



# Paths to Vaccine Equity: Annual Vaccinations

Presenters:

Manisha Juthani, MD, Connecticut Department of Public Health

Elise Balzer, Indian Health Service

Amy Pisani, MS, Vaccinate Your Family



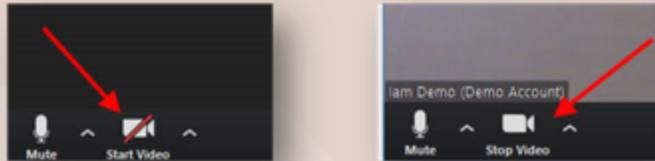
# Welcome





# Housekeeping

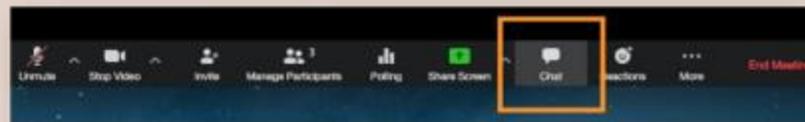
- Turn on video



- Mute your microphone when not speaking



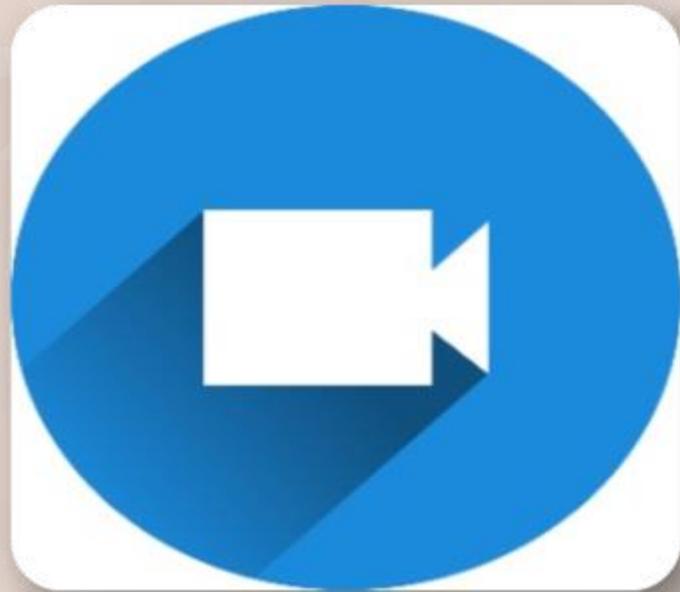
- Enter your name and organization into the chat box





## Audio and Video Recording

- Please note that this session will be recorded for educational and quality improvement purposes.





# Acknowledgement

- This content was funded in part by a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC-RFA-IP21-2107). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents of this resource do not necessarily represent the policy of CDC or HHS and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.



## ABOUT



NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) is the national non-profit organization devoted to the support and development of quality, accessible, and culturally-competent health and public health services for American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) living in urban areas.

NCUIH is the only national representative of the 41 Title V Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs) under the Indian Health Service (IHS) in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA). NCUIH strives to improve the health of the over 70% of the AI/AN population that lives in urban areas, supported by quality health care centers.



## Evaluation

- [https://ncuih.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ezdcn3ShVUNszIO](https://ncuih.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezdcn3ShVUNszIO)





# Agenda

- Welcome
- Housekeeping items
- Introductions and presentations
- Open-Floor for questions/comments
- Conclusion



## Dr. Manisha Juthani, MD, Connecticut Department of Public Health



Manisha Juthani, MD, is the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). She is the first Indian American to serve as a commissioner in the State of Connecticut. She served as Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program from 2012 to 2021. Dr. Juthani received her BA from the University of Pennsylvania and MD from Cornell University Medical College, completed Internal Medicine residency training at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Campus, and served as Chief Resident at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She came to Connecticut in 2002 as an Infectious Diseases Fellow at Yale School of Medicine.



# CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



# COVID-19, Flu, and RSV Vaccinations

*Paths to Vaccine Equity: Annual Vaccinations Webinar*

*National Council of Urban Indian Health*

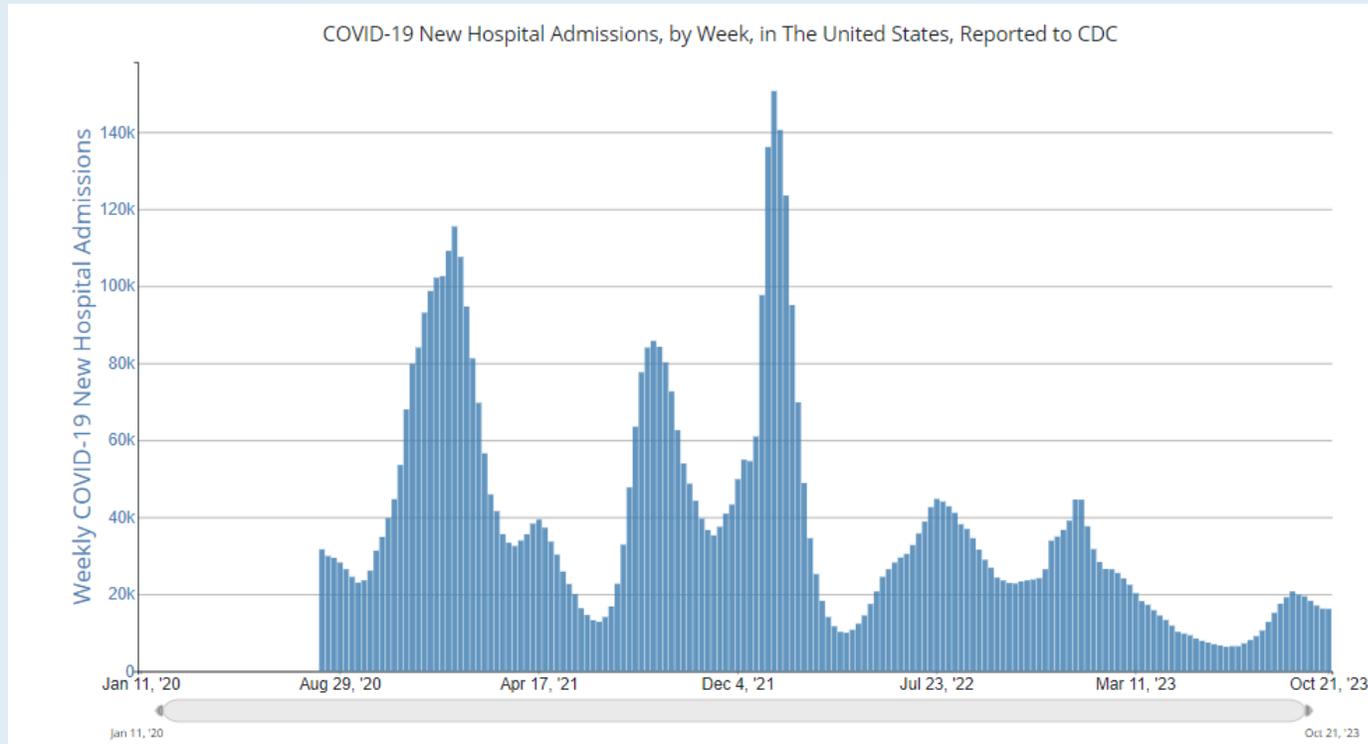
November 9, 2023

Manisha Juthani, MD

Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Public Health



# COVID-19: New Hospital Admissions



Source: Centers for Disease Control and COVID Data Tracker, as of October 30, 2023

- The burden of COVID-19 varies by age and underlying condition status.
- COVID-19 burden is currently lower than at previous points in the pandemic, however there are still thousands of hospitalizations and hundreds of deaths each week.
- A majority of the U.S. population has some level of immunity due to infection, vaccination, or both.
- Vaccine and infection-induced immunity wane and new variants have emerged, suggesting that susceptibility remains and may increase over time.
- Racial and ethnic minority groups have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- 1,151,435 deaths since 2020

# 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccines

## Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations for People Aged 5 Years and Older **WITHOUT** Immunocompromise:

- 1 dose of 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of prior vaccination history.
- Simplified recommendations for 5-year-olds.
- 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine dose is recommended at least 2 months after receipt of the last COVID-19 vaccine dose.

# 2023-2024 COVID-19 Vaccines

## Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations for People Aged $\geq 6$ Months Who Are MODERATELY or SEVERELY Immunocompromised

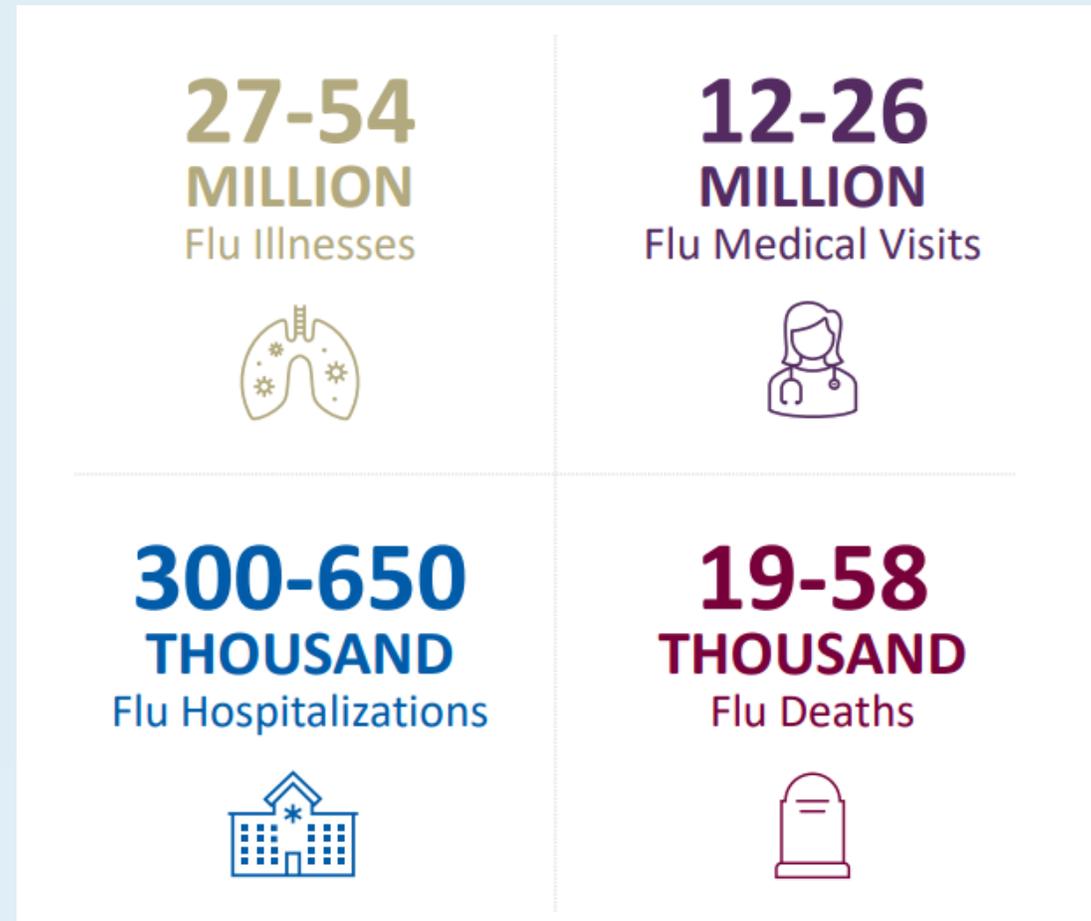
### Doses Recommended:

- Initial COVID-19 vaccine series\*
- At least 1 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine dose
- May receive 1 or more additional 2023-2024 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses\*\*

*\*Series of 3 homologous mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses at time of initial vaccination. This could also include a history of receipt of 1 or more doses of Novavax or Janssen, including in combination with mRNA vaccine dose(s).*

*\*\*Further additional dose(s) may be administered, informed by the clinical judgement of a healthcare provider and personal preference and circumstances. Further additional doses should be administered at least 2 months after the last 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine dose.*

# 2022-2023 U.S. Flu Season Burden Estimates



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fall and Winter Virus Season Playbook

