Dear Partner,

HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs COVID-19 update for February 23, 2021:

Data Update:

New Cases (based on 7-day rolling average)

- **27,938,085** total US cases

- **28.5%** decrease in new cases (7-day average), as of February 21st; (was 22.7% decrease last week)

- **73%** decline in reported COVID-19 cases since the peak on January 11, 2021

Testing

- **322,911,890** million tests completed (2/19)

- **5.5%** positive test rate as of the week of 2/13 – 2/19 (was 6.4% last week)

Hospitalizations

- **20.3%** decrease in 7-day average of new hospitalizations of confirmed patients (2/14 – 2/20)

Deaths

- **497,415** total US deaths

- **38%** decrease in new deaths (7-day average) from previous week 2/15 – 2/21 (was 0.3% increase in deaths last week)

Vaccines

- **65,032,083** vaccine doses **administered** (2/22)

- **13%** of the population (44.5 million people) has received **1 or more doses** and **6%** of the population (19.8 million people) has **received 2 doses**

- Progress towards 100M dose target (doses reported since January 20, 2021; Day 33): **47,652,193 doses**

Vaccine Updates

Vaccination Supply Increases: During a weekly call with Governors, the Administration announced the fifth consecutive week of supply increases with states now receiving 14.5 million doses this week, up from 8.6 million doses per week when the President took office.
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Vaccinate with Confidence: CDC updated their strategies and resources to reinforce confidence in COVID-19 vaccines. On this page you can find downloadable content on building confidence in the

vaccines . View communication resources and toolkits [to encourage your community to get the COVID-19 vaccine](#).

What to Expect after Getting the Vaccine: COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19. You may have [some side effects](#), which are normal signs that your body is building protection. These side effects may affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Findings on If One Vaccine Dose is Enough after COVID-19 Infection: People who have [recovered from COVID-19 also should definitely get vaccinated](#) to maximize protection against possible re-infection. But, because they already have some natural immunity, would just one shot do the trick? Or do they still need two? A small, NIH-supported study, published as a pre-print on medRxiv, offers some early data on this important question. The findings show that immune response to the first vaccine dose in a person who's already had COVID-19 is equal to, or in some cases better, than the response to the second dose in a person who hasn't had COVID-19. While much more research is needed—and I am definitely not suggesting a change in the current recommendations right now—the results raise the possibility that one dose might be enough for someone who's been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and already generated antibodies against the virus.

Testing and Treatment

Testing for COVID-19: CDC updated their page on [testing for COVID-19](#). Find out who should get tested, how to get tested for current COVID-19 infection and how to proceed once you receive test results. Protect yourself and others. Wear a mask, wash hands often, stay 6 feet from others.

Clinical FAQs: CDC updated their [clinical questions about COVID-19](#). You can find answers to questions about infection control, COVID-19 risks, transmission, and more.

Testing Update: As of today, 331 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs). These include 247 molecular tests and sample collection devices, 70 antibody tests, and 14 antigen tests. There are 37 molecular authorizations that can be used with home-collected samples. There is one molecular prescription at-home test, one antigen prescription at-home test, and one over-the-counter (OTC) at-home antigen test.

PPE

Your Guide to Masks: CDC updated their [guide on masks](#). CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people. Effective February 2, 2021, masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.

Information for Specific Populations

Tribal Communities: CDC updated their guidance and tools to [help tribal organizations](#) make decisions, communicate with their members, and protect their families and communities.

CMS Updates

Comprehensive Support to the State of Texas to Combat Winter Storm: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced today that efforts are underway to support Texas in response to severe winter storms that have affected the state over the past several days. On February 17, 2021, Health and Human Services Acting Secretary Norris Cochran declared a public health emergency (PHE) for Texas retroactive to February 11, 2021. CMS is working to ensure hospitals and other facilities can continue operations and provide access to care despite the effects of the storm. CMS has compiled a list of current Waivers already available for health care providers to use during the COVID-19 PHE. These waivers remain available to providers in the State of Texas who have been affected by the consequences of the winter storm. CMS expects that nursing home providers will continue to accurately report COVID-19 cases to the NHSN. However, in light of the public health emergency in Texas, CMS will not impose civil money penalties for non-reporting through March 4, 2021, as residents continue to be displaced amid power and water concerns.

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