

# Making an Impact

THE CDC FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO COVID-19

Response Update 18  
December 11, 2020

*This issue represents the eighteenth of the CDC Foundation's COVID-19 response updates, highlighting the work the Foundation is doing through donor support to extend CDC's emergency response. We thank our donors for their incredible generosity and support that is saving and protecting lives as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response.*

**Update:** The COVID-19 pandemic represents the greatest threat to our health and the global economy in more than 100 years, and it spares no one. Globally, approximately 70 million confirmed cases of coronavirus disease have been reported, including more than 1.5 million deaths. In the United States, there have been more than 15.7 million confirmed cases and more than 290,000 deaths.

**CDC Update:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) weekly surveillance summary of U.S. COVID-19 activity is available [through the COVIDView report](#). The latest report shows that the percentage of COVID-19-associated deaths has been on the rise in the United States since October and has now surpassed the highest percentage seen during summer. The agency is urging all Americans to [take action now](#) to fight these rapidly rising cases.

**What the CDC Foundation is doing:** To date, individuals, philanthropies, organizations, corporations and government funders have committed \$207 million for the CDC Foundation's COVID-19 response, and the Foundation has deployed those funds in over 83 U.S. states and territories and other countries.

While the CDC Foundation and our generous donors have made tremendous impact in record-breaking speed, the job is far from over, and we must come together again to quell the pandemic.

The Foundation recently announced it is redoubling its response efforts through the official launch of [the Crush COVID campaign](#). We are focused on stopping the spread of COVID-19 both by modeling protective and proactive health behaviors and by mobilizing resources to impact three core areas: health equity, frontline support and health protection communications to drive home the importance of critical protective behaviors. Our team is working with partners and other organizations to prepare for the rollout of effective vaccines.

The CDC Foundation's Chief Health Equity and Strategy Officer Dr. Lauren Smith joined leaders in health justice this week on a panel hosted by the American Medical Association to discuss misinformation, trustworthiness and strategies to handle vaccine hesitancy among patients and health care professionals. The Foundation also updated its [resources for community-based organizations](#) with a listing of holiday messaging and materials drawn from health departments and other organizations around the nation.

The support from you, our donors and partners, is critical to provide essential resources and flexibility where government support is not available or available rapidly enough. Importantly, donations are leveraged against investments by the federal government and coordinated with local leaders and nonprofits on the ground for maximum impact. [Please join with us to Crush COVID at give4cdf.org](#).

## Supporting the Work to Save and Protect Lives:

Through the support of our donors, our team has addressed a variety of needs as part of our response efforts since the last update. These highlights include:

- Partnering with a multisector consortium for COVID-19 New Vaccine Information Communication and Engagement (CONVINCE USA) to **develop a strategy to build public trust in the COVID-19 vaccine** through the development, testing, dissemination and evaluation of new vaccine literacy messages.
- Developing a website of training materials and resources to **help countries develop and operationalize their public health emergency management capabilities** to support the COVID-19 response, especially through the use of Emergency Operations Centers.
- **Supporting COVID-19 mitigation efforts in California** by informing residents on how to stay healthy and help stop the spread of the virus and educating them on state resources.
- **Providing 16,000 wellness kits for homeless individuals** in USVI and Puerto Rico to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- **Providing 10,000 multi-layer cloth face masks for Rosebud Sioux youth**, which have designs on them with Lakota sayings meaning: "Lakota Standing Strong" and "Children are Sacred."
- Implementing a pilot program of **generating data on concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater** in Davis, CA, to inform the response to the pandemic.
- Developing and disseminating public health 101 virtual trainings and preparedness resources rapidly to **equip K-12 STEM educators to teach epidemiology and public health concepts** related to COVID-19.
- Supporting a project to **investigate the current standards of care for patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI)** to determine which treatments and patient characteristics will lead to improved COVID-19 patient outcomes.

For a broader look at our response efforts since January, please visit:

[bit.ly/CDCFimpact](https://bit.ly/CDCFimpact)