



APIC COVID-19 and Flu Resource Corner

December 16, 2021

In collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), APIC is disseminating COVID-19 and Influenza-related resources to increase vaccination coverage at the national level. See below for relevant resources and distribute them throughout your communities.

COVID -19 Resources

OMICRON VARIANT INFORMATION

[CDC Updates on Omicron found here](#)

What we know about Omicron

- **How easily does Omicron spread?** The Omicron variant likely will spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, yet how easily Omicron spreads compared to Delta remains unknown. CDC expects that anyone with the Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms.
- **Will Omicron cause more severe illness?** More data are needed to know if Omicron infections, and especially reinfections and breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated, cause more severe illness or death than infection with other variants.
- **Will vaccines work against Omicron?** Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. However, breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur. With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.
- **Will treatments work against Omicron?** Scientists are working to determine how well existing treatments for COVID-19 work. Based on the changed genetic make-up of Omicron, some treatments are likely to remain effective while others may be less effective.

[Partnering for Vaccine Equity's Omicron Variant Suggested Talking Points Resource](#)

["Made to Save" updates and messaging on Omicron](#)

BOOSTER SHOTS INFORMATION

Booster Shots [expanded to ages 16+](#)

[“Made to Save” FAQ](#) on Booster Shots

CDC’s weekly [Vaccine Confidence Report](#), [Morbidity and Mortality Report](#), and [COVID-19 Science Update](#)

[Partnering for Vaccine Equity Resource Hub](#)

This website is a place where community-based organizations (CBOs) and the general public can download a wide variety of accurate, diverse, and culturally relevant materials about vaccination for COVID-19 and influenza.

CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)

During CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA), subject matter experts present key emergency preparedness and response topics, followed by meaningful Q&A with participants. Each [COCA Call/Webinar](#) will offer the most up to date information and guidance for clinicians.

Truth Check Your Timeline: Tools for Spotting Misinformation and Fact Checking Social Media Content

[Webinar Recording](#) (November 18 Learning Event)

How to Combat and Respond to Anti-Vaccine Attacks on Social Media

(November 30 Learning Event) [Webinar Recording](#) and Slides

Events

- **January 25-26, 2022**

Families USA’s [Health Action Conference: Health Justice Now](#) is right around the corner on January 25-26. This will be a critical time for advocates to mobilize, commit to collective action, and persist in our shared fight to eliminate the health inequities and health system failures laid bare by the COVID-19 crisis. Join us to learn from colleagues and speakers across the country, network with fellow advocates, and gain the skills needed to secure profound policy change.

- Don’t forget to [register before Dec. 31st](#) for the early bird rate!
- We strongly believe in having a diversity of voice at our conference. If cost is a barrier to attending, consider applying for a scholarship. [Scholarship applications](#) are due November 30, 2021.
- Nominations are open to submit your pick for Health Justice Advocate of the year! Do you know a colleague who tirelessly fought for health justice in 2021? Let us know! [Submit your nominations here](#).

Funding Opportunities

- **Launch of The Mercury Project, a three-year, \$10 million investment to support research to quantify the costs and harms of mis- and disinformation, and identify new tools to reduce its impact.** They are accepting initial letters of inquiry on a rolling basis from now through May 1, 2022. Applicants are encouraged to submit their letters as soon as possible, and successful applicants are invited to submit a full proposal.

This pandemic has revealed the real and physical risks that mis- and disinformation in our media environment pose to us all. Currently we lack knowledge about cost-effective interventions that may be able to counter the effects of mis- and dis-information, and support the uptake of reliable and accurate information. But evidence, data, and collaboration are cornerstones to solving many of society’s global issues, and the researchers in The Mercury Project consortium will lay the groundwork to improve public health now and for decades to come.

The Mercury Project will fund projects based in the United States, Africa, Asia, and Latin America for up to three years and will, for the first time, connect organizations fighting public health misinformation on five continents and provide an opportunity to share resources and communicate best practices. A significant part of the program will include annual international convenings of grantees, other researchers, and leaders in policy and technology to develop joint recommendations that advance global public health.