# Flu Vaccine Recommendations

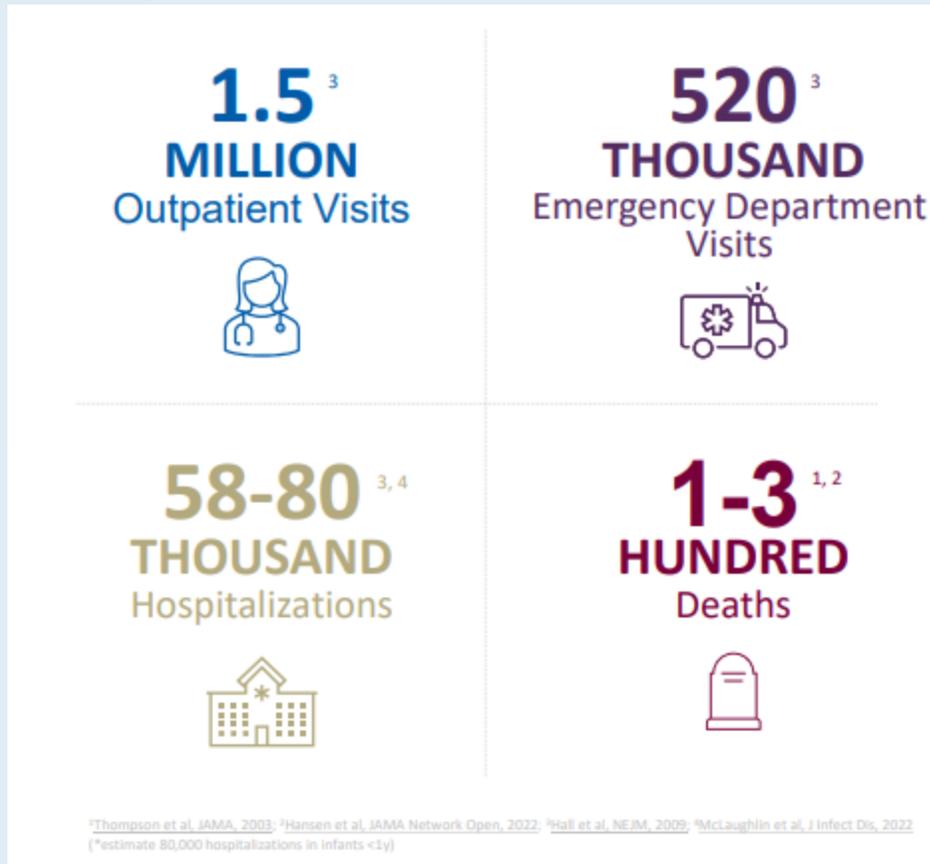
All persons aged  $\geq 6$  months who do not have contraindications are recommended to receive a flu vaccine.

- Adults aged  $\geq 65$  years should receive any **one** of the following higher dose or adjuvanted flu vaccines:
  - Fluzone: *quadrivalent high-dose inactivated flu vaccine,*
  - Flublok: *quadrivalent recombinant flu vaccine, or*
  - Fluad: *quadrivalent adjuvanted inactivated flu vaccine.*

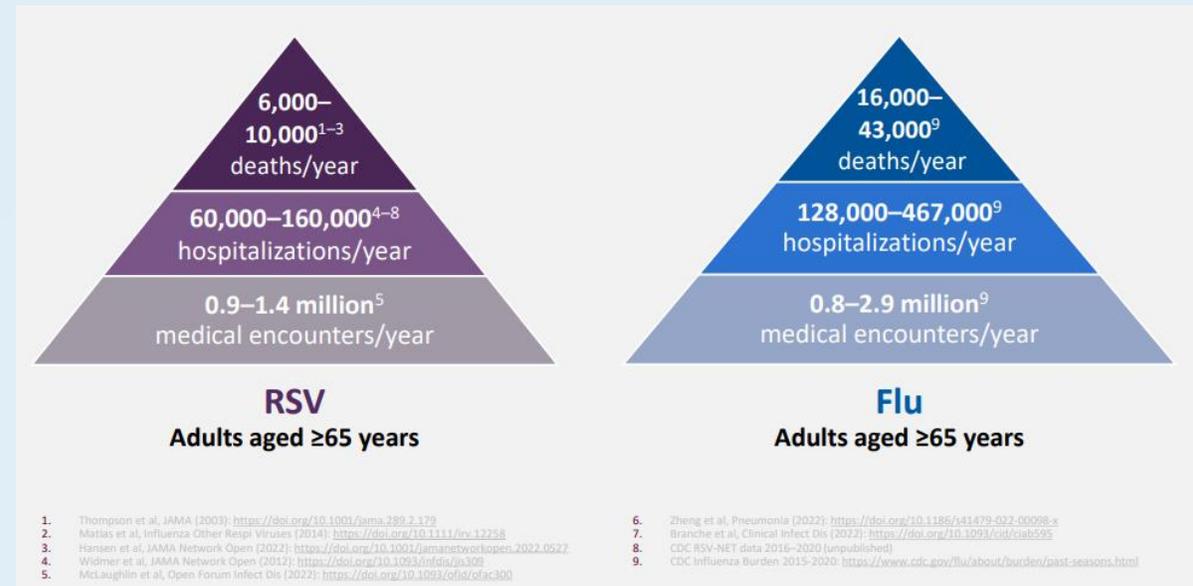
*If none of these three vaccines listed above are available at an opportunity for vaccine administration, then any other age-appropriate flu vaccine should be used.*

# RSV

Children <5



Adults 65+



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fall and Winter Virus Season Playbook

# RSV Vaccine Recommendations

New Immunizations to Protect Against Severe RSV		
Who Does It Protect?	Type of Product	Is It for Everyone in Group?
 Adults 60 and over	RSV vaccine	Talk to your doctor first
 Babies	RSV antibody given to baby	All infants entering or born during RSV season. Small group of older babies for second season.
 Babies	RSV vaccine given during pregnancy	
<b>OR</b>		
	RSV vaccine given during pregnancy	Can get if you are 32–36 weeks pregnant during September–January

[www.cdc.gov/rsv](http://www.cdc.gov/rsv)



