: PROTECTING CHILDREN UNDER 12






Advancing Children’s Health: Promoting COVID-19 Vaccination and Mitigation Measures

The report outlines 10 detailed recommendations to protect children under age 12 and their families and communities.

- ✓ Center on **racial health equity**
- ✓ Prioritize outreach in the context of **whole families and communities**
- ✓ Build on existing proven infrastructure with a **“no wrong door approach”**
- ✓ Engage all sectors across **health policy, communities, schools and private sector**

Top Recommendations

(Italics indicate direct connection to racial health equity)

-  **Vaccine Distribution**
Most children across racial and ethnic populations, income levels, and payer types receive their routine vaccinations at one of three sites: Medical homes (pediatricians, family med or med peds clinics, FQHCs), schools and school-based clinics, or public health departments. *As a result, the community-based vaccination sites that were critical to advancing racial equity among the adult population, may not be as integral to equitably vaccinate 5-11 and 12-17 year olds.*
-  **Critical Role for Schools and School Based Clinics**
The robustness of the national school health infrastructure (school based clinics, school nurses etc.) varies by district and state. But given the core role schools play in the lives of families and communities, they are a crucial site to partner with in the vaccination effort - for disseminating information about vaccines and delivering vaccines. *Schools are also important to bridge access gaps for underserved communities who lack a medical home.*
-  **Increased Support for Public Health Departments at All Levels**
Public health departments, at the local and state level, are the backbone of targeted public health responses and in many jurisdictions the main site of vaccination for children and families who lack medical homes, are recent immigrants, or lack insurance coverage. Ensuring health departments are equipped and resourced to: support linkages between schools and medical homes, coordinate local efforts to proactively provide patients with information about vaccination, and offer vaccination, will be a necessary complement to the broader effort to vaccinate families.
-  **Maximizing the Use of VFC**
The backbone of the national effort to provide routine immunizations to the pediatric population is the Vaccines for Children program (VFC), which since its inception has helped narrow and sometimes even close gaps in routine vaccination by racial and ethnic group and across income levels. *Maximizing and optimizing use of the VFC program will be critical to equitably and effectively vaccinating 5-11 and 12-17 year olds.*
-  **Reimburse and Incentivize Vaccine Counseling**
Families will likely have questions for their pediatrician/primary care provider regarding vaccines even when they are not a vaccination site. There is no current mechanism to pay for this counseling in current billing and coding systems. *In addition, some families will require several rounds of counseling before they are ready to receive a vaccine even from their primary care provider, but the primary care provider can only receive payment when the actual administration happens. Payment systems must encourage appropriate vaccine counseling.* This is an urgent problem for CMS, state Medicaid programs, and private insurance to address. A couple of places have added reimbursement for counseling, including North Carolina Medicaid and New York City.

