

COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Webinars:

Date: December 13, 2022

Clinical Guidance and Patient Education for Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Strategies for Combatting Health Misinformation

[Learn more and watch here.](#)

Pandemic: A Critical Thinking Scenario

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Addressing LGBTQ Health Risk and Resilience in the Southeast

[Learn more and watch here.](#)

COVID-19 & Substance Use

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a national emergency; from that point on, researchers have observed increased substance use and drug overdoses in the United States (US). According to [data](#) published in November 2022 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “alcohol use in the United States spiked during the Covid-19 pandemic, killing more than 49,000 people in 2020”. Further research is needed to understand the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic and patterns of substance use. However, COVID-related stress and social isolation likely contribute to increased substance use and poor COVID-19 outcomes. In the US, alcohol misuse was already a public health concern, and now it can potentially complicate COVID-19 susceptibility and severity.

“What was already a crisis, has exploded.” - Marvin Ventrell, chief executive officer of the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers

A 2022 "[COVID-19 and substance use disorders](#)" study states “as the pandemic has progressed, the focus has shifted from immediate management and reduction of transmission to prevention via COVID-19 vaccines. A key concern is vaccine hesitancy in those with mental health difficulties, more generally, and specifically in those with substance use disorder (SUD). Individuals with SUD have a greater risk of contracting a COVID-19 infection but are less likely to access preventative interventions such as vaccines. Addressing equitable access to vaccines and systemic and individual risk factors will be key to increasing uptake in this vulnerable group.”

The [Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts \(FORE\)](#) & the [Addiction Policy Forum \(APF\)](#) launched a health equity program that aims to dismantle COVID-19 vaccine access barriers and tackle high rates of vaccine hesitancy among individuals with substance use disorder. Through this program, vaccine navigators help people with SUD find vaccination sites, identify appointment availability, and schedule appointments in their area if needed. People can access the navigators through APF’s helpline, website, Connections App, and newsletter. Vaccine navigators also provide free, confidential support, evidence-based information, and connection to local addiction treatment and recovery resources to individuals who seek it.

If you or someone you care about is using alcohol or other substances, or is increasing their use during the COVID-19 pandemic, [click here](#) for helpful resources

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Webinars:

Infection Prevention: What is it? Can it really help protect us from pathogens?

[Learn more and watch here.](#)

Misinformation as a risk factor during the COVID-19 pandemic

[Learn more and watch here.](#)

STAY
HEALTHY, 
SUNSHINE

COVID VACCINE. YOUR BRIGHTEST BET.

Resources

COVID-19 Vaccination

Clinical Resources

- [CDC resources](#) can assist you in communicating about vaccinations this month and beyond.
- CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children website](#)
- [ProviderBridge.org](#) provides up-to-date information on emergency regulation and licensing by state as well as a provider portal to connect volunteer health care professionals to state agencies and health care entities.
- [Rural Health Clinic Vaccine Distribution \(RHCVD\) Program](#). Under the program, Medicare-certified RHCs will receive direct COVID-19 vaccines in addition to their normal jurisdictions' weekly allocation.
- [One Stop Online for COVID Prevention and Treatment in Every County](#). Visitors to the site can enter their county and map nearby locations for masks, respirators, vaccines, boosters, and all testing and treatment options.

Promotion/Patient education materials

- Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida [COVID-19 Resource website](#)
- Health Council of Southeast Florida [Stay Healthy Sunshine Campaign website](#)
- HHS' [We Can Do This](#) website
- [National Resource Center](#) for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants creates COVID-19 communications materials in 40+ languages.
- [CDC's FAQs](#) about COVID-19 Vaccination for Children and Teens
- COVID-19 [Vaccines Available for Children Under 5](#)
- CDC COVID-19 [toolkit for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Talking Health: A New Way to Communicate About Public Health](#) provides new research-based tools to help health professionals communicate more effectively about public health, strengthen community partnerships, and improve health outcomes.
- CDC Foundation's latest [Contagious Conversations podcast](#) discusses the current monkeypox outbreak, what CDC is doing to respond and the challenges ahead of us with the next disease outbreak response.