

From: Matthews, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR)
Sent: Tue, 7 Feb 2023 20:00:17 +0000
To: Burns, Erin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Olivares, Dagny (CDC/DDPHSS/NCHS/OD); Jiles, Angela (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Nordlund, Kristen (CDC/OD/OADC); Conley, Kathleen (CDC/OD/OADC); Bedrosian, Sara (CDC/OD/OADC); Sokler, Lynn (CDC/OD/OADC); Pechta, Laura (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); CDC IMS JIC All -2; CDC IMS JIC OADC LNO -2; CDC IMS JIC Research -2; Friedman, Allison (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH); Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Zhou, Ling (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DEO); Acevedo, Daniel (CDC/OD/OADC); Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Bjork, Adam C. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Braden, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Dubray, Christine (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); Knight, Nancy (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/OD); McDonald, Robert (Bobby) (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); McQuiston, Jennifer H. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCP); Novak, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Stewart, Rebekah (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Walke, Henry (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Caudwell, Kerry M. (CDC/OD/OCS); Silver, Margaret E. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Panero, Maria (Susana) (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); 'Pratt, Michael (OS/ASPA)'; Price, Ashley (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Norris, Jennifer (CDC/DDPHSS/CELS/OD) (CTR); Leinhos, Mary (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Rojanasakul, Liying (CDC/NIOSH/HELD/ACIB); Rinker, Robin (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DOP); Mac Kenzie, Amy Loy (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); Grigg, Cheri T. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Kane, Elleen (OS/ASPR/OEA); Michael, Gretchen (OS/ASPR/OEA); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); CDC IMS 2022 Multi-National Mpox VTF ADS; CDC IMS Med Care and Countermeasures Task Force; CDC IMS SA Public Health Scientist (CDC); Kachur, Rachel (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); Ahmed, Faruque (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Sokler, Lynn (CDC/OD/OADC); Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC); Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Gaines-McCollom, Molly (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Capers, Catherine (Katy) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Craig, Michael R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Spring, Christina M. (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Seeff, Laura (CDC/OD/OCS); Meunier, Jennifer (CDC/DDPHSIS/OMHHE/OD); Domaaol, Robert (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHT); Brooks, Ashley (CDC/DDPHSS/CELS/DSEPD); Moussakhani, Nisha (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD); Gerber, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Fast, Hannah (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Prue, Christine (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Garcia-Williams, Amanda (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Mitchell, Betsy (CDC/OD/OADC); Jorgensen, Cynthia (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Pitts, Dana L. (CDC/DDPHSS/OD); Seman, Caroline (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Gates, Suzanne (Suzi) (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Zviedrite, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Schnall, Amy (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Baker, Kayilan (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DHDD); Hayes, Locola D. (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Graff, Kaitlin (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Neri, Antonio (Tony) (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Branam, Ian (CDC/DDPHSS/CELS/OD); Bain, Jennifer S. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH) (CTR); Whitehill, John M. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DHDS); Rodriguez, Heather (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Miller, William (Griffin) (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DCPC) (CTR); Behm, Brittany (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Hughes, Kadeja (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Puddy, Richard (CDC/OD/OADPS); Patterson, Sara S. (CDC/DDPHSS/CELS/OD); Kapil, Nisha G. (ATSDR/OAD/OD) (CTR); Miller, Joseph D. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Policy Partnerships; North, Sarah (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Eschelbach, Julie (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Patel, Suchita (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Terminello, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); Fisher, Allison Michelle (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Randall, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Ramlal, Roshan (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Spratling, Robin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Butler, Jay C. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Fitter, David L. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/GID); Meaney Delman, Dana M. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Eisenberg, Emily (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Principal Deputy IM; CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Incident Manager; Sapsis, Kari (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Chief Health Equity; McCurley, Carol M. (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); DeLuca, Nick (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Donovan, John (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Marianni, Lisa (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OTI); Moore, Meredith

(CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Dowling, Molly (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DOP); Dugan, Susan (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DIP); Myers, Brad (CDC/OD/CFA); Michener, Vanessa (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Eastham, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Laird, Susan (CDC/OD/OADC); Schieb, Linda (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DHDS); Verma, Rohit (CDC/OD/OADC); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response CDS TM Communications; Uveges, Pam S. (ATSDR/OAD/OCHHA); Smith, Teresa M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Patta, Abrienne (Brie) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Wilkins, Yescenia (CDC/OD/OADGHC); Reagan, Meredith (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Kukucka, Claudia D. (CDC/OD/OADC); Witbart, Lauren Ann (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Li, Zheng J. (ATSDR/OAD/OCDAPS); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Policy Ops; Maiuri, Allison M. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Wingard, Rachel (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Meekins, Jenique (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Hess, Alexandra (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) (CTR); Downs, Alycia E. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Treffiletti, Aimee (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Dennis, Hope (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Patta, Abrienne (Brie) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Wisard, Trang Nguyen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Arseniadis, Katie (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Siegel, Vivi (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Env Health TF; 'Danko, Carol (OS/ASPR/JIC)'; Ogee-Nwankwo, Aadaeze A. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Wisard, Trang Nguyen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Bryant, LaKia R. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); 'Muni, Michael (OS/OASH)'; Sandhu, Sukhminder (FDA/CDER); Nunnally, Tammy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Kachinsky, Noelle (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Roobol, Hope (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/OD); Gottlieb, Justin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Mwidau, Jamila (FDA/CDER); Hall, Kelly (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Lean, Katherine (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHT); CDC IMS 2022 NYS Polio Response Vaccine TF; Gatewood, Johanzynn (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Swensen, Sue (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DHIS); Tevendale, Heather D. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Elliott, Nicole (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Hoffmann, Candice (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Branam, Ian (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Kent, Charlotte (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Dott, Mary (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Bartley, Shelton (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Geissler, Aimee L. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Resha, Karen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Parmer, John E. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Kolis, Jessica (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Mahadevan, Chitra (FDA/CDER); Nicolae, Lavinia (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); Hamburger, Tanya (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Gee, Julianne (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Epi TF Communications Team; Evans, Shenandoah (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD) (CTR); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response VCU Communications; Abad, Neetu S. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Hawkins, Brittnee (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Blau, Erin (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Griswold, Stephanie (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Swyers, Victoria (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID) (CTR); Ahmed, Nausheen (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Arshanapally, Suraj (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Galloway, Summer (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); NCIRD CCU Lab Policy (CDC); Abshire, Kara (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response DAV TF Comms Team; 'Albright, Hien (FDA/ORA)'; 'Bryan, Brad (OS/ASPR/IO)'; Santana, Alberto (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP); Brookmeyer, Kathryn A. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Ngounou, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Mandel, Samantha (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP); Johnson, Britney (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); CDCITFPCC (CDC); Ma, Yue (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Hammond, Shelley S. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/OSH); Andujar, Ashley (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Boyce, Latifa (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/DEO); Gupta, Neil (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); Manns, Brian Jerrad (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Bratton, James M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Phoenix Weir, Ursula (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/OD); Johnson, Valerie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Orsega, Susan (OS/OASH); Lesko, Max (HHS/OASH); Campos, Rafael D (OS/OASH) (CTR); Mullen, Jennifer (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Short, Tyiesha (HHS/OASH/OSG); Ciccarone, Rachel (CDC/OD/CFA); Houston, Marsha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Nolen Rosencrans, Renee (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/OSH); Bousbar, Sabrina (OS/ASPR/IO); Gregg, Destiny (OS/IEA); Miller, Samantha (HRSA); Lambert, Tericka (HHS/ASPA; Beach, Michael J. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Hornback, Deborah A. (CDC/NIOSH/DSI); Chuvileva, Yulia (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH); Funches, Latesha (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Black, Bethanne (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Holmes,

Kathleen (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Motteram, Amy (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) (CTR); Helms, Jordan (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Walier, Sheila (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Butryn, Deena (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/OD); Rodriguez, Leslie (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Carter, Jasmine (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Smith, April (CDC/OD/OADC); Daniels, Booker (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DHDSP); Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Voegeli, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Gutierrez, Margaret (Maggie) (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response STLT TF HDS Comms Section; Akintan, Folorunso (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); Kaplan, Emily (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DDT); Thurmond, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) (CTR); Ross, Kierra (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Parker, Stacey M. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CSTLTS/OD); Serbanescu, Florina (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Keir, Jane M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Allen Tchoukalov, Jessica A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Boone, Kwanza (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Pai, Rima (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/GID) (CTR); Madden, Joseph (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Stamps, Sharleta (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Jones, Shantrice (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Park, Jennifer (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Brown, Christopher K (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DEO); Brodalski, Diane J. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Heldman, Amy B. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DCPC); Jackson, Shallynn (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Trotochaud, Marc (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Williams, Paula O. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Bradeen, Tessa (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD); Meyer, Cynthia (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Vahey, Grace (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Thompson, Natarsha (ATSDR/OAD); Jackson, Brendan R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Weakland, Aliko P. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD)

Subject: COVID-19 Communication Surveillance Report 2.7.23

Attachments: COVID-19 Communication Surveillance Report 2.7.23.pdf

Good afternoon,

Views to news and social media pages are down from last report. CDC INFO received over 4,000 inquiries from January 31– February 6, 2023 with a majority of clinician inquiries related to vaccines, facility guidance, and testing. Top inquiries from the general public were related to testing, vaccines, travel, and treatment.

Media outlets covered changed to be faced by consumers when the National and Public Health Emergency Declarations are allowed to expire, amid growing concern for vulnerable populations, inequities and potential future outbreaks. House Republicans passed legislation Jan 31, 2023 that would repeal vaccine mandates and declare the pandemic over, ahead of the expiration of National and Public Health Emergency Declarations. There is continued coverage of the impact of long COVID on people around the country, highlighting impacts to persons of color and care givers. New data suggests molnupiravir may be driving SARS-CoV-2 mutations in some patients. Separate research findings highlight the potential for white-tailed deer as possible reservoirs for SARS-CoV-2, finding continued mutations of both Alpha and Gamma variants among the deer population after they were no longer circulating among humans.

Please note that this report (*attached and below*) is for internal use only and should not be forwarded. Let us know how we can improve this report. If you have any questions or want to add someone to the distribution list, please contact CDC IMS JIC Research -2 (eocjicres2@cdc.gov).