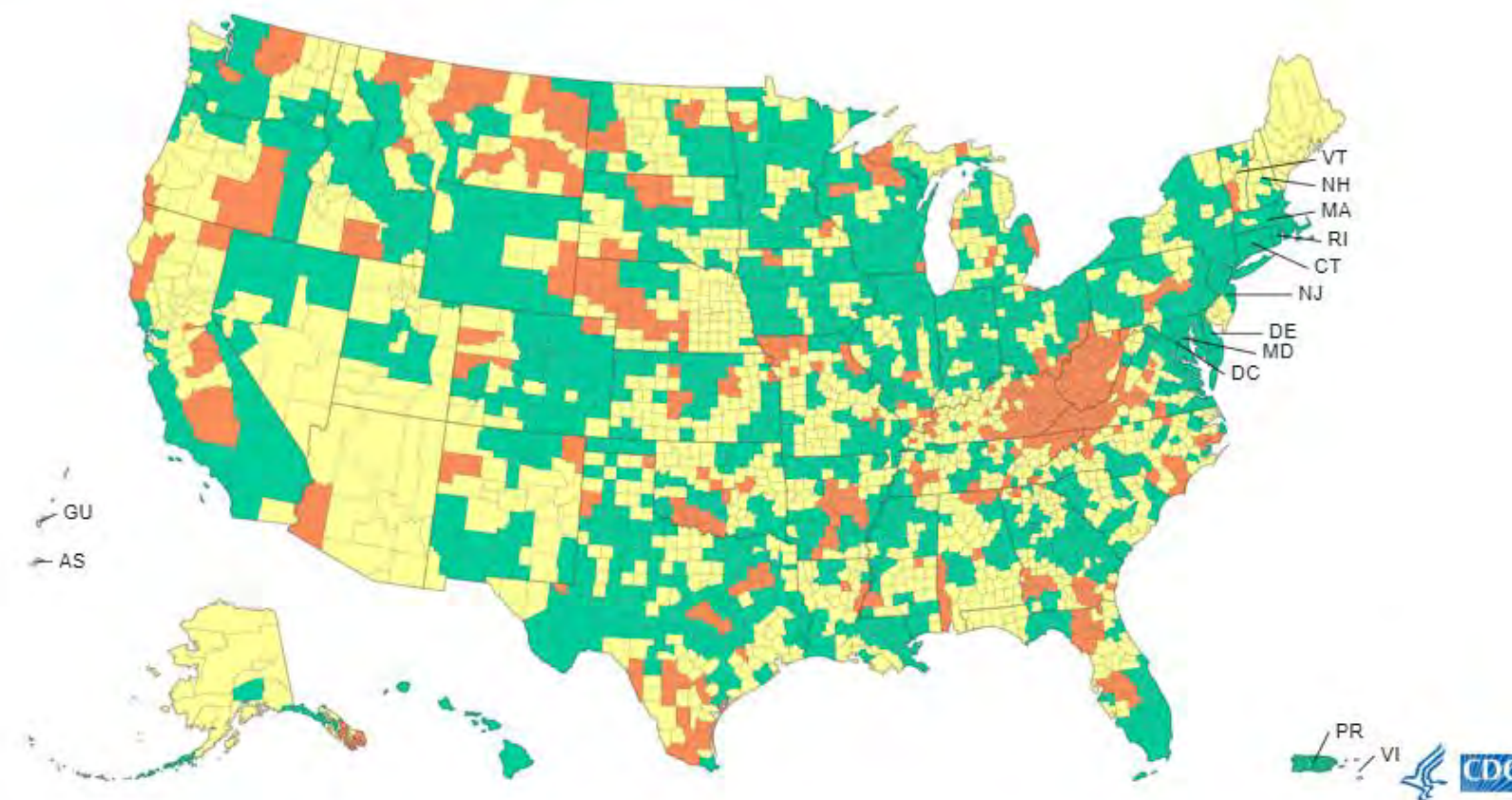
MOVING FROM VEC TO HEALTH EQUITY COOPERATIVE: MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- VEC Advisory Council, community-based partners and CHWs advocating for more resources and advocacy for mental health, including non-institutional affiliated programs
- Policy and political partners (at all levels) calling for “big tent” to address “mental health emergency” especially as it relates to health equity
- Healthcare partners advocating for support and advocacy
- World Economic Forum Working Group advocating for access to resources

New CDC Guidelines

U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County Map

Data provided by CDC
Updated: March 3, 2022



Legend

High

Low

Medium

Test and Treat Initiative Launches

A new nationwide “Test to Treat” initiative was launched to give individuals a new way to rapidly access free lifesaving treatment for COVID-19. People will be able to get tested and – if they are positive and treatments are appropriate for them – receive a prescription from a health care provider, and have their prescription filled all in one location.

Read the [Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Tests



Need a COVID-19 test?

REASONS TO GET TESTED

- › If you have COVID-19 symptoms
- › At least 5 days after known or suspected exposure to COVID-19
- › For screening (schools, workplaces, congregate settings, etc.)
- › Before and after travel
- › When asked by a healthcare professional or public health official

TYPES OF VIRAL TESTS

Laboratory Test

- › Sample can either be a nasal swab or saliva
- › Results usually in 1–3 days
- › Results are reliable for people with and without symptoms
- › No follow-up test required
- › Common Example: PCR test

Rapid Test

- › Sample is usually a nasal swab
- › Results usually in 15–30 minutes
- › Results may be less reliable for people without symptoms
- › Follow-up test may be required
- › Common Example: Antigen test

ACTIONS AFTER RESULT

If positive

- › Isolate (at least 5 days). Learn more about [isolation timelines and precautions](#).
- › Seek a confirmatory, follow-up laboratory test if recommended by healthcare professional
- › Monitor your symptoms

If negative

- › If [up to date on vaccines](#): return to normal activities. Wear a mask indoors in areas of high or substantial community transmission.
- › If not up to date on vaccines and have symptoms or exposure, continue to [quarantine](#) for at least 5 days.
- › If not up to date on vaccines and no symptoms or exposure: return to normal activities. Take steps to get up to date on vaccines to protect yourself and others.



