

# Making an Impact

THE CDC FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO COVID-19

Response Update 30  
December 17, 2021

*This issue represents the thirtieth 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:** Globally, more than 273.3 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including approximately 5.3 million deaths. In the United States, there have been more than 50.3 million confirmed cases and more than 804,000 deaths.

**CDC Update:** As of December 17, 2021, more than 240.3 million people in the United States have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of those, 203.2 million are fully vaccinated. Learn more from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID Data Tracker](#).

CDC estimates that the Omicron variant now represents about three percent of U.S. COVID-19 cases. The agency continues to encourage layered prevention strategies to prevent COVID-19 spread, including getting vaccines and boosters when eligible and masking in indoor public spaces. CDC has also expanded recommendations for booster shots to now include everyone 16 years and older.

**What the CDC Foundation is doing:** To individuals, philanthropies, organizations, corporations and government funders have committed \$560.1 million for the CDC Foundation's COVID-19 response, and the Foundation has deployed those funds in over 95 U.S. states and territories and other countries.

Rumors and misinformation spreading through social media and other channels have been ongoing issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, these developments have affected confidence in the COVID-19 vaccines and confidence in science more generally. Heidi Larson, PhD, professor of anthropology, risk and decision science and the founding director of the Vaccine Confidence Project at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, was interviewed in [the latest episode of the Contagious Conversations podcast](#). In this episode, Professor Larson discusses the spread of vaccine rumors, how these rumors impact confidence in science and how we can help put a stop to them.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the latest reminder of the vital importance of public health protection and need for a future-forward, future-ready public health system. To advance recommendations for a modernized U.S. public health system, the CDC Foundation is convening the [Lights, Camera, Action: Future of Public Health Summit Series](#) in collaboration with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, Big Cities Health Coalition and other public health partners. The first summit on Dec. 6 focused on how to achieve a diverse and robust public health workforce for the future. Learn more and register for future summits at [futureofpublichealth.org](http://futureofpublichealth.org).

The pandemic has also changed public-private partnerships. [Watch this video from Reimagining Public Health Partnerships: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic](#) at the Milken Institute Partnering for Patients Forum in early December, where our President and CEO Dr. Judy Monroe spoke about this issue.

We're at a critical point in the pandemic, but together we have the power to Crush COVID. Unite with the CDC Foundation to make a difference now. [Please join with us to crush COVID at \[give.cdcfoundation.org/SOS\]\(http://give.cdcfoundation.org/SOS\)](#).

## 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:

- Awarding **local community COVID vaccine partnership grants** to ten organizations with support from the NFL Foundation to lead COVID-19 education and outreach activities, and to facilitate access to vaccines in local communities.
- Partnering with health departments in Seattle, San Francisco and Minnesota to establish coalitions creating **Centers of Excellence in Public Health and Homelessness**. The Centers aim to identify best practices in partnership and infectious disease mitigation for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Expanding the How Right Now project to **further address social determinants of health** by working with target audiences to increase awareness of the mental health challenges faced by some Americans. These mental health challenges include those related to social determinants of health, chronic disease and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Increasing COVID-19 vaccine uptake** in Kigoma and Mwanza in Tanzania through advocacy, communication and training to disseminate accurate, comprehensive information about COVID-19 vaccines.
- Supporting the procurement of **oxygen cylinders, accessories for cylinders, trolleys and end user training** in Sierra Leone to support three regional hospitals and the National Emergency Medical Services with regular patient care and in the event of surges or outbreaks.

For a broader look at our response efforts since January 2020, please visit: [bit.ly/CDCFimpact](http://bit.ly/CDCFimpact)