APIC COVID-19 and Flu Resource Corner

September 8, 2022

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 Information and Resources

CDC Recommends the First Updated COVID-19 Booster

The CDC recommends use of updated COVID-19 boosters from Pfizer-BioNTech for people ages 12 years and older and from Moderna for people ages 18 years and older.

Updated COVID-19 boosters add Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components to the current vaccine composition, helping to restore protection that has waned since previous vaccination by targeting variants that are more transmissible and immune-evading.

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine: CDC Recommends use for Adolescents

The CDC signed a decision memo that Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine be used as another primary series option for adolescents ages 12 through 17. This recommendation follows FDA's authorization to authorize the vaccine for this age group under emergency use. Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine, which is available now, is an important tool in the pandemic and provides a more familiar type of COVID-19 vaccine technology for adolescents. Having multiple types of vaccines offers more options and flexibility for the public, jurisdictions, and vaccine providers.

Resource: Guide to Hosting COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at School

HHS Suspends Orders of Free, At-Home COVID-19 Tests

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources suspended ordering of free at-home COVID-19 tests after Friday, September 2, due to a lack of additional funding to replenish the nation's stockpile of tests.

CDC's weekly Vaccine Confidence Report, Morbidity and Mortality Report, and COVID-19 Science Update

Events

- **Thursday, September 8, at 3:30 pm PT / 6:30 pm ET**

  COVID-19 Community Corps Call

  Please join us for a special Community Corps call with Dr. Cameron Webb, senior policy advisor for equity on the White House COVID-19 response team. Dr. Webb will talk about:

  - **The updated vaccines now available for people 12 and older that target both the original virus and Omicron variant.**
  - **The importance of all eligible individuals to get the updated vaccine this fall.**

  We'll also share new resources and ways you can do outreach about the updated vaccines in your own communities. Register here.

- **Friday, September 9, at 10:30 am PT / 1:30 pm ET**

  Planning for an Equitable Rollout of Bivalent Boosters

  On June 30, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advised manufacturers seeking to update their COVID-19 vaccines to add an Omicron BA.4/5 spike protein component to the current vaccine composition to create a bivalent booster vaccine. As CDC and partners prepare for those updated vaccines (known as "bivalent boosters") to become available, we know that community members likely have questions. This meeting will provide information on bivalent boosters, with time for questions and discussions on how organizations who work with racial and ethnic minorities can help promote bivalent boosters in their communities. Register here.

- **Wednesday, September 14, from 9:00-10:00 am PT / 12:00-1:00 pm ET**

  COVID-19 Boosters, Yearly Vaccines, and Variant-specific Vaccines: What's Next?

  Presented by Paul Offit, MD, Director, Vaccine Education Center

Attending Physician, Division of Infectious Diseases, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Professor of Pediatrics and Maurice Hilleman Professor of Vaccinology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Register here.

Funding Opportunities

- **Surgo Ventures, Uber, and LISC have partnered through the Vaccine Access Fund to provide funded support for organizations looking to increase vaccination rates. Your organization can apply to receive grant funds and free technical assistance to implement the following:**
  - **A Vaccine Ambassador Program that equips health center staff and incentivizes vaccinated patients to become trusted messengers, encouraging others in their network to get the COVID-19 vaccine.**
  - **The coordination of free rides with Uber (via the Uber Health platform) to appointments where COVID-19 vaccines are available.**
  - **To apply, click here.**
- **AAMC - Funding Opportunities for Health Equity and Research Interventions**

- **RADx-UP Community Collaboration Mini Grant Program**
  - **The RADx-UP CDCC Community Collaboration Mini-Grant Program provides $50,000 for direct costs to support community partners to help advance capacity, training, support, and community experience with COVID-19 testing initiatives. It is open to community serving organizations, faith-based organizations, and tribal nations and organizations. Awardees use funding to remove barriers to COVID-19 communication and outreach, COVID-19 testing and diagnosis, and COVID-19 data collection and dissemination testing. They may provide training and education for community members around COVID-19 testing topics of interest or generate communication materials related to COVID-19 testing.**
  - **For more information and to apply click here.**

- **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Evidence for Action: Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity (Rolling)**

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.

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Asian and Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health (APIC)

1 Kaiser Plaza, Suite 850, Oakland, CA, 94612