Emily Matthews, MPH
On behalf of the JIC Research & Evaluation Team

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**COVID-19 Response
Communication Surveillance Report
February 7, 2023**

Recommendations for Communication Strategy

(b)(5)

Major Public Health Themes

- Outlets cover changes that consumers will face when Nat'l and PH COVID emergency declarations expire and reactions; consumers will have out of pocket expenses for testing, treatments, and vaccines if uninsured: CNN, NBC, Vox, Axios, KHN, PBS, Politico, ABC, yahoo, @KFF, @AmCollSurgeons
 - Growing concern for vulnerable pops, potential confusion over coverage, costs and copays, inequities, and potential future outbreaks. NYT, Harvard, CNBC
 - CA to let COVID State of Emergency expire at the end of the month, will no longer require COVID vax in public schools. NYT, Axios
- House Republicans passed legislation on Jan 31 that would repeal vaccine mandates and declare the pandemic over, ahead of the expiration of Nat'l and PH COVID emergency declarations: NYT, Politico
 - U.S. House of Reps soon voting on bill to end vaccine mandate for foreign travelers coming into the U.S. Although neg testing requirement ended in June, vaccine proof is still ongoing. Reuters
- Cont coverage of the impact of long-COVID on people around the country. Coverage of long COVID's impact on people of color and on care takers for those dealing with the condition. NPR, ABC, HarvardGazette, CNN
- New data suggests that Merck's antiviral, molnupiravir, may be driving SARS-CoV-2 mutations. The findings are based on the identification of a related-mutation using SARS-CoV-2 sequencing data. MedRxiv, Science, Bloomberg
- Research findings highlight white-tailed deer as possible COVID reservoir; study finds Alpha and Gamma variants continued to circulate and evolve among deer pop after they were no longer dominant in humans. NYT, CornellChronicle, pnas, @EricTopol

International

- Australia's health minister announced that residents 18yo+ will be eligible for a 5th vax dose later this month. Residents 65yo+ as well as individuals w/ comorbidities are encouraged to get the add'l dose. Guardian

Treatment & Research

- [A new paper in JAMA suggests that there were no excess deaths among US physicians following April 2021, largely due to vax effort among HCWs.](#) JAMA
- [Two new Lancet correspondence papers show that XBB.1.5 had a reproductive number 1.2x larger than XBB.1 and heightened antibody evasion capabilities.](#) Lancet1, Lancet2, @EricTopol
- [A new preprint shows that suicide deaths were at lower-than-expected levels during 2020. Researchers posit social cohesion, promotion of mental health resources, and greater focus on mental health as potential factors.](#) medRxiv
- [A CanSino CEO claims that early data on their COVID-19 mRNA vax suggests that their product is as effective as Moderna/Pfizer product. Trials for the vax will begin this year.](#) Reuters, Daily Mail

Polls

- KFF poll: 38% of respondents reported that their household experienced either COVID-19, the flu, or RSV since the holidays; 46% reported that the news of COVID-19, flu, and RSV have made them more likely to take at least 1 protective measure. KFF, CNN

Points of Confusion/Potential Rumors/Misinformation

- [An article looking at myocarditis published in The BMJ has been picked up by anti-vax proponents as evidence that vax was more likely to cause myocarditis than COVID-19 infection.](#) @DrElDavid, BMJ, Epoch Times
- ["Sponsored by Pfizer" trends on twitter following a performance at the 2023 Grammy Awards that featured a demonic theme. Continued anti-vax pressure that vaccine is part of a larger satanic agenda.](#) "Sponsored by Pfizer"
- ["Project Veritas" videos featuring a Pfizer executive continue to attract attention. The most recent video discusses potential changes in hormone levels leading to the creation of the new term "Pfertility."](#) The Daily Mail, MSN
- [Twitter users emphasize results of a new paper evaluating the effectiveness of vitamin D as source to treat severe COVID, claim major PH agencies have been ignoring the tx.](#) @BretWeinstein, @goddketal, Pharmaceuticals
- [A rumor circulating on Twitter claims that Dr. Deborah Birx admitted to purposefully altering CDC guidelines and manipulating data to deceive the Trump administration.](#) @BoSnerdley, @TerrenceBeBack

Information Seeking

CDC-INFO received 4,022 inquiries related to COVID-19 from Jan 31 – Feb 6, 2023. The general public were responsible for 3785 (94%) of all COVID-19 inquiries, clinicians added 187 (5%) inquiries, and the final 50 inquiries (1%) were either uncategorized or came from health departments, the media, or educators. This week, inquiries regarding testing, vaccines and travel remained high.

Clinicians Inquiries

- Vaccines (48%):
 - Common inquiries included questions regarding vax administration for patients with incomplete/foreign vax series, best practices after vax administration errors, and inquiries on how to access specific COVID vaccines. |
- Facility Guidance (9%):
 - Common inquiries included regarding PPE requirements in HC settings, majority of inquires focused on mask requirements for HCWs.
- Testing (8%)
 - Common inquiries centered on ordering/renewing orders of tests for HC facilities.

General Public Inquiries

- Testing (35%)
 - The prevalence of testing inquiries remained high this week. Inquiries largely centered on the free testing program with most indiv seeking assistance while placing an order.
- Vaccines (27%)
 - Major themes included questions on vax boosters (39% of vax inquiries), inquiries regarding vax access (33%), and requests for new vax documentation (15%). Continued Qs regarding 2nd bivalent booster doses, access to prim series, and availability of Novavax and J&J vax.
- Travel (14%)

- Common inquiries centered on vax/testing requirements for incoming/outbound international travelers. _
- Quarantine/Isolation/Exposure (9%)
 - Common inquiries included requests for quarantine, isolation, and exposure guidelines. Several questions regarding exiting isolation with prolonged + tests._

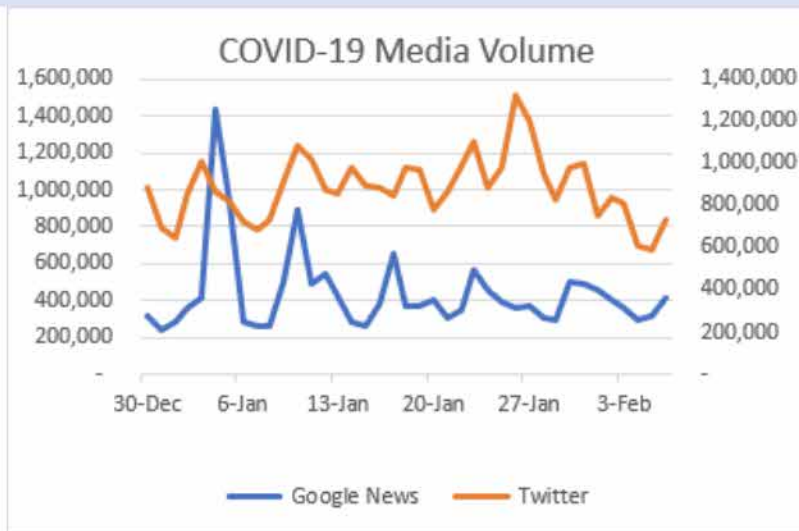
CDC/USG Mentions

- U.S. house hearings discussed the origin of COVID-19 with Republicans criticizing the gov't response early in the pandemic. Questions whether scientists should continue getting funding on virus-modifying research in China specifically. House Dems urge trusting science and research to prevent future pandemics. ^{WSJ}

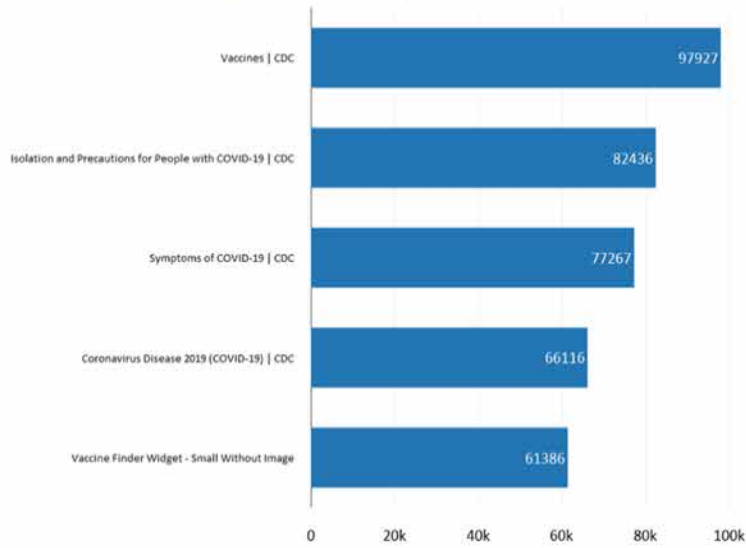
Emerging

- NYC will end its vax mandate for city workers 2/10. The plan led to a vax rate of over 96% of workers but has received media attention due to significant layoffs. ^{NYT, ABC, WSJ, CBS, Fox}
- Increasing reports regarding the drop in US COVID-19 cases, some are citing "walls" of immunity built by vax and previous infections. ^{NPR}
- Con't conversation surrounding who should get a booster; expert discourages in healthy individuals. ^{NYT}
- FDA removed positive test requirement for COVID-19 tx from Pfizer (Paxlovid) and Merck (Lagevrio); Says pts should have a current dx of mild-moderate COVID infection or known recent exposure prior to beginning tx. ^{Reuters}