Need additional help? CDC's Viral Testing Tool is an online, mobile-friendly tool that asks a series of questions, and provides recommended actions and resources based on the user's responses.

cdc.gov/coronavirus

Ordering Test Kits at covidtests.gov

1. Starting now, residents of the U.S. and territories can place second orders of rapid at-home COVID-19 test kits. These kits will contain four (4) tests, just like the previous order.
2. **How to place a second order:**
 1. Go to www.covidtests.gov ([Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#))
 2. Click the blue button that says "order free at home tests"
 3. Fill out the information with your residential address
 4. Click the green button that says "check out now"

What if I never placed a first order?

If you have not placed an initial order, you can still place your first AND second order. Complete the ordering process above two (2) times to place both a first and second order.

How can I order tests?

Tests can be ordered online at COVIDtests.gov. To place an order, all you need is your name and residential address. No ID, credit card, or health insurance information is required. You may also share your email address to get updates on your order.

If you have difficulty accessing the internet or need additional support placing an order, you can call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233) (TTY [1-888-720-7489](tel:1-888-720-7489)) to get help in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages – 8am to midnight ET, 7 days a week.

The [Disability Information and Access Line \(DIAL\)](https://www.usa.gov/dial) is also available to specifically help people with disabilities place their orders. To get help, call [1-888-677-1199](tel:1-888-677-1199), Monday-Friday from 9AM to 8PM ET, or email DIAL@usaginganddisability.org.

For those who have questions about eligibility, the online ordering form, shipping, or delivery, you can contact the USPS Help Desk at 1-800-ASK-USPS ([1-800-275-8777](tel:1-800-275-8777)).

Medicaid, Medicare, Private Insurance, Community Based Testing Sites

Use Your Medicaid, CHIP or Private Health Insurance Coverage Read a statement on the Biden-Harris Administration's requirement for insurance companies and group plans to cover testing, frequently asked questions, and requirements

Medicare will now also cover at-home tests, read frequently asked questions

Visit a Community-Based Free Testing Site in Your Community Find your nearest community-based testing site for COVID-19

ICATT AND Operation Expanded Testing

Operation Expanded Testing

OpET provides no-cost testing to childcare centers, K-12 schools, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), under-resourced communities, and congregational settings, such as homeless shelters, domestic violence and abuse shelters, non-federal correctional facilities, and other qualified sites

ICATT Program

CDC's Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program can help you find where to get a free COVID-19 laboratory test. These tests can tell if you have a current COVID-19 infection. You'll get a result usually within 24–72 hours after you get tested. To find free ICATT COVID-19 laboratory testing locations, visit our partner websites [CVSexternal icon](#), [eTrueNorthexternal icon](#), [Rite Aidexternal icon](#), and [Walgreensexternal icon](#) to search for where to get a test using a ZIP code, city, state, territory, or street address. [Visit this page](#) for CDC's description of the different kinds of tests for COVID-19 offered under the ICATT program and by other healthcare providers.

At-Home Testing Language Resources:

[Testing | National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants \(NRC-RIM\) \(nrccrim.org\)](#)

View directions on 8 different at-home tests in multiple languages.

How to Order FREE COVID-19 Tests from USPS

A step-by-step guide on how to order COVID-19 tests from USPS online or over the phone.

[Arabic](#) | [Dari](#) | [Nepali](#) | [Pashto](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tigrinya](#) | [Ukrainian](#)

Video Guide

[Arabic](#) | [Dari](#) | [Pashto](#)

How to Use a COVID-19 Self-Test

Guidance from the CDC (Available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese)

Videos from Día de la Mujer Latina in English and Spanish:

- English:
<https://youtu.be/GE3zdoRxh3g>
- Español:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJK0uc3fViY>