# Resources

[Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

[Bridge Access Program | CDC](#)

[Key Facts About Seasonal Flu Vaccine | CDC](#)

[Who Needs a Flu Vaccine | CDC](#)

[RSV Vaccination for Pregnant People | CDC](#)

[RSV Vaccination: What Parents Should Know | CDC](#)

[RSV Vaccination: What Older Adults 60 Years of Age and Over Should Know | CDC](#)



## Elise Balzer, Indian Health Service



Ms. Balzer has been a Public Health Advisor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 2010 where she has worked in the field as an assignee to state and local immunization programs. She took a short break away from CDC where she was the Director of the State of Illinois Immunization through EverThrive Illinois from 2015-2016. Ms. Balzer's most recent CDC assignment started in June 2023 with the Indian Health Service National Immunization Program. In all of her CDC assignments, has Ms. Balzer consulted with dozens of clinics, Tribal Health Clinics, and local health departments on ways to apply quality improvement sciences to vaccine uptake and increase patient trust.

# Indian Health Service

## Paths to Vaccine Equity

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ELISE BALZER  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISOR, ASSIGNED TO IHS  
11/9/2023



# »»» What are the headlines? «««

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- ✓ Discuss respiratory diseases and relation to health disparities.
- ✓ Discuss the tools available to prevent or reduce respiratory diseases
- ✓ Discuss strategies to implement tools in a clinic (discussion about community based clinics is scheduled for next month)



# What is the number one cause of death for American Indians and Alaska Natives?

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A. Accidents (falls, slips, motor vehicle accidents)

B. Heart Disease

C. Respiratory Diseases

D. Cancers



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Answer: C. Respiratory Diseases



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# Answer: C. Respiratory Diseases. COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/american-indian-health.htm>





Health Disparities

American Indian/Alaska Natives have higher rates compared to other racial and ethnic groups

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**HIV**

**Hepatitis C  
related deaths**

**Cardiovascular  
disease**

**Coronary heart  
disease**

**Stroke**



# American Indian/Alaska Natives have higher rates compared to other racial and ethnic groups

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**HIV**

**Hepatitis C  
related deaths**

**Cardiovascular  
disease**

**Coronary heart  
disease**

**Stroke**



# Other risk factors



**Immunocompromised**



**Some people with disabilities**



**Certain underlying conditions  
(chronic lung disease, heart  
disease, or obesity)**



**Overcrowding housing**



**Children younger than 5 years  
old**



**Older adults**



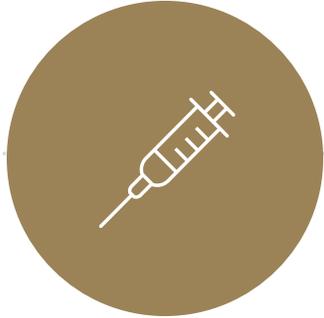
**Pregnant people**



**Long-term care facilities  
residents**



# This Season, There Are More Ways than Ever to Protect Our Health



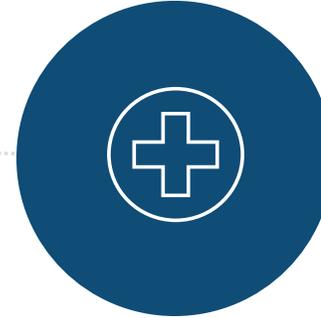
## **Safe, Updated Vaccines:**

For the first time ever, vaccines and other preventive antibodies are available for all three major fall and winter respiratory viruses: flu, COVID-19, and RSV.



## **Widely Available Effective**

**Treatments:** Treatments available for flu and COVID-19 can reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death.



## **Rapid Antigen Tests:**

These tests, some of which can be used at home, can quickly detect viruses so there are no delays in getting treatment and taking steps to protect family and coworkers.



## **Everyday Actions:**

Covering coughs and sneezes, frequent handwashing, wearing masks, improving air quality, and staying home if you are sick can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.



# Trust (vaccine confidence)



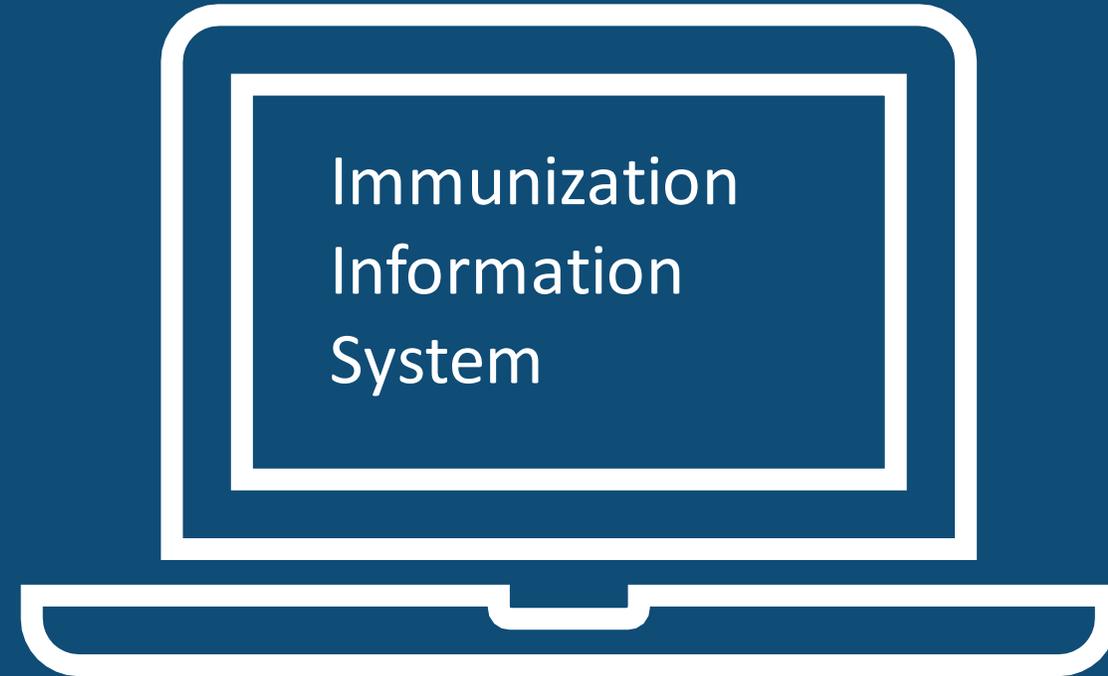
People With High Vaccine Trust

People With Low Vaccine Trust



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**Strategy #1:** Leverage  
your state's  
Immunization  
Information System.