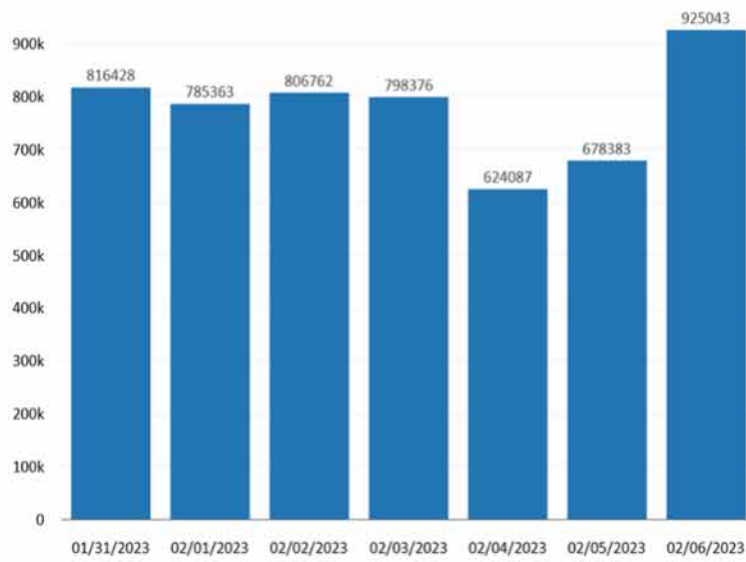
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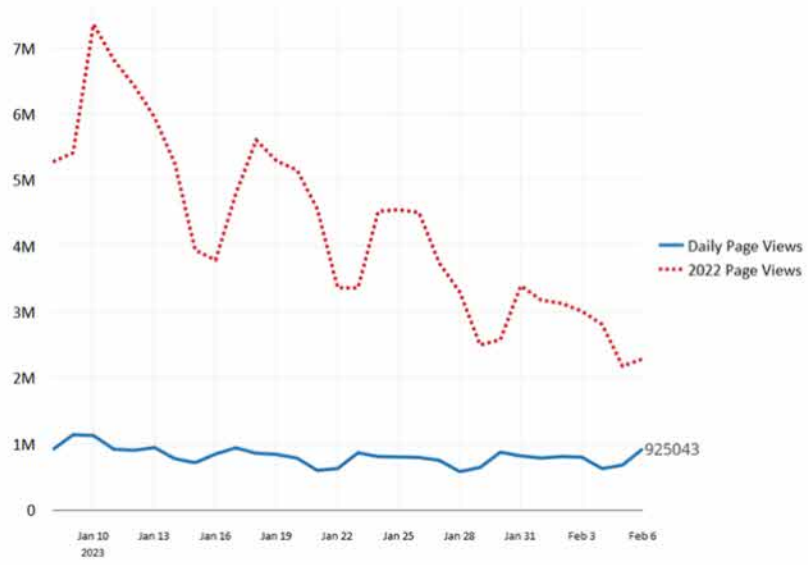
Top 5 COVID-19 Pages 02/06/2023



COVID-19 Site Traffic - Last 7 Days Page Views



COVID-19 Site: 30-Day Page Views



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 - Growing concern for vulnerable pops, potential confusion over coverage, costs and copays, inequities, and potential future outbreaks. [NYT](#), [Harvard](#), [CNBC](#)
 - CA to let COVID State of Emergency expire at the end of the month, will no longer require COVID vax in public schools. [NYT](#), [Axios](#)
- House Republicans passed legislation on Jan 31 that would repeal vaccine mandates and declare the pandemic over, ahead of the expiration of Nat'l and PH COVID emergency declarations: [NYT](#), [Politico](#)
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- Cont coverage of the impact of long-COVID on people around the country. Coverage of long COVID's impact on people of color and on care takers for those dealing with the condition. [NPR](#), [ABC](#), [HarvardGazette](#), [CNN](#)
- New data suggests that Merck's antiviral, molnupiravir, may be driving SARS-CoV-2 mutations. The findings are based on the identification of a related-mutation using SARS-CoV-2 sequencing data. [MedRxiv](#), [Science](#), [Bloomberg](#)
- Research findings highlight white-tailed deer as possible COVID reservoir; study finds Alpha and Gamma variants continued to circulate and evolve among deer pop after they were no longer dominant in humans. [NYT](#), [CornellChronicle](#), [pnas](#), [@EricTopol](#)

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- “Project Veritas” videos featuring a Pfizer executive continue to attract attention. The most recent video discusses potential changes in hormone levels leading to the creation of the new term “Pfertility.” [The Daily Mail, MSN](#)
- Twitter users emphasize results of a new paper evaluating the effectiveness of vitamin D as source to treat severe COVID, claim major PH agencies have been ignoring the tx. [@BretWeinstein, @godketaj, Pharmaceuticals](#)
- A rumor circulating on Twitter claims that Dr. Deborah Birx admitted to purposefully altering CDC guidelines and manipulating data to deceive the Trump administration. [@BoSnerdley, @TerrenceBeBack](#)

Information Seeking

CDC-INFO received 4,022 inquiries related to COVID-19 from Jan 31 – Feb 6, 2023. The general public were responsible for 3785 (94%) of all COVID-19 inquiries, clinicians added 187 (5%) inquiries, and the final 50 inquiries (1%) were either uncategorized or came from health departments, the media, or educators. This week, inquiries regarding testing, vaccines and travel remained high.

Clinicians Inquiries

- Vaccines (48%):
 - Common inquiries included questions regarding vax administration for patients with incomplete/foreign vax series, best practices after vax administration errors, and inquiries on how to access specific COVID vaccines.
- Facility Guidance (9%):
 - Common inquiries included regarding PPE requirements in HC settings, majority of inquires focused on mask requirements for HCWs.
- Testing (8%)
 - Common inquiries centered on ordering/renewing orders of tests for HC facilities.

General Public Inquiries

- Testing (35%)
 - The prevalence of testing inquiries remained high this week. Inquiries largely centered on the free testing program with most indiv seeking assistance while placing an order.
- Vaccines (27%)
 - Major themes included questions on vax boosters (39% of vax inquiries), inquiries regarding vax access (33%), and requests for new vax documentation (15%). Continued Qs regarding 2nd bivalent booster doses, access to prim series, and availability of Novavax and J&J vax.
- Travel (14%)
 - Common inquiries centered on vax/testing requirements for incoming/outbound international travelers.
- Quarantine/Isolation/Exposure (9%)
 - Common inquiries included requests for quarantine, isolation, and exposure guidelines. Several questions regarding exiting isolation with prolonged + tests.

CDC/USG Mentions

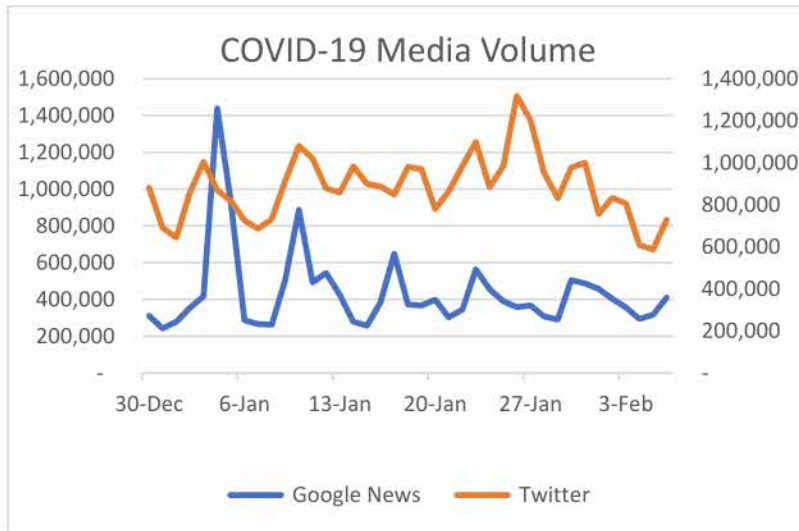
- U.S. house hearings discussed the origin of COVID-19 with Republicans criticizing the gov’t response early in the pandemic. Questions whether scientists should continue getting funding on virus-modifying research in China specifically. House Dems urge trusting science and research to prevent future pandemics. [WSJ](#)

Emerging

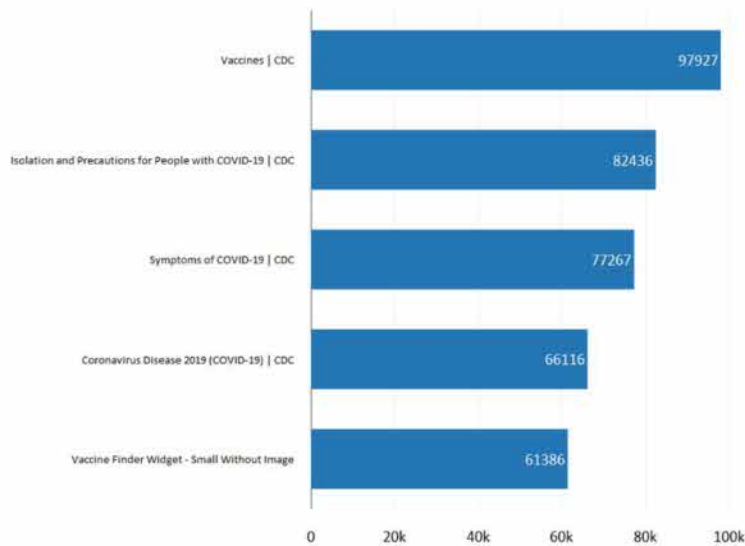
- NYC will end its vax mandate for city workers 2/10. The plan led to a vax rate of over 96% of workers but has received media attention due to significant layoffs. [NYT, ABC, WSJ, CBS, Fox](#)
- Increasing reports regarding the drop in US COVID-19 cases, some are citing “walls” of immunity built by vax and previous infections. [NPR](#)

- Con't conversation surrounding who should get a booster; expert discourages in healthy individuals. [NYT](#)
- FDA removed positive test requirement for COVID-19 tx from Pfizer (Paxlovid) and Merck (Lagevrio); Says pts should have a current dx of mild-moderate COVID infection or known recent exposure prior to beginning tx. [Reuters](#)

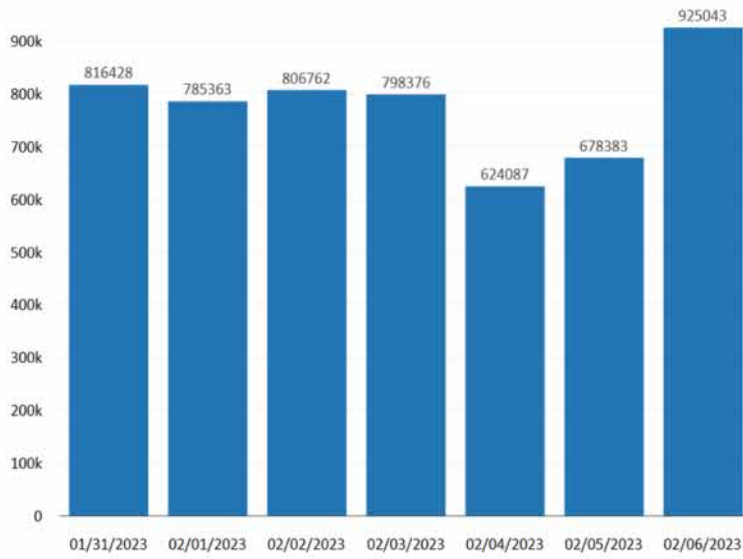
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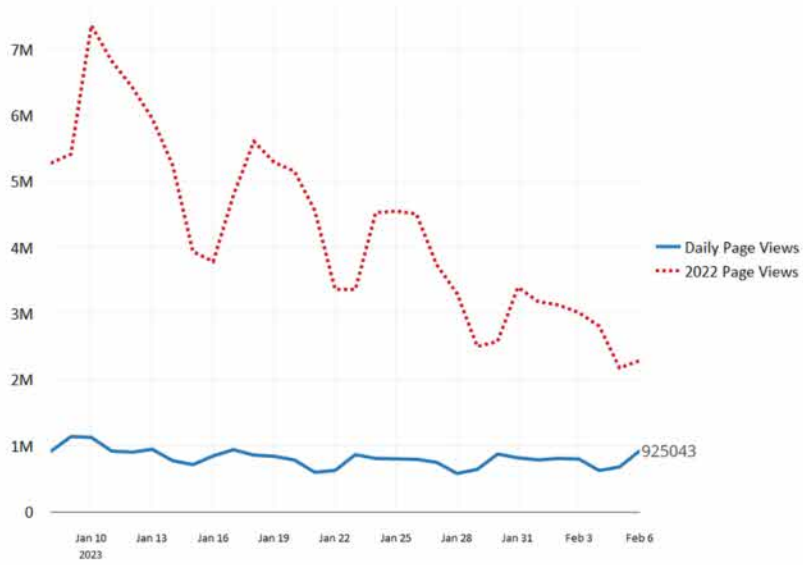
Top 5 COVID-19 Pages 02/06/2023