Find more information at <https://www.ssrc.org/programs/the-mercury-project/>

- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Evidence for Action: Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity**

Evidence for Action prioritizes research to evaluate specific interventions (e.g., policies, programs, practices) that have the potential to counteract the harms of structural and systemic racism and improve health, well-being, and equity outcomes. We are concerned both with the direct impacts of structural racism on the health and well-being of people and communities of color (e.g., Black, Latina/o/x, Indigenous, Asian, Pacific Islander people, and other races and ethnicities)—as well as the ways in which racism intersects with other forms of marginalization, such as having low income, being an immigrant, having a disability, or identifying as LGBTQ+ or a gender minority.

This funding is focused on studies about upstream causes of health inequities, such as the systems, structures, laws, policies, norms, and practices that determine the distribution of resources and opportunities, which in turn influence individuals’ options and behaviors. Research should center on the needs and experiences of communities exhibiting the greatest health burdens and be motivated by real-world priorities. It should be able to inform a specific course of action and/or establish beneficial practices, not stop at characterizing or documenting the extent of a problem.

E4A seeks grantees who are deeply committed to conducting rigorous and equitable research and ensuring that their findings are actionable in the real world. In addition to research funding, RWJF also supports grantees with stakeholder engagement, dissemination of findings, and other activities that can enhance their projects’ potential to “move the needle” on health and racial equity. Only through intentional and collaborative efforts to disrupt racism and translate research to action can we hope to build a more just and equitable society and a Culture of Health.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants will generally receive notice within six to nine weeks of applying as to whether they are invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be due two months from the date of notification. Funding recommendations will generally be made within eight weeks of receipt of the full proposal. In circumstances when a research opportunity is time sensitive, reviews may be expedited. An explanation of the time-sensitive nature of the research should be included in the LOI application.

Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Brave of Heart Fund**

The Brave of Heart Fund was established to provide monetary grants to eligible family members of frontline healthcare workers and healthcare volunteers who lose their lives because of COVID-19. The cash grant awards will provide basic and continuing financial support for common needs, such as funeral costs, medical care, counseling, food, educational expenses of children and other dependents currently in school, mortgage or rent payments, and immediate living expenses, as these family members manage the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and begin to move forward.

There are two forms of grants that may be available. You may be eligible for an initial grant of \$15,000 to alleviate the cost of immediate needs related to funeral costs and other essential household expenses. A second grant may also be available for continuing needs and longer-term expenses for up to six months, subject to income eligibility and documentation of financial need. This second grant is intended to help defray expenses such as housing, utilities, educational expenses of dependents currently in school, childcare, clothing, food, transportation, counseling, and medical expenses. These grants may range up to \$60,000. The exact amount of

any grant will depend on a variety of factors including, without limitation, the applicant's demonstration of financial need and availability of funds. The final determination of grant eligibility and amounts will be made by E4E Relief. Grants and grant amounts are not guaranteed and are subject to availability of funds remaining within the Fund.

This verification portal is available to family members of healthcare workers and healthcare volunteers who lost their lives because of COVID-19 to submit information to verify your eligibility to apply for a Brave of Heart Fund grant. Once verified, the eligible family member will be invited to apply directly to E4E Relief for available grants.

Applications will be accepted through December 31, 2021. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Peace Development Fund, Community Organization Grants**

The Community Organizing Grants program contains PDF's annual grantmaking docket and the De Colores Rapid Response Fund. Any organization that fits PDF's guidelines is eligible to apply for a grant. PDF currently only funds organizations in the United States, Haiti and Mexico through the Community Organizing Grants docket. Each year PDF receives hundreds of proposals from grassroots community organizations seeking funding. Through a careful review and interview process, PDF selects those organizations that will have a significant impact in their geographic and social justice focus area, or are working on issues that are not yet recognized by progressive funders.

Application deadline is December 29, 2021. For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

- **Walmart Local Community Grants**

Local community grants are awarded through an open application process and provide funding directly from Walmart and Sam's Club facilities to local organizations in the U.S.

Deadline to apply is December 31, 2021. Please click [here](#) for more information and the application.

Job Postings

[Community Engagement Coordinator or Manager](#) (Currently remote but will report to Oakland, CA or Washington DC office when we return)