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## **Strategy #2:** Creating a Culture of Vaccination in your clinics

1. Staffing
2. Patient cues



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**Strategy #3:** Facilitate return for vaccination.



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**Strategy #4:** Give a strong recommendation for vaccination.



Make a strong recommendation for vaccines  
Suggested formula:

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Because + I strongly recommend+today+why

Try saying, “Because Susie is 5 years old, I strongly recommend that she get her yearly flu and COVID-19 vaccines today to protect her from getting sick with flu and COVID-19.”



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So what?



People are dying from vaccine-preventable diseases.

As a healthcare leader in your organization, you can implement workflow strategies that support vaccine uptake that work best for your staff and community.

Vaccines are a way communities and families can help keep each other safe.

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Please take one idea  
from today and  
share it with your  
colleagues or teams.





# Thank you!

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT ME: [ELISE.BALZER@IHS.GOV](mailto:ELISE.BALZER@IHS.GOV)





## Amy Pisani, Vaccinate Your Family



Amy Pisani is a distinguished expert in the field of vaccine advocacy and education, with a remarkable tenure dating back to 1996 when she joined Every Child By Two (now known as Vaccinate Your Family). As the Chief Executive Officer, she has played a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of immunization accessibility in the United States.

Amy's tireless dedication has made her a driving force for immunization advocacy, working tirelessly to advance the health and well-being of communities across the nation.

Throughout her career, Amy has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to realizing VYF's mission, which is to safeguard individuals of all ages from vaccine-preventable diseases and bridge immunization disparities.



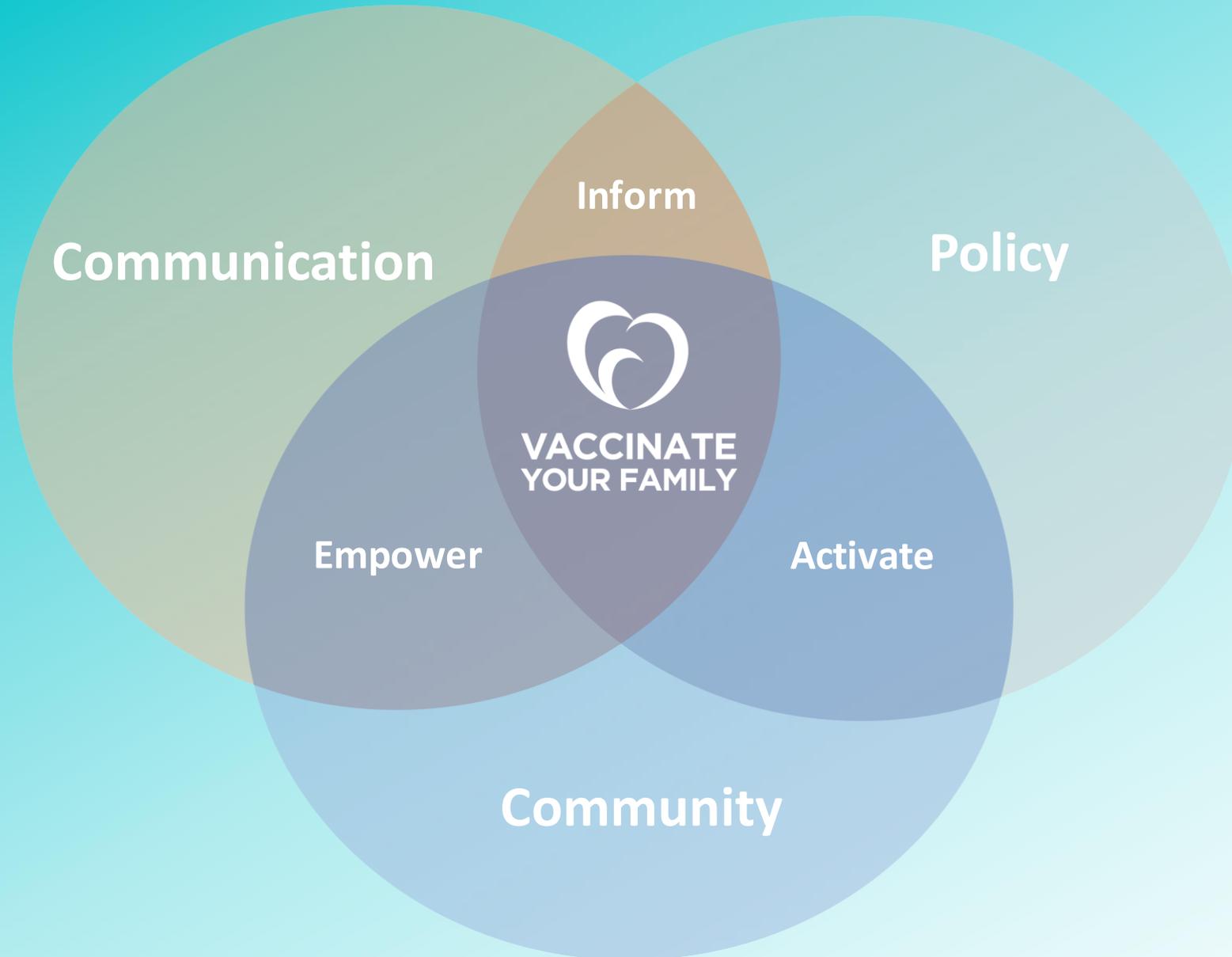
**Vaccinate Your Family** protects people of all ages from  
vaccine-preventable diseases