COVID-19 Site Traffic - Last 7 Days Page Views



COVID-19 Site: 30-Day Page Views



From: Matthews, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR)
Sent: Wed, 1 Mar 2023 20:00:51 +0000
To: Burns, Erin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Olivares, Dagny (CDC/DDPHSS/NCHS/OD); Jiles, Angela (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Nordlund, Kristen (CDC/OD/OADC); Conley, Kathleen (CDC/OD/OADC); Bedrosian, Sara (CDC/OD/OADC); Sokler, Lynn (CDC/OD/OADC); Pechta, Laura (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); CDC IMS JIC All -2; CDC IMS JIC OADC LNO -2; CDC IMS JIC Research -2; Friedman, Allison (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH); Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Zhou, Ling (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DEO); Acevedo, Daniel (CDC/OD/OADC); Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Bjork, Adam C. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Braden, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Dubray, Christine (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); Knight, Nancy (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/OD); McDonald, Robert (Bobby) (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); McQuiston, Jennifer H. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Novak, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Stewart, Rebekah (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Walke, Henry (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Caudwell, Kerry M. (CDC/OD/OCS); Silver, Margaret E. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Panero, Maria (Susana) (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); 'Pratt, Michael (OS/ASPA)'; Price, Ashley (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Norris, Jennifer (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Leinhos, Mary (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Rojanasakul, Liying (CDC/NIOSH/HELD/ACIB); Rinker, Robin (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DOP); Mac Kenzie, Amy Loy (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); Grigg, Cheri T. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Kane, Elleen (OS/ASPR/OEA); Michael, Gretchen (OS/ASPR/OEA); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); CDC IMS 2022 Multi-National Mpox VTF ADS; CDC IMS Med Care and Countermeasures Task Force; CDC IMS SA Public Health Scientist (CDC); Kachur, Rachel (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); Ahmed, Faruque (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Sokler, Lynn (CDC/OD/OADC); Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC); Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Gaines-McCollom, Molly (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Capers, Catherine (Katy) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Craig, Michael R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Spring, Christina M. (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Seeff, Laura (CDC/OD/OCS); Meunier, Jennifer (CDC/DDPHSIS/OMHHE/OD); Domaaol, Robert (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHT); Brooks, Ashley (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Moussakhani, Nisha (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD); Gerber, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Fast, Hannah (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Prue, Christine (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Garcia-Williams, Amanda (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Mitchell, Betsy (CDC/OD/OADC); Jorgensen, Cynthia (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Pitts, Dana L. (CDC/DDPHSS/OD); Seman, Caroline (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Gates, Suzanne (Suzi) (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Zviedrite, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Schnall, Amy (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Baker, Kayilan (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DHDD); Hayes, Locola D. (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Graff, Kaitlin (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Neri, Antonio (Tony) (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Branam, Ian (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Bain, Jennifer S. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH) (CTR); Whitehill, John M. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DHDS); Rodriguez, Heather (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Miller, William (Griffin) (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DCPC) (CTR); Behm, Brittany (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Hughes, Kadeja (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Puddy, Richard (CDC/OD/OADPS); Patterson, Sara S. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Kapil, Nisha G. (ATSDR/OAD/OD) (CTR); Miller, Joseph D. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Policy Partnerships; North, Sarah (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Eschelbach, Julie (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Patel, Suchita (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Terminello, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); Fisher, Allison Michelle (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Randall, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Ramlal, Roshan (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Spratling, Robin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Butler, Jay C. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Fitter, David L. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/GID); Meaney Delman, Dana M. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Eisenberg, Emily (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Principal Deputy IM; CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Incident Manager; Sapsis, Kari (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Chief Health Equity; McCurley, Carol M. (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); DeLuca, Nick (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Donovan, John (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Marianni, Lisa (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OTI); Moore, Meredith

(CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Dowling, Molly (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DOP); Dugan, Susan (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DIP); Myers, Brad (CDC/OD/CFA); Michener, Vanessa (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Eastham, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Laird, Susan (CDC/OD/OADC); Schieb, Linda (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DHDS); Verma, Rohit (CDC/OD/OADC); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response CDS TM Communications; Uveges, Pam S. (ATSDR/OAD/OCHHA); Smith, Teresa M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Patta, Abrienne (Brie) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Wilkins, Yescenia (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Reagan, Meredith (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Kukucka, Claudia D. (CDC/OD/OADC); Witbart, Lauren Ann (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Li, Zheng J. (ATSDR/OAD/OCDAPS); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Policy Ops; Maiuri, Allison M. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Wingard, Rachel (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Meekins, Jenique (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Hess, Alexandra (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) (CTR); Downs, Alycia E. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Treffiletti, Aimee (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Dennis, Hope (CDC/DDPHSS/OMHHE); Patta, Abrienne (Brie) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Wisard, Trang Nguyen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Arseniadis, Katie (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Siegel, Vivi (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Env Health TF; 'Danko, Carol (OS/ASPR/JIC)'; Ogee-Nwankwo, Aadaeze A. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Wisard, Trang Nguyen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Bryant, LaKia R. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); 'Muni, Michael (OS/OASH)'; Sandhu, Sukhminder (FDA/CDER); Nunnally, Tammy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Kachinsky, Noelle (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Roobol, Hope (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/OD); Gottlieb, Justin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Mwidau, Jamila (FDA/CDER); Hall, Kelly (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Lean, Katherine (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHT); CDC IMS 2022 NYS Polio Response Vaccine TF; Gatewood, Johanzynn (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Swensen, Sue (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DHIS); Tevendale, Heather D. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Elliott, Nicole (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Hoffmann, Candice (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Branam, Ian (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Kent, Charlotte (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Dott, Mary (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Bartley, Shelton (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Geissler, Aimee L. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Resha, Karen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Parmer, John E. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Kolis, Jessica (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Mahadevan, Chitra (FDA/CDER); Nicolae, Lavinia (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); Hamburger, Tanya (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Gee, Julianne (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Epi TF Communications Team; Evans, Shenandoah (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD) (CTR); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response VCU Communications; Abad, Neetu S. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Hawkins, Brittnee (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Blau, Erin (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Griswold, Stephanie (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Swyers, Victoria (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Ahmed, Nausheen (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Arshanapally, Suraj (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Galloway, Summer (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); NCIRD CCU Lab Policy (CDC); Abshire, Kara (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response DAV TF Comms Team; 'Albright, Hien (FDA/ORAL)'; 'Bryan, Brad (OS/ASPR/IO)'; Santana, Alberto (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP); Brookmeyer, Kathryn A. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Ngounou, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Mandel, Samantha (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP); Johnson, Britney (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); CDCITFPCC (CDC); Ma, Yue (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Hammond, Shelley S. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/OSH); Andujar, Ashley (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Boyce, Latifa (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/DEO); Gupta, Neil (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); Manns, Brian Jerrad (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Bratton, James M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Phoenix Weir, Ursula (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/OD); Johnson, Valerie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Orsega, Susan (OS/OASH); Lesko, Max (HHS/OASH); Campos, Rafael D (OS/OASH) (CTR); Mullen, Jennifer (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Short, Tyiesha (HHS/OASH/OSG); Ciccarone, Rachel (CDC/OD/CFA); Houston, Marsha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Nolen Rosencrans, Renee (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/OSH); Bousbar, Sabrina (OS/ASPR/IO); Gregg, Destiny (OS/IEA); Miller, Samantha (HRSA); Lambert, Tericka (HHS/ASPA); Beach, Michael J. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Hornback, Deborah A. (CDC/NIOSH/DSI); Chuvileva, Yulia (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH); Funches, Latesha (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Black, Bethanne (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Holmes,

Kathleen (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Motteram, Amy (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) (CTR); Helms, Jordan (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Walier, Sheila (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Butryn, Deena (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Rodriguez, Leslie (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Carter, Jasmine (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Smith, April (CDC/OD/OADC); Daniels, Booker (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DHDS); Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Voegeli, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Gutierrez, Margaret (Maggie) (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response STLT TF HDS Comms Section; Akintan, Folorunso (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Kaplan, Emily (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DDT); Thurmond, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ) (CTR); Ross, Kierra (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Parker, Stacey M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Serbanescu, Florina (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DRH); Keir, Jane M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Allen Tchoukalov, Jessica A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Boone, Kwanza (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Pai, Rima (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID) (CTR); Madden, Joseph (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Stamps, Sharleta (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Jones, Shantrice (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Park, Jennifer (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Brown, Christopher K (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/DEO); Brodalski, Diane J. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Heldman, Amy B. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DCPC); Jackson, Shallynn (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Trotochaud, Marc (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Williams, Paula O. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Bradeen, Tessa (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD); Meyer, Cynthia (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/OD); Vahey, Grace (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Thompson, Natarsha (ATSDR/OAD); Jackson, Brendan R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Weakland, Aliko P. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); EOC Report2 (CDC); McCalla, Haley (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); ISD Communications (CDC); Woods, Alyssa (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD) (CTR); Cooper, Alison (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DHIS) (CTR)

Subject: COVID-19 Communication Surveillance Report 3.1.23

Attachments: COVID-19 Communication Surveillance Report 3.1.23.pdf

Good afternoon,

Views to news and social media pages are down from last report. CDC INFO received over 3,000 inquiries from February 22– 28, 2023 with a majority of clinician inquiries related to vaccines, facility guidance, and treatment. Top inquiries from the general public were related to vaccines, testing, travel, and treatment. Additional metrics were not available this week.