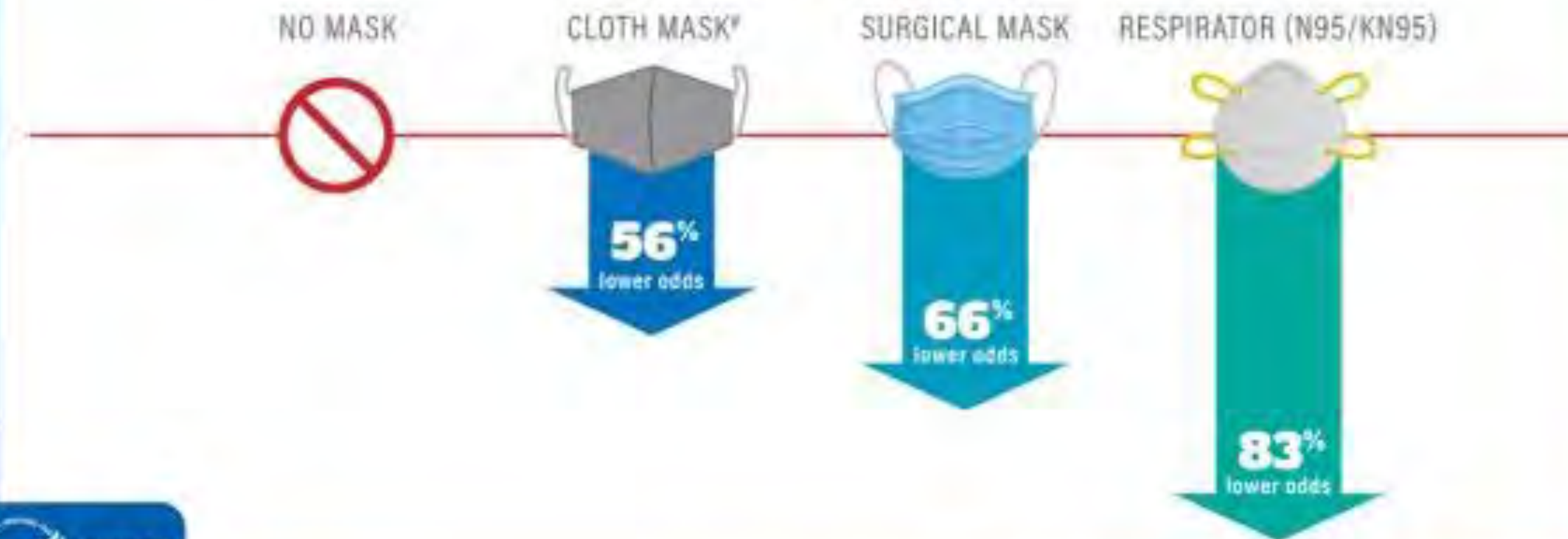
General directions in multiple languages: (Available in Albanian, Arabic, Simplified Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Khmer, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese)

COVID-19 Masks

People who reported always wearing a mask in indoor public settings were less likely to test positive for COVID-19 than people who didn't*

WEARING A MASK LOWERED THE ODDS OF TESTING POSITIVE

Among 534 participants reporting mask type[†]



bit.ly/MMWR7106

* Matched case-control study, 1,628 people, Feb 10–Dec 1, 2021

[†] Compared people with similar characteristics (e.g., vaccination)

[‡] Not statistically significant

MMWR

Where to Find Free Masks: Pharmacies

The Biden administration has committed to getting free masks out to the public through the pharmacies they contracted with to distribute COVID-19 vaccines.

These masks are beginning to ship and will begin to be available throughout the month of February.

To find a complete list of the pharmacies that are participating by state, [click here](#)

Where to Find Free Masks: Health Centers

The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to ensuring our nation's underserved communities and those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 have equitable access to public health tools needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