**Amy Pisani, CEO**

**[amy@vaccinateyourfamily.org](mailto:amy@vaccinateyourfamily.org)**

# VYF is at the Center of the Vaccine Ecosystem

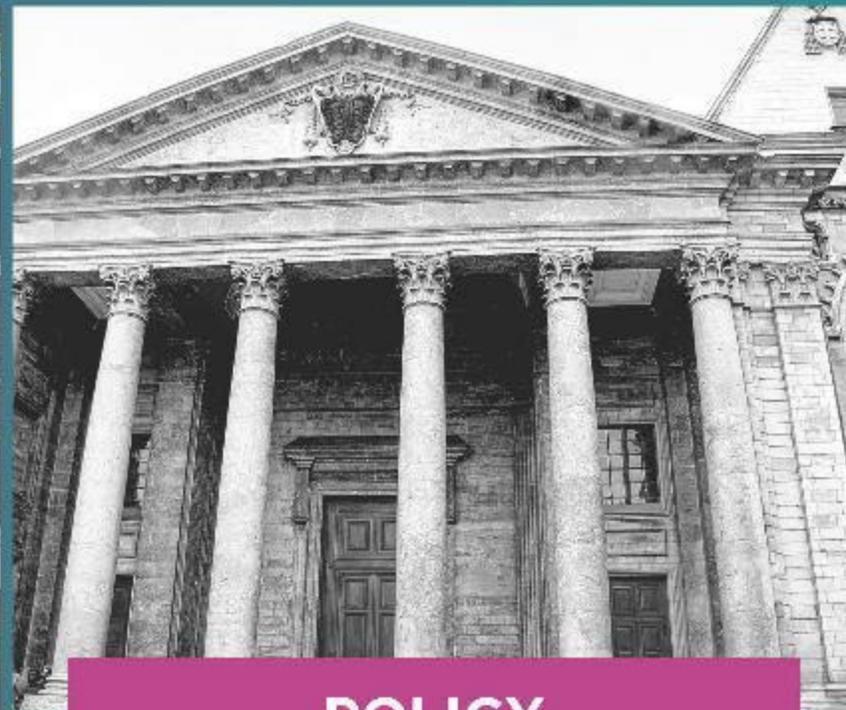


# VACCINATION COLLABORATIVE

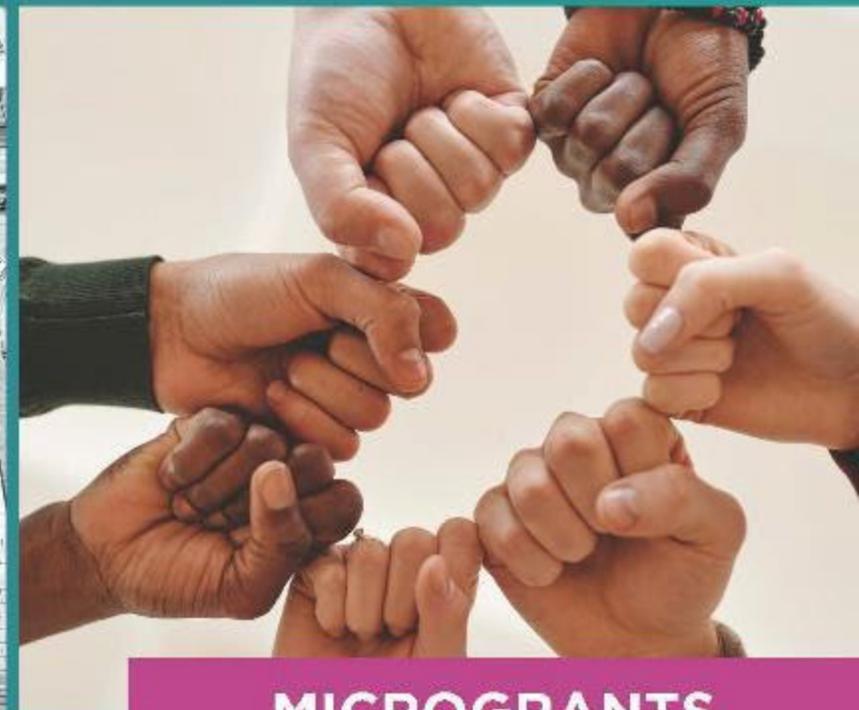
Reigniting a Culture of Immunization



**COMMUNICATION**



**POLICY**



**MICROGRANTS**

# The Vaccination Collaborative Continues to Grow

**Over 250 Members**

**Listserv Celebrated its First Anniversary in September**

**Average of 125 Members on Monthly Calls**

**Microgrants to be dispersed by 2024**

# We Set the Stage for Federal Vaccine Policy



Every year, VYF publishes its annual *State of the ImmUnion* report, outlining:



**HOW** we're doing in terms of vaccinating key U.S. populations.



**WHO** isn't getting vaccinated and why



**WHAT** Congress should do to address disparities and barriers to vaccination



**WHERE** resources should be directed to improve and protect vaccination rates

[Find the report @ State of the ImmUnion Report | Vaccinate Your Family](#)





**Expanding the Role of *Promotores* and Community Health Workers  
as “Vaccination Community Navigators (VCN)”**



# Vaccination Community Navigator Program

- Online educational platform for advocates, partners, and community health workers