A newly released report from the Dept. of Energy found, with low confidence, that a Chinese lab leak is the “most likely” origin of SARS-CoV-2. Actor Woody Harrelson promoted a pervasive COVID-19 conspiracy theory in the opening monologue of Saturday Night Live. The FDA has issued Emergency Use Authorization for the first home test that is able to detect both COVID-19 and influenza infection. The Lee County FL GOP passed a resolution that, if signed by Gov. DeSantis, would ban administration of the COVID-19 vaccine throughout the state of Florida. TODAY Show co-host Savannah Guthrie tested positive for COVID-19 live on air. A recent study published in the BMJ finds celebrity influence helped spread anti-vaccine opinions, misinformation and anti-science sentiment among the public, likely contributing to public mistrust in public health efforts.

Please note that this report (*attached and below*) is for internal use only and should not be forwarded. Let us know how we can improve this report. If you have any questions or want to add someone to the distribution list, please contact CDC IMS JIC Research -2 (eocjicres2@cdc.gov).

Emily Matthews, MPH
On behalf of the JIC Research & Evaluation Team

Contractor, GDIT
Joint Information Center | Research and Evaluation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road NE Atlanta, GA 30329

Phone: 214.907.4513

Email : tto6@cdc.gov

COVID-19 Response Communication Surveillance Report March 1, 2023

Recommendations for Communication Strategy

(b)(5)

Major Public Health Themes

- Newly released assessment from the Dept of Energy finds Chinese lab leak as the “most likely” origin of SARS-CoV-2, citing newly updated classified intelligence. Report also denotes DOE has “low confidence” in these findings. [WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [Fox](#), [NBC](#), [ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Bloomberg](#)
 - Chinese officials dismiss the report, stating US should stop with the lab leak narrative and politicization of origin tracing [TheHill](#)
 - FBI Dir. Wray publicly acknowledged in interview that the bureau believes, “with moderate confidence”, the pandemic was likely the result of a Wuhan lab accident [CNN](#), [NPR](#)
 - Release of the report has led to an outpouring of support from those who feel that their questions on origins were denied or labeled as misinformation. Several members of Congress have promoted the findings. [Newsweek](#), [NY Post](#), [@RepMTG](#), [@RandPaul](#)
- Actor Woody Harrelson, in Saturday Night Live opening monologue, promoted a pervasive COVID-19 conspiracy theory in which he theorized “...all the big drug cartels came together and made everyone stay home unless they took their drugs repeatedly...” [SNL](#), [WaPo](#), [TMZ](#), [THR](#), [Variety](#), [DailyBeast](#), [Insider](#), [DailyMail](#), [@DogRightGirl](#), [@PopBase](#)
- FDA issued EUA for the first home test that can detect both flu and COVID (*Lucira*, mfg); test is authorized for persons aged 2y+. The test demonstrated ~88% accuracy in detecting COVID-19 infections and ~90% in detecting influenza [NPR](#), [STAT](#), [USAToday](#), [CNN](#), [WaPo](#), [AP](#), [NYT](#), [ABC](#), [Time](#)
- Lee County FL GOP passed resolution referenced as “Ban the Jab”, which would ban COVID vax throughout the state. Resolution is now awaiting decision by Gov DeSantis. [Forbes](#), [CBSMiami](#), [WINK](#), [CapeCoralBreeze](#)
 - [Mfg Lucira recently filed for bankruptcy, it is unknown when test will be commercially available](#)
- TODAY show co-host Savannah Guthrie tested positive for COVID-19 live on air prompting her departure prior to the show’s end. [TODAY](#), [People](#), [Yahoo](#), [DailyBeast](#), [EW](#), [DailyMail](#), [NBC](#), [MSN](#)
- Recent study published in *BMJ* finds celebrity influence helped spread anti-vax opinions, COVID misinformation, suggesting that anti-science sentiment from celebrities may share some of the blame for public mistrust [BMJ](#), [CNN](#), [MedpageToday](#), [Medicalpress](#)

International

- The United Kingdom sees their fourth week in a row of increased COVID-19 cases/hospitalizations. [@DrEricDing](#)

- Chinese health officials announced on Thursday that the country's COVID-19 epidemic is "basically ended", though not completely over. Outside experts estimate the death toll to be between 1M and 1.5M persons since the removal of 'zero-COVID' policies 2.5 months ago [Reuters](#), [MSN](#), [TheAtlantic](#)

Treatment & Research

- COVID-19 infection found in pre-print retrospective analysis to increase risk of developing autoimmune disease by 43% [medRxiv](#), [LiveScience](#)
- Meta-analysis published in *BMJ* finds pregnant persons infected with COVID-19 are more likely to be admitted into ICU/die than those without COVID-19 infection. Vaccination was found to reduce risk "significantly" [BMJ](#), [ScientificAmerican](#)
- New study found unvax'd individuals are more likely to suffer cardiac event, stroke after COVID infection; being fully vax'd was shown to reduce risk by ~41% [ArsTechnica](#)

Polls

- None

Points of Confusion/Potential Rumors/Misinformation

- Elon Musk tweets that he has proof incoming that the COVID-19 response was a "scam" organized by the USG. [@ProudElephantUS](#), [Trending Politics News](#)
- Cont coverage of a research study suggesting that women who took the COVID-19 vax had a 57x increase in miscarriages. [@DrAseemMalhotra](#)
- A study published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* is being used to support the idea that natural immunity is more effective than vax-derived. Authors cite data from paper, but do not include key findings or interpretations. [@Kylenabecker](#), [Journal of Infectious Diseases](#)
- Anti-vax proponents' question Moderna's new patent agreement with NIAID, citing catch up payments and royalties as a "conflict of interest." [@KaneKoaTheGreat](#), [The Epoch Times](#)
- Story on the delay in publishing results from Pfizer's vax study on pregnant women suggests that Pfizer never collected clinical data due to time pressure of vax rollout. [@MaryanneDemasi](#), [Substack](#)

Information Seeking

CDC-INFO received 3,145 inquiries related to COVID-19 from Feb 22 - Feb 28, 2023, an increase of ~500 from the week prior. The general public were responsible for 2937 (93%) of all COVID-19 inquiries, clinicians added 174 (6%) inquiries, and the final 34 inquiries (1%) were either uncategorized or came from health departments, the media, or educators. This week, inquiries regarding testing, vaccines and travel remained high, common questions regarding 2nd booster doses and the "Test to Treat" program.

Clinicians Inquiries

- Vaccines (39%):
 - Common inquiries included questions regarding guidance on 2nd bivalent doses for vuln pops, best practices after vax administration errors, and inquiries on how to proceed with vaccination for patients with incomplete/interrupted primary series.
- Facility Guidance (14%):
 - Common inquiries included regarding PPE requirements in HC settings. Majority of inquires focused on mask requirements for HCWs and patients. Several inquiries regarding PPE practices for other settings including schools and long-term care facilities.
- Treatment (9%):
 - Questions largely focused on Paxlovid access and best prescribing practices.

General Public Inquiries

- Vaccines (32%)
 - Major themes included questions on vax boosters (45% of vax inquiries), inquiries regarding vax access (25%), and requests for new vax documentation (12%). Continued Qs regarding 2nd bivalent booster doses, availability of vax appointments, and access to J&J/ Novavax/ primary series vax.
- Testing (29%)
 - Common inquiries largely centered on the free testing program with most indiv seeking assistance while placing an order/asking for updates on placed orders.
- Travel (14%)

- Common inquiries centered on vax/testing requirements for incoming/outbound international travelers_
- Treatment (13%)
 - Common inquiries focused on how to best navigate the test-to-treat program, the availability of treatments for newly diagnosed indiv, and other general questions on Paxlovid.

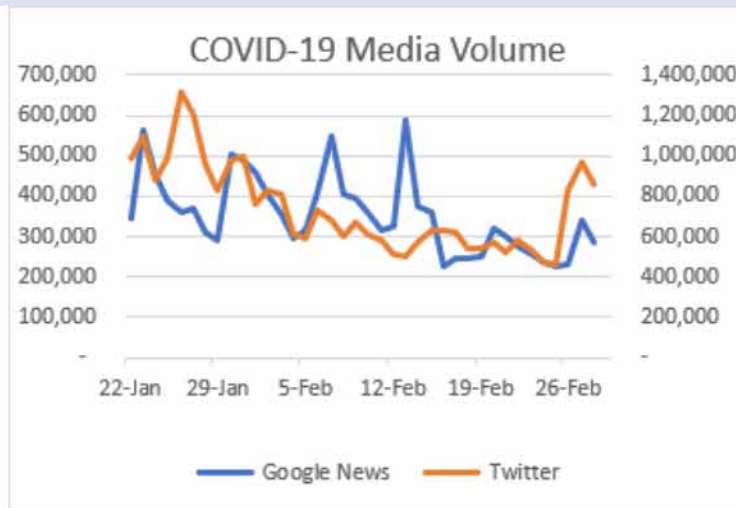
CDC/USG Mentions

- Frmr Senator, Jim Inhofe shared that his challenges with long-COVID played a role in his decision to not run for reelection. Shared that several of his colleagues also struggle with the condition. [HuffPost](#)

Emerging

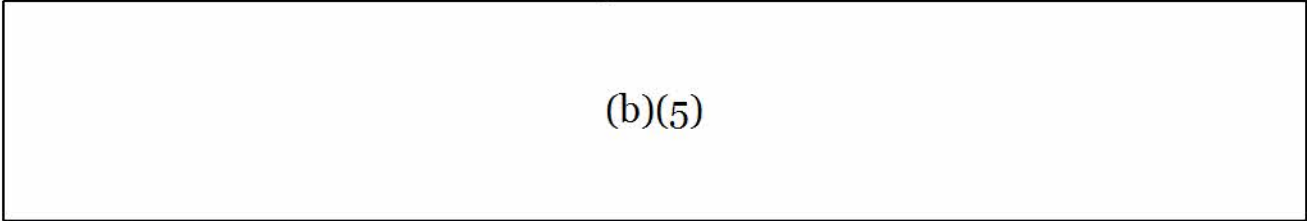
- COVID PHEs for San Diego, state of California allowed to expire on Tuesday, Feb 28. [NBCSD](#), [SacramentoBee](#)
- FL SG Ladapo was investigated by the DOH after he released updated vaccine guidance, as well as a report in October recommending young, healthy men were at risk for cardiac complications and should not get the mRNA COVID vax [Politico](#)
- Moderna has paid the NIH \$400M for the rights to a chemical technique borrowed from Gvt funded research, used in developing its mRNA COVID vax [NYT](#), [FiercePharma](#)
- A Chinese state-run newspaper warned Elon Musk against endorsing the lab leak theory [NBC](#), [CNBC](#), [FoxBusiness](#), [WaPo](#)