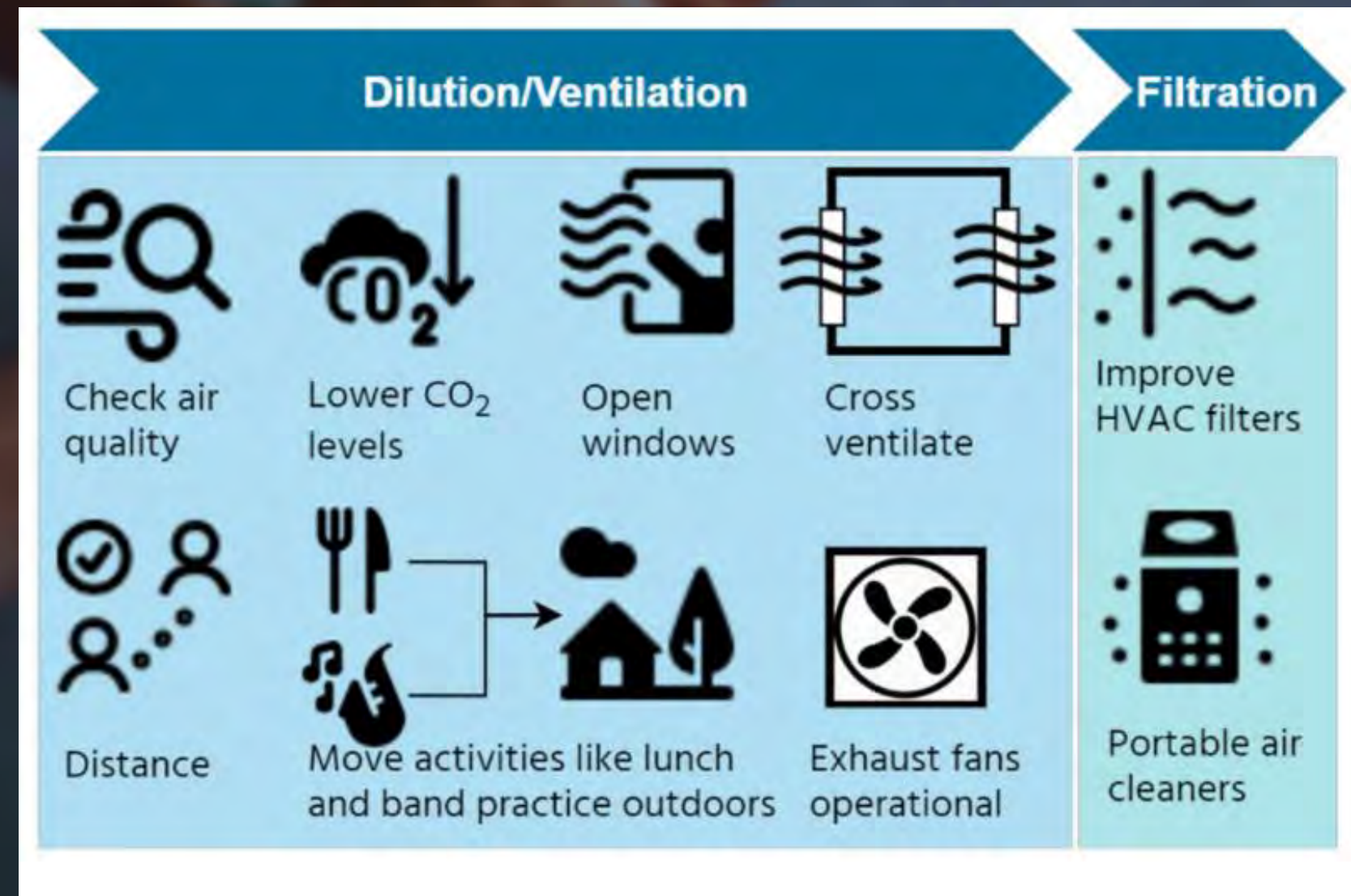
Through the HRSA Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program, eligible health centers that elect to participate will be able to receive N95 respirator masks from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Strategic National Stockpile for free distribution to patients and people in their communities. These masks are approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Find more information here: [HRSA Health Center COVID-19 N95 Mask Program | Bureau of Primary Health Care](#)

Fresh Air and Ventilation

The following tools identify ways to improve ventilation:

- Increase the introduction of outdoor air
- Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows



Telehealth Community Navigation Center



NACHW has partners with Día de la Mujer Latina to assist CHWs in ordering kits for themselves and their communities.

A bilingual and community-centered call center for debunking misinformation, reducing mistrust, and providing navigation services for our underrepresented multicultural communities for health and social services, including information on vaccines, clinical trials and COVID 19. The TCN Center will be manned by Texas Certified Community Health Workers and Promotores statewide.

Call 281-801-5285 for English and/or Spanish.

Call 281-801-9590 for Spanish

<https://www.diadelamujerlatina.org/our-programs/>

NACHW

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Webinar: Self-Care Strategies for Community Health Workers (CHW)

TUESDAY, MARCH 29TH
FROM 4-5PM EST

-
- DEFINE STRESS, RESILIENCY, & EMOTIONAL WELLNESS DIMENSIONS
 - DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CARE
 - FORMULATE SELF-CARE AND STRESS MANAGEMENT TOOLS
 - EXPLORE PIT-FALLS OF SELF-CARE



Ashley Rodriguez (CCHW)(CCHWI)
Community Health Worker
System Manager
Baylor Scott & White Health System

Spanish translation available, [please register here.](#)
This event is free and open to all CHWs.