## Vaccines 101

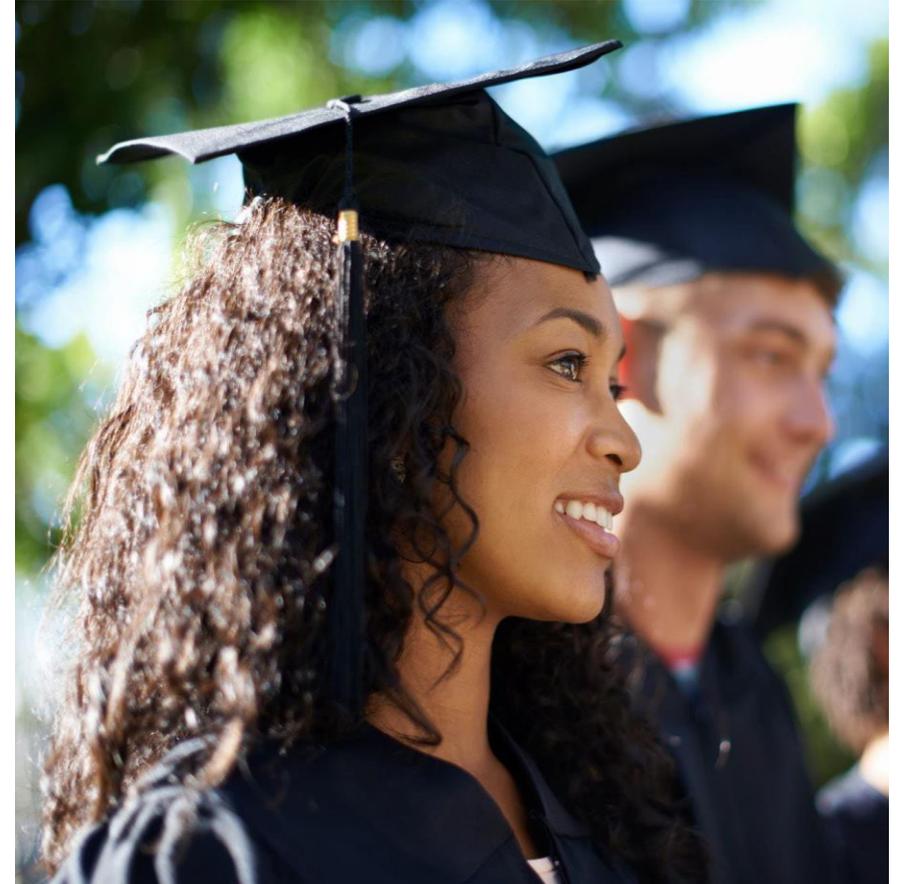
The Past, Present, and Future of Vaccines

Debunking Online Misinformation

How to Talk with People About Vaccines

Barriers to Vaccination

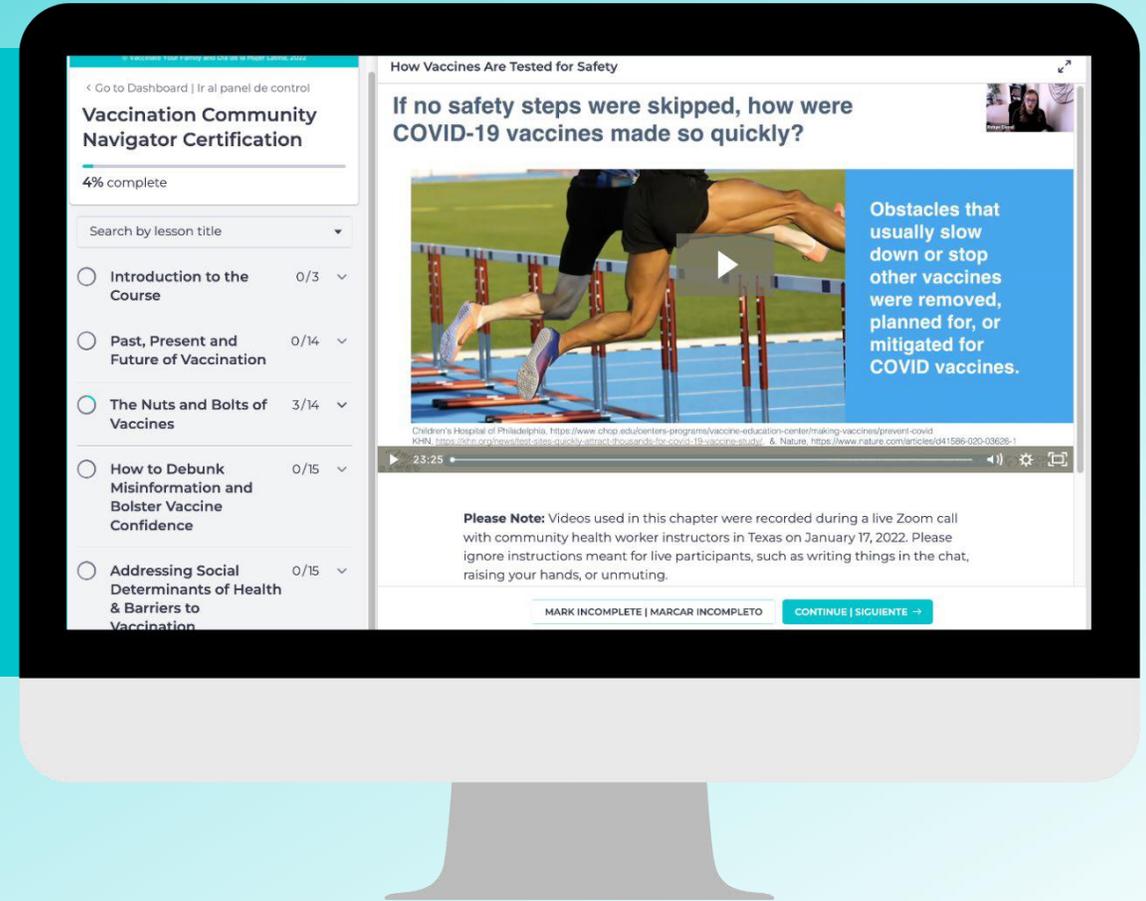
- Self-paced modules and live workshops
- Resources, handouts
- Online community
- Quantitative evaluation metrics



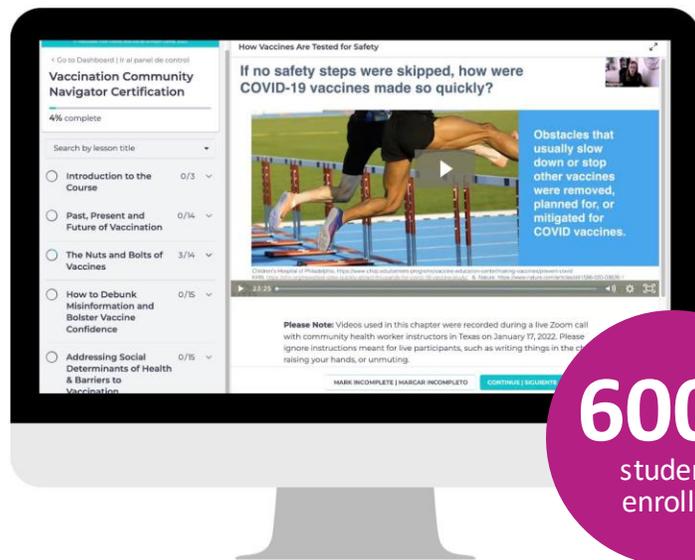
# We Provide Training to Increase Partners' Confidence in Speaking about Vaccines