Metrics



**COVID-19 Response
Communication Surveillance Report
March 1, 2023**

Recommendations for Communication Strategy



Major Public Health Themes

- Newly released assessment from the Dept of Energy finds Chinese lab leak as the “most likely” origin of SARS-CoV-2, citing newly updated classified intelligence. Report also denotes DOE has “low confidence” in these findings. [WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [Fox](#), [NBC](#), [ABC](#), [CBS](#), [CNN](#), [Bloomberg](#)
 - Chinese officials dismiss the report, stating US should stop with the lab leak narrative and politicization of origin tracing [TheHill](#)
 - FBI Dir. Wray publicly acknowledged in interview that the bureau believes, “with moderate confidence”, the pandemic was likely the result of a Wuhan lab accident [CNN](#), [NPR](#)
 - Release of the report has led to an outpouring of support from those who feel that their questions on origins were denied or labeled as misinformation. Several members of Congress have promoted the findings. [Newsweek](#), [NY Post](#), [@RepMTG](#), [@RandPaul](#)
- Actor Woody Harrelson, in Saturday Night Live opening monologue, promoted a pervasive COVID-19 conspiracy theory in which he theorized “...all the big drug cartels came together and made everyone stay home unless they took their drugs repeatedly...” [SNL](#), [WaPo](#), [TMZ](#), [THR](#), [Variety](#), [DailyBeast](#), [Insider](#), [DailyMail](#), [@DogRightGirl](#), [@PopBase](#)
- FDA issued EUA for the first home test that can detect both flu and COVID (*Lucira*, mfg); test is authorized for persons aged 2y+. The test demonstrated ~88% accuracy in detecting COVID-19 infections and ~90% in detecting influenza [NPR](#), [STAT](#), [USAToday](#), [CNN](#), [WaPo](#), [AP](#), [NYT](#), [ABC](#), [Time](#)
 - Mfg Lucira recently filed for bankruptcy, it is unknown when test will be commercially available
- Lee County FL GOP passed resolution referenced as “Ban the Jab”, which would ban COVID vax throughout the state. Resolution is now awaiting decision by Gov DeSantis. [Forbes](#), [CBSMiami](#), [WINK](#), [CapeCoralBreeze](#)
- TODAY show co-host Savannah Guthrie tested positive for COVID-19 live on air prompting her departure prior to the show’s end. [TODAY](#), [People](#), [Yahoo](#), [DailyBeast](#), [EW](#), [DailyMail](#), [NBC](#), [MSN](#)
- Recent study published in *BMJ* finds celebrity influence helped spread anti-vax opinions, COVID misinformation, suggesting that anti-science sentiment from celebrities may share some of the blame for public mistrust [BMJ](#), [CNN](#), [MedpageToday](#), [Medicalpress](#)

International

- The United Kingdom sees their fourth week in a row of increased COVID-19 cases/hospitalizations. [@DrEricDing](#)
- Chinese health officials announced on Thursday that the country’s COVID-19 epidemic is “basically ended”, though not completely over. Outside experts estimate the death toll to be between 1M and 1.5M persons since the removal of ‘zero-COVID’ policies 2.5 months ago [Reuters](#), [MSN](#), [TheAtlantic](#)

Treatment & Research

- COVID-19 infection found in pre-print retrospective analysis to increase risk of developing autoimmune disease by 43% [medRxiv](#), [LiveScience](#)
- Meta-analysis published in *BMJ* finds pregnant persons infected with COVID-19 are more likely to be admitted into ICU/die than those without COVID-19 infection. Vaccination was found to reduce risk “significantly” [BMJ](#), [ScientificAmerican](#)
- New study found unvax’d individuals are more likely to suffer cardiac event, stroke after COVID infection; being fully vax’d was shown to reduce risk by ~41% [ArsTechnica](#)

Polls

- None

Points of Confusion/Potential Rumors/Misinformation

- Elon Musk tweets that he has proof incoming that the COVID-19 response was a “scam” organized by the USG. [@ProudElephantUS, Trending Politics News](#)
- Cont coverage of a research study suggesting that women who took the COVID-19 vax had a 57x increase in miscarriages. [@DrAseemMalhotra](#)
- A study published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases is being used to support the idea that natural immunity is more effective than vax-derived. Authors cite data from paper, but do not include key findings or interpretations. [@Kylenabecker, Journal of Infectious Diseases](#)
- Anti-vax proponents' question Moderna's new patent agreement with NIAID, citing catch up payments and royalties as a “conflict of interest.” [@KanekoaTheGreat, The Epoch Times](#)
- Story on the delay in publishing results from Pfizer's vax study on pregnant women suggests that Pfizer never collected clinical data due to time pressure of vax rollout. [@MaryanneDemasi, Substack](#)

Information Seeking

CDC-INFO received 3,145 inquiries related to COVID-19 from Feb 22 - Feb 28, 2023, an increase of ~500 from the week prior. The general public were responsible for 2937 (93%) of all COVID-19 inquiries, clinicians added 174 (6%) inquiries, and the final 34 inquiries (1%) were either uncategorized or came from health departments, the media, or educators. This week, inquiries regarding testing, vaccines and travel remained high, common questions regarding 2nd booster doses and the “Test to Treat” program.

Clinicians Inquiries

- Vaccines (39%):
 - Common inquiries included questions regarding guidance on 2nd bivalent doses for vuln pops, best practices after vax administration errors, and inquiries on how to proceed with vaccination for patients with incomplete/interrupted primary series.
- Facility Guidance (14%):
 - Common inquiries included regarding PPE requirements in HC settings. Majority of inquires focused on mask requirements for HCWs and patients. Several inquiries regarding PPE practices for other settings including schools and long-term care facilities.
- Treatment (9%):
 - Questions largely focused on Paxlovid access and best prescribing practices.

General Public Inquiries

- Vaccines (32%)
 - Major themes included questions on vax boosters (45% of vax inquiries), inquiries regarding vax access (25%), and requests for new vax documentation (12%). Continued Qs regarding 2nd bivalent booster doses, availability of vax appointments, and access to J&J/ Novavax/ primary series vax.
- Testing (29%)
 - Common inquiries largely centered on the free testing program with most indiv seeking assistance while placing an order/asking for updates on placed orders.
- Travel (14%)
 - Common inquiries centered on vax/testing requirements for incoming/outbound international travelers
- Treatment (13%)
 - Common inquiries focused on how to best navigate the test-to-treat program, the availability of treatments for newly diagnosed indiv, and other general questions on Paxlovid.

CDC/USG Mentions

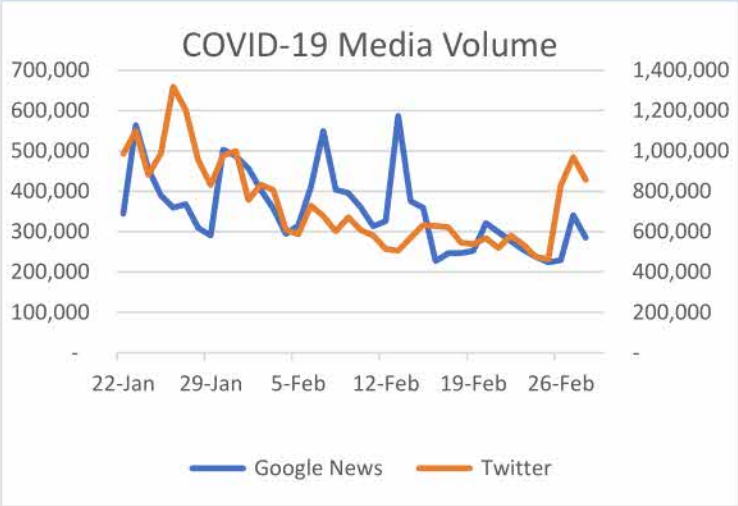
- Frmr Senator, Jim Inhofe shared that his challenges with long-COVID played a role in his decision to not run for reelection. Shared that several of his colleagues also struggle with the condition. [HuffPost](#)

Emerging

- COVID PHEs for San Diego, state of California allowed to expire on Tuesday, Feb 28. [NBCSD, SacramentoBee](#)
- FL SG Ladapo was investigated by the DOH after he released updated vaccine guidance, as well as a report in October recommending young, healthy men were at risk for cardiac complications and should not get the mRNA COVID vax [Politico](#)

- Moderna has paid the NIH \$400M for the rights to a chemical technique borrowed from Gvt funded research, used in developing its mRNA COVID vax [NYT, FiercePharma](#)
- A Chinese state-run newspaper warned Elon Musk against endorsing the lab leak theory [NBC, CNBC, FoxBusiness, WaPo](#)