Communications Materials

NACHW

Educating your community about this opportunity 1-Pager

- FAQs about this opportunity and announced White House link
- What CHWs and CBOs can do to increase access
- Language accessibility notice
- Growing list of partners
- This flyer is available in:
 - English
 - Espanol
 - Arabic
 - Haitian Creole

NACHW CHW AND PARTNER ACCESS TO FREE COVID-19 AT-HOME RAPID TESTS

About this Opportunity

What is this ordering opportunity?
The Biden administration has committed to providing 500 million at-home rapid COVID-19 Antigen test kits to every household in America.

Where will we place orders?
Orders can be placed online at www.covidtests.gov/ starting on January 19, 2022.

How many tests are in an order?
Each household will receive one package, which contains four at-home rapid antigen tests.

How will I receive these tests?
After placing an order, test kits will be sent to household addresses by the United States Postal Service (USPS). You can track your order by entering your email address (optional).

Please visit www.nachw.org/covidtests for more FAQs

What can CHWs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) do to increase access to testing?

NACHW and our partners recognize that Community Health Workers (including promotores de salud, community health representatives, social workers, case workers, etc.) have been on the frontline of this battle since the very beginning, leveraging their collective resources and knowledge for better health outcomes for underserved populations. It is more important than ever for CHWs to have the necessary tools to safeguard their communities against the disease. We want to get these kits into the hands of as many CHWs and community members as possible.

By visiting www.nachw.org/covidtests and signing up to be a NACHW partner you can ensure that you receive immediate updates about kit ordering and other COVID-19 opportunities.

www.nachw.org/covidtests is language accessible.
The information is available in English, Spanish, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Mandarin

NACHW LEADERS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH
Major Latin
UNIDDSUS
Health Leads
Faiths4Vaccines
A Multifaith Movement
Vaccine Equity Cooperative
Community-Based Workforce Alliance

Helping Others to Order Tests 1-Pager

- **Use Your Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, or Private Health Insurance Coverage** Read a statement on the Biden-Harris Administration's requirement for insurance companies and group plans to cover testing
- **Visit a Community-Based Free Testing Site in Your Community**
- **Enroll Your Facility into Operation Expanded Testing Today** OpET provides no-cost testing to childcare centers, K-12 schools, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), under-resourced communities, and congregate settings, such as homeless shelters, domestic violence and abuse shelters, non-federal correctional facilities, and other qualified sites



NACHW CHW AND PARTNER ACCESS TO FREE COVID-19 AT-HOME RAPID TESTS

Four Ways to Help People Get Free Rapid At Home COVID-19 Tests

- 01 Order a Free Package to Your Home**
Visit the [NACHW website](#) to get more information about the White House initiative, order a free covid-19 test package with 4 free tests to your home and help others order their free tests
- 02 Use Your Medicaid, CHIP or Private Health Insurance Coverage**
Read a [statement](#) on the Biden-Harris Administration's requirement for insurance companies and group plans to cover testing, [frequently asked questions](#), and [requirements](#).
- 03 Visit a Community-Based Free Testing Site in Your Community**
Find your nearest [community-based testing site](#) for COVID-19
- 04 Enroll Your Facility into Operation Expanded Testing Today**
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WHAT TO SAY WHEN CALLING SOMEONE ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY

"Hello [name]! [Organization] is contacting you to see if you are interested in ordering a free rapid at-home COVID-19 test kit through a new White House initiative."

[ANSWER]

"Great. Let me share with you more about the White House program. You will be eligible to receive 1 package for your household, which will contain a total of 4 test kits. To place an order using the White House order webpage you will need to provide your FIRST AND LAST NAME, FULL MAILING ADDRESS, AND ZIP CODE. Your information will not be shared with any other government agencies and will not be used to determine any social benefits, nor to determine immigration status. Do I have your permission to use this information and place this order?"

[ANSWER]

"Great! Finally, I can help you track your package by providing me with an email address to associate with your order. Do you have an email address that you want to share?"

NACHW has partners with [Dia de la Mujer Latina](#) to assist CHWs in ordering kits for themselves and their communities. If you are a CHW in need of assistance, please call Dia de la Mujer Latina at 281-801-5285



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