## Vaccination Community Navigator Training

- 200+ CHWs trained in 2022
  - Participants went on to talk to more than 4,000 people about vaccines & connect over 2,000 people to vaccination services in the two months following the training.
- 600+ unique students enrolled in 2023



# Resources for Community Health Workers & Promotores

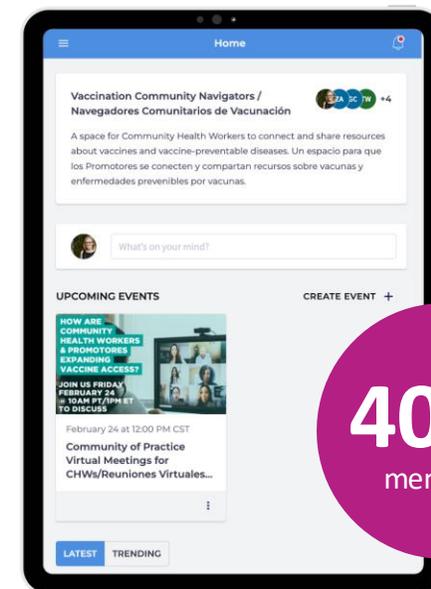


**Vaccination Community Navigator (VCN) Training courses** for Promotores and Community Health Workers (P/CHWs).

*\*Note: Support will be available for CHW sites interested in offering the training in-person*



**Live Virtual Meetings** for P/CHWs interested in connecting and learning more about vaccine-related issues.



The **VCN Online Community** is a space where P/CHWs can share resources, ask questions, and connect about vaccine-related issues.



# VCN Background

## *First of its kind!*

- A comprehensive training program for Community Health Workers (CHWs)/ *Promotores de Salud* who want to build their communities' confidence in, and access to, vaccines.
- Piloted with 200+ Promotores & Community Health Workers and Instructors in Texas in March – April 2022
- Launched nationally February 2023



# 1) Online Courses



Four self-guided, free online courses\* (in English and Spanish!)

Available to Community Health Workers (CHWs), CHW Instructors, and all those interested in increasing their knowledge and confidence to speak about vaccines

**\*Curriculum is NOW AVAILABLE for in-person facilitation**

Register at:  
[vaccinate.thinkific.com](https://vaccinate.thinkific.com)

## 2) Online Community

Free, online space for Community Health Workers (CHWS) and anyone looking to network

An opportunity to ask questions about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases, share resources, and be notified about additional events and training

This community is available in both English and Spanish

Connect at: [tinyurl.com/vcn-community](https://tinyurl.com/vcn-community)



# 3) Virtual Community of Practice Meetings

## Live Virtual Quarterly Meetings

Join fellow CHWs and Vaccinate Your Family (VYF) staff to discuss important topics

An opportunity for CHWs to share information, ask questions, and connect over resources and best practices

Meetings held in English, with live interpretation for Spanish-speakers

Join us: [tinyurl.com/vcn-mtgs](https://tinyurl.com/vcn-mtgs)



**Thank You!**



**Website:** [Vaccinateyourfamily.org](http://Vaccinateyourfamily.org)

**Blog:** [Shotofprevention.com](http://Shotofprevention.com)

**Facebook:** Vaccinate Your Family

**Twitter:** @Vaxyourfam

**Instagram:** Vaccinate Your Family

**YouTube:** Vaccinate Your Family



## Open-Floor for Questions/Comments





# Contacts and Evaluation

## NCUIH

- **Tiffani Stark**
  - Public Health Program Manager
  - [tstark@ncuih.org](mailto:tstark@ncuih.org)
- **Myca Grant Hunthrop**
  - Public Health Project Coordinator
  - [mgranthunthrop@ncuih.org](mailto:mgranthunthrop@ncuih.org)

## Evaluation link and QR Code:



[https://ncuih.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ez\\_dcn3ShVUNszlO](https://ncuih.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ez_dcn3ShVUNszlO)



# Be a Good Relative (BAGR) Flyers

 Visit your local Urban Indian Organization to get up to date with the **flu, RSV,** and **COVID-19** vaccines.

For more info, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>

**GET VACCINATED**

For the elders. For the youth. For the future.

[ncuih.org](http://ncuih.org)      #BeAGoodRelative #NCUIH #NativeHealth

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# You're Covered



- [You're Covered - COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project \(covidvaccineproject.org\)](https://covidvaccineproject.org)
- [CVEEP\\_Youre-Covered\\_Poster\\_8.5x11\\_EN-FIN \(covidvaccineproject.org\)](https://covidvaccineproject.org)
- [PowerPoint Presentation \(covidvaccineproject.org\)](https://covidvaccineproject.org)



# Upcoming NCUIH Events

## Paths to Vaccine Equity series:

- 1/11/2024 - Mobile Vaccine Clinics
  - Speakers
    - Denver Indian Health and Family Services
    - Native Health
- 11/29/2023 - Applying the Indigenous HIV/AIDS Syndemic Strategy at Urban Indian Organizations
- 11/30/2023 - Culturally Responsive Care for Sexual Assault Survivors
- 12/5/2023- Medicaid Unwinding for Urban Indian Organizations
- 12/7/2023- Building Bridges, Building Trust: An Open Forum on Covid-19 Insights
- 12/13/2023- MMRC Partnership Opportunity Informational and Recruitment Session
- 12/14/2023- NCUIH Fireside Chat in Partnership with Pfizer on Health Equity in Action
- 12/19/2023- Registration Closes for Mental Health First Aid for Urban Indian Organizations Training on 1/19/2024
- Funding Opportunities:
  - [2023-2024 Application for eCR \(Year 3/Additional Funding\) \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com)
  - [Funding Opportunities | Division of Grants Management \(ihs.gov\)](https://ihs.gov)
  - [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center Submission Manager - ARP Housing 90EV0537\\_25 \(submitable.com\)](https://submitable.com)



# NCUIH

NATIONAL COUNCIL *of* URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