Metrics



From: Matthews, Emily (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR)
Sent: Wed, 29 Mar 2023 19:00:18 +0000
To: Burns, Erin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Olivares, Dagny (CDC/DDPHSS/NCHS/OD); Jiles, Angela (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Nordlund, Kristen (CDC/OD/OADC); Conley, Kathleen (CDC/OD/OADC); Bedrosian, Sara (CDC/OD/OADC); Sokler, Lynn (CDC/OD/OADC); Pechta, Laura (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); CDC IMS JIC All -2; CDC IMS JIC OADC LNO -2; CDC IMS JIC Research -2; Friedman, Allison (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH); Murrell, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Zhou, Ling (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/DEO); Acevedo, Daniel (CDC/OD/OADC); Barton Behravesh, Casey (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Bjork, Adam C. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Braden, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Dubray, Christine (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); Knight, Nancy (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/OD); McDonald, Robert (Bobby) (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); McQuiston, Jennifer H. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Novak, Ryan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Stewart, Rebekah (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Walke, Henry (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Ghai, Ria (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Carpenter, Ann (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Caudwell, Kerry M. (CDC/OD/OCS); Silver, Margaret E. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Panero, Maria (Susana) (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); 'Pratt, Michael (OS/ASPA)'; Price, Ashley (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Norris, Jennifer (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Leinhos, Mary (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Rojanasakul, Liying (CDC/NIOSH/HELD/ACIB); Rinker, Robin (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DOP); Mac Kenzie, Amy Loy (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHP); Grigg, Cheri T. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Kane, Elleen (OS/ASPR/OEA); Michael, Gretchen (OS/ASPR/OEA); Hall, Bill (HHS/ASPA); CDC IMS 2022 Multi-National Mpox VTF ADS; CDC IMS Med Care and Countermeasures Task Force; CDC IMS SA Public Health Scientist (CDC); Kachur, Rachel (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); Ahmed, Faruque (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Sokler, Lynn (CDC/OD/OADC); Galatas, Kate (CDC/OD/OADC); Cohn, Amanda (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Gaines-McCollom, Molly (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Capers, Catherine (Katy) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Craig, Michael R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Spring, Christina M. (CDC/NIOSH/OD); Seeff, Laura (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/OD); Meunier, Jennifer (CDC/DDPHSIS/OMHHE/OD); Domaaol, Robert (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/DGHT); Brooks, Ashley (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Moussakhani, Nisha (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD); Gerber, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Fast, Hannah (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Prue, Christine (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Garcia-Williams, Amanda (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Mitchell, Betsy (CDC/OD/OADC); Jorgensen, Cynthia (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Pitts, Dana L. (CDC/DDPHSS/OD); Seman, Caroline (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DVBD); Gates, Suzanne (Suzi) (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Zviedrite, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Schnall, Amy (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Baker, Kayilan (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DHDD); Hayes, Locola D. (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Graff, Kaitlin (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DNPAO); Neri, Antonio (Tony) (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Branam, Ian (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Bain, Jennifer S. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DPH) (CTR); Whitehill, John M. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DHDS); Rodriguez, Heather (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Miller, William (Griffin) (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DCPC) (CTR); Behm, Brittany (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Hughes, Kadeja (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/GID); Puddy, Richard (CDC/OD/OADPS); Patterson, Sara S. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Kapil, Nisha G. (ATSDR/OAD/OD) (CTR); Miller, Joseph D. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DSR); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Policy Partnerships; North, Sarah (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Eschelbach, Julie (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/OD); Patel, Suchita (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Terminello, Amanda (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); Fisher, Allison Michelle (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Randall, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Ramlal, Roshan (CDC/OD/OADC) (CTR); Spratling, Robin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Butler, Jay C. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); Fitter, David L. (CDC/DDPHSIS/CGH/GID); Meaney Delman, Dana M. (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Eisenberg, Emily (CDC/DDPHSIS/CPR/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Principal Deputy IM; CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Incident Manager; Sapsis, Kari (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Chief Health Equity; McCurley, Carol M. (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); DeLuca, Nick (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Donovan, John (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Marianni, Lisa (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OTI); Moore, Meredith

(CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Dowling, Molly (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DOP); Dugan, Susan (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DIP); Myers, Brad (CDC/OD/CFA); Michener, Vanessa (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Eastham, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Laird, Susan (CDC/OD/OADC); Schieb, Linda (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DHDS); Verma, Rohit (CDC/OD/OADC); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response CDS TM Communications; Uveges, Pam S. (ATSDR/OAD/OCHHA); Smith, Teresa M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Patta, Abrienne (Brie) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Wilkins, Yescenia (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Reagan, Meredith (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Kukucka, Claudia D. (CDC/OD/OADC); Witbart, Lauren Ann (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Li, Zheng J. (ATSDR/OAD/OCDAPS); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Policy Ops; Maiuri, Allison M. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Wingard, Rachel (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Meekins, Jenique (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Hess, Alexandra (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DVD) (CTR); Downs, Alycia E. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Treffiletti, Aimee (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/DEHSP); Dennis, Hope (CDC/DDPHSS/OMHHE); Patta, Abrienne (Brie) (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Wisard, Trang Nguyen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Arseniadis, Katie (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Siegel, Vivi (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Env Health TF; 'Danko, Carol (OS/ASPR/JIC)'; Ogee-Nwankwo, Aadaeze A. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Wisard, Trang Nguyen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Bryant, LaKia R. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); 'Muni, Michael (OS/OASH)'; Sandhu, Sukhminder (FDA/CDER); Nunnally, Tammy (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Kachinsky, Noelle (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Roobol, Hope (CDC/DDNID/NCEH/OD); Gottlieb, Justin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Mwidau, Jamila (FDA/CDER); Hall, Kelly (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DNPAO); Lean, Katherine (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHT); CDC IMS 2022 NYS Polio Response Vaccine TF; Gatewood, Johanzynn (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Swensen, Sue (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DHIS); Tevendale, Heather D. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DHP); Elliott, Nicole (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DNPAO); Hoffmann, Candice (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Branam, Ian (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Kent, Charlotte (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OD); Dott, Mary (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Bartley, Shelton (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Geissler, Aimee L. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Resha, Karen (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Parmer, John E. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE); Kolis, Jessica (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Mahadevan, Chitra (FDA/CDER); Nicolae, Lavinia (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DSTDP); Hamburger, Tanya (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Gee, Julianne (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response Epi TF Communications Team; Evans, Shenandoah (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD) (CTR); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response VCU Communications; Abad, Neetu S. (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Hawkins, Brittnee (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Blau, Erin (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Griswold, Stephanie (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/DBDID); Swyers, Victoria (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); Ahmed, Nausheen (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID); Arshanapally, Suraj (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Galloway, Summer (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ID); NCIRD CCU Lab Policy (CDC); Abshire, Kara (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response DAV TF Comms Team; 'Albright, Hien (FDA/ORAL)'; 'Bryan, Brad (OS/ASPR/IO)'; Santana, Alberto (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP); Brookmeyer, Kathryn A. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Ngounou, Laura (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP); Mandel, Samantha (CDC/DDNID/NCIPC/DVP); Johnson, Britney (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); CDCITFPCC (CDC); Ma, Yue (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Hammond, Shelley S. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OSH); Andujar, Ashley (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Boyce, Latifa (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/DEO); Gupta, Neil (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DVH); Manns, Brian Jerrad (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); Bratton, James M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Phoenix Weir, Ursula (CDC/DDNID/NCBDDD/OD); Johnson, Valerie (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/OD); Orsega, Susan (OS/OASH); Lesko, Max (HHS/OASH); Campos, Rafael D (OS/OASH) (CTR); Mullen, Jennifer (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DRH); Short, Tyiesha (HHS/OASH/OSG); Ciccarone, Rachel (CDC/OD/CFA); Houston, Marsha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/DBD); Nolen Rosencrans, Renee (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/OSH); Bousbar, Sabrina (OS/ASPR/IO); Gregg, Destiny (HHS/ASPA); Miller, Samantha (HRSA); Lambert, Tericka (HHS/ASPA); Beach, Michael J. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Hornback, Deborah A. (CDC/NIOSH/DSI); Chuvileva, Yulia (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPHP/DPH); Funches, Latesha (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Black, Bethanne (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Holmes,

Kathleen (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Motteram, Amy (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHQP) (CTR); Helms, Jordan (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS); Walier, Sheila (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DLS) (CTR); Butryn, Deena (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/OD); Rodriguez, Leslie (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Carter, Jasmine (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DHCPP); Smith, April (CDC/OD/OADC); Daniels, Booker (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DHDSP); Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Voegeli, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Gutierrez, Margaret (Maggie) (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); CDC IMS 2019 NCOV Response STLT TF HDS Comms Section; Akintan, Folorunso (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/DGHP); Kaplan, Emily (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DDT); Thurmond, Emily (CDC/OCOO/OD) (CTR); Ross, Kierra (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Parker, Stacey M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Serbanescu, Florina (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DRH); Keir, Jane M. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Allen Tchoukalov, Jessica A. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Boone, Kwanza (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Pai, Rima (CDC/DDPHSS/CGH/GID) (CTR); Madden, Joseph (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DSEPD); Stamps, Sharleta (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Jones, Shantrice (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DPEI); Park, Jennifer (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DGMQ); Brown, Christopher K (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/DEO); Brodalski, Diane J. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Heldman, Amy B. (CDC/DDNID/NCCDPPH/DCPC); Jackson, Shallynn (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Trotochaud, Marc (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR); Williams, Paula O. (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD); Bradeen, Tessa (CDC/DDPHSS/OLSS/OD); Meyer, Cynthia (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/OD); Vahey, Grace (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Thompson, Natarsha (ATSDR/OAD); Jackson, Brendan R. (CDC/DDID/NCEZID/DFWED); Weakland, Aliko P. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD); EOC Report2 (CDC); McCalla, Haley (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); ISD Communications (CDC); Woods, Alyssa (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/OD) (CTR); Cooper, Alison (CDC/DDPHSS/CSELS/DHIS) (CTR); Waters, Kellee L. (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/DEO); Ghiya, Neelam D. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/OD); Ortmann, Leonard (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OSI); Conner, Catina (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OSI); Bodin, Eva (CDC/DDPHSS/OS/OSI); Felberbaum, Michael (FDA/OC); Ezra, Sally (CDC/DDPHSS/CPR/OD)

Subject: COVID-19 Communication Surveillance Report 3.29.23

Attachments: COVID-19 Communication Surveillance Report 3.29.23.pdf

Good afternoon,

Views to news and social media pages continue trending down from last report. CDC INFO received over 2,000 inquiries from March 22– 28, 2023. A majority of clinician inquiries related to vaccines, facility guidance. Top inquiries from the general public were related to vaccines, testing and travel. Additional metrics were not available.

The WHO revised their COVID-19 omicron vaccination recommendations to say young, health kids, adolescents may not need additional bivalent boosters, however vulnerable populations should obtain a booster within 6-12 months of most recent vaccination. A Federal Appeals court in New Orleans has blocked an order by the Biden Administration that would require COVID-19 vaccination for U.S. federal employees. The White House announced the COVID-19 Taskforce will disband in May to coincide with the expiration of COVID-19 national Public Health Emergency declarations. Debate and conversation continue surrounding the origin of the pandemic. There is continued news coverage of the impact of long covid in addition to potential treatments and preventative measures.

Please note that this report (attached and below) is for internal use only and should not be forwarded. Let us know how we can improve this report. If you have any questions or want to add someone to the distribution list, please contact CDC IMS JIC Research -2 (eocjicres2@cdc.gov).

Emily Matthews, MPH
On behalf of the Research & Evaluation Team
Contractor, GDIT
Joint Information Center | Research and Evaluation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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Phone: 214.907.4513
Email : tto6@cdc.gov

**COVID-19 Response
Communication Surveillance Report
March 29, 2023**

Recommendations for Communication Strategy

(b)(5)

Major Public Health Themes

- WHO updated recs for current pandemic phase, advising that healthy children, adolescents may not need add'l bivalent jab, however vulnerable pops should obtain a booster 6-12 months after most recent vax [Yahoo](#), [USNWR](#), [STAT](#), [Reuters](#), [Global News](#), [CNN](#)
 - CDC issued guidelines Monday highlighting there is no need for secondary updated booster vaccinations [SFChronicle](#), [KHN](#)
 - Cont' conversation discussing potential need for 2nd bivalent booster vax for vulnerable populations as FDA mulls recommending spring booster [NYT](#), [MedPageToday](#), [HuffPo](#), [SeattleTimes](#), [AARP](#)
 - Dr. Lena Wen calls for option of getting additional bivalent vax for vulnerable pops, others interested, in op-ed [WaPo](#)
- Federal Appeals court in New Orleans blocked an order by the Biden Admin that would require COVID-19 vax for U.S. federal employees [TheHill](#), [NBC](#), [Reuters](#), [CBS](#), [ABC](#), [MSN](#), [AP](#), [Fox](#), [CNBC](#)
- WH announced COVID-19 TF to disband in May coinciding with expirations of PHE declarations [TheGuardian](#), [WaPo](#), [ABC](#), [CNN](#), [DailyBeast](#)
- Cont' widespread conversation, debate surrounding COVID-19 origins [ScienceAlert](#), [Fortune](#), [Yahoo](#), [ABC](#), [TheEconomist](#), [TheGuardian](#), [Yahoo](#), [NYPost](#)
- Cont' coverage of the impact of long COVID to individuals and members of the workforce, articles look at potential treatments and preventative measures. [BBC](#), [The Scottish Daily Mail](#), [CBS](#), [ONS \(UK\)](#), [News Concerns](#)

International

- Cont' coverage out of India of emerging subvariant XBB.1.16 contributing to rising case counts now at highest rate since Oct 2022 [Quartz](#), [IndianExpress1](#), [IndianExpress2](#), [EconomicTimes](#), [HindustanTimes](#), [DW](#), [TimesofIndia](#), [Mint](#)
- Amid rising cases in the U.K., media outlets cover sx to monitor, vax eligibility for upcoming bivalent booster uptake initiative [TheIndependent](#)
- Chinese officials approve the country's 1st COVID-19 vax based on mRNA technology [CNN](#), [WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [Mint](#)

Treatment & Research

- New research finds COVID-19 infection prior to vaccination may weaken immune response in subsequent exposures [Time](#), [NYPost](#), [CBS](#), [CNBC](#), [@MeetJess](#)
- Recent studies highlight effectiveness of vax, metformin, Paxlovid in preventing long-COVID sx [Time](#), [MedPageToday](#), [CNN](#), [MSN](#), [CNBC](#)

Polls

- None

Points of Confusion/Potential Rumors/Misinformation

- A video sponsored by The Epoch Times claims that mRNA vaccines destroy bacteria in the microbiome, leading to reduced immune response. The video and article received significant Twitter attention. [The Epoch Times](#), [@SabinehazanMD](#), [@TheChiefNerd](#), [@DiedSuddenly](#)
- A Tweet from Lauren Witzke gained falsely claiming that the Pfizer COVID-19 vax contained graphene oxide circulated on social media platforms. [@LaurenWitzkeDE](#), [r/conspiracy](#), [r/DebateVaccines](#)
- KY Sen. Rand Paul announced he would not vax his children against COVID-19 over concerns regarding myocarditis stating "the risks of the vax are greater than the risks of the disease. The risks of the disease are almost non-existent" [NBC](#), [TheHill](#), [@KaneKoaTheGreat](#)

Information Seeking

CDC-INFO received 2,546 inquiries related to COVID-19 from Mar 22 - Mar 28, 2023. The general public were responsible for 2,384 (94%) of all COVID-19 inquiries, clinicians added 134 (5%) inquiries, and the final 28 inquiries (1%) were either uncategorized or came from health departments, the media, or educators. CDC INFO inquiries this week closely resembled those from recent weeks with questions relating to vaccines, testing and travel remaining high. Vaccine-related inquiries accounted for the largest proportion of clinician and general public inquiries, with questions regarding second bivalent booster doses remaining high.

Clinicians Inquiries

- Vaccines (46%):
 - Common inquiries included questions regarding second bivalent booster doses for patients, guidance after vax administration errors, and questions on vax timeline for specific patients.
- Facility Guidance (16%):
 - Many inquiries centered if there will be any upcoming changes to HC IPC guidance, largely centered on HCW mask policies.

General Public Inquiries

- Vaccines (37%)
 - Common inquire topics included vax boosters (42% of vax inquiries), vax access (31%), and vax documentation (10%). A significant proportion of inquires centered on guidance regarding 2nd bivalent booster doses and on accessing primary/non-mRNA doses of vaccines
- Testing (30%)
 - Common inquiries largely centered on the free testing program, with most indiv seeking assistance while placing an order.
- Travel (16%)
 - Common inquiries centered on vax/testing requirements for incoming/outbound travelers.

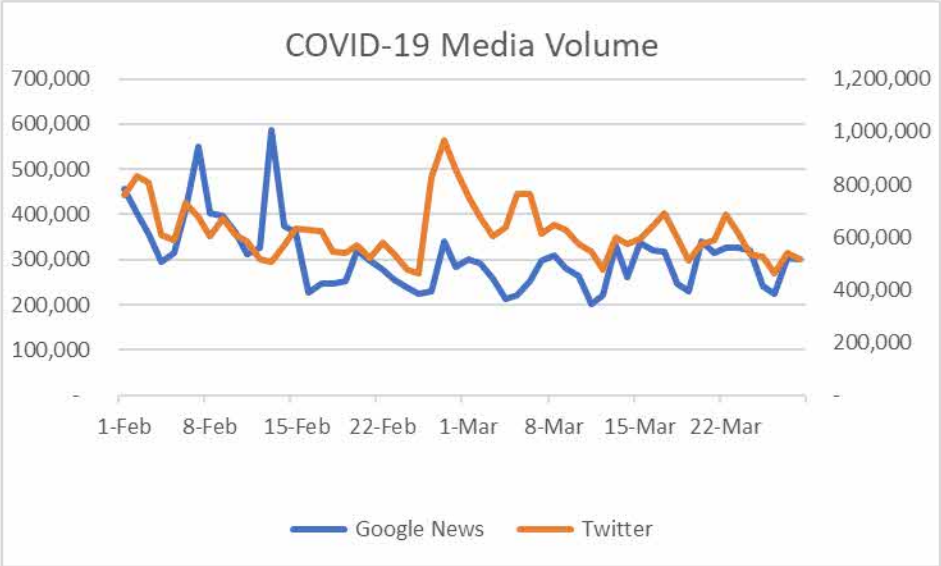
CDC/USG Mentions

- None

Emerging

- None

Metrics



**COVID-19 Response
Communication Surveillance Report
March 29, 2023**

Recommendations for Communication Strategy

(b)(5)

Major Public Health Themes

- WHO updated recs for current pandemic phase, advising that healthy children, adolescents may not need add'l bivalent jab, however vulnerable pops should obtain a booster 6-12 months after most recent vax [Yahoo](#), [USNWR](#), [STAT](#), [Reuters](#), [Global News](#), [CNN](#)
- CDC issued guidelines Monday highlighting there is no need for secondary updated booster vaccinations [SFChronicle](#), [KHN](#)
- Cont' conversation discussing potential need for 2nd bivalent booster vax for vulnerable populations as FDA mulls recommending spring booster [NYT](#), [MedPageToday](#), [HuffPo](#), [SeattleTimes](#), [AARP](#)
- Dr. Lena Wen calls for option of getting additional bivalent vax for vulnerable pops, others interested, in op-ed [WaPo](#)
- Federal Appeals court in New Orleans blocked an order by the Biden Admin that would require COVID-19 vax for U.S. federal employees [TheHill](#), [NBC](#), [Reuters](#), [CBS](#), [ABC](#), [MSN](#), [AP](#), [Fox](#), [CNBC](#)
- WH announced COVID-19 TF to disband in May coinciding with expirations of PHE declarations [TheGuardian](#), [WaPo](#), [ABC](#), [CNN](#), [DailyBeast](#)
- Cont' widespread conversation, debate surrounding COVID-19 origins [ScienceAlert](#), [Fortune](#), [Yahoo](#), [ABC](#), [TheEconomist](#), [TheGuardian](#), [Yahoo](#), [NYPost](#)
- Cont' coverage of the impact of long COVID to individuals and members of the workforce, articles look at potential treatments and preventative measures. [BBC](#), [The Scottish Daily Mail](#), [CBS](#), [ONS \(UK\)](#), [News Concerns](#)

International

- Cont' coverage out of India of emerging subvariant XBB.1.16 contributing to rising case counts now at highest rate since Oct 2022 [Quartz](#), [IndianExpress1](#), [IndianExpress2](#), [EconomicTimes](#), [HindustanTimes](#), [DW](#), [TimesofIndia](#), [Mint](#)
- Amid rising cases in the U.K., media outlets cover sx to monitor, vax eligibility for upcoming bivalent booster uptake initiative [TheIndependent](#)
- Chinese officials approve the country's 1st COVID-19 vax based on mRNA technology [CNN](#), [WSJ](#), [NYT](#), [Mint](#)

Treatment & Research

- New research finds COVID-19 infection prior to vaccination may weaken immune response in subsequent exposures [Time](#), [NYPost](#), [CBS](#), [CNBC](#), [@MeetJess](#)
- Recent studies highlight effectiveness of vax, metformin, Paxlovid in preventing long-COVID sx [Time](#), [MedPageToday](#), [CNN](#), [MSN](#), [CNBC](#)

Polls

- None

Points of Confusion/Potential Rumors/Misinformation

- A video sponsored by The Epoch Times claims that mRNA vaccines destroy bacteria in the microbiome, leading to reduced immune response. The video and article received significant Twitter attention. [The Epoch Times](#), [@SabinehazanMD](#), [@TheChiefNerd](#), [@DiedSuddenly](#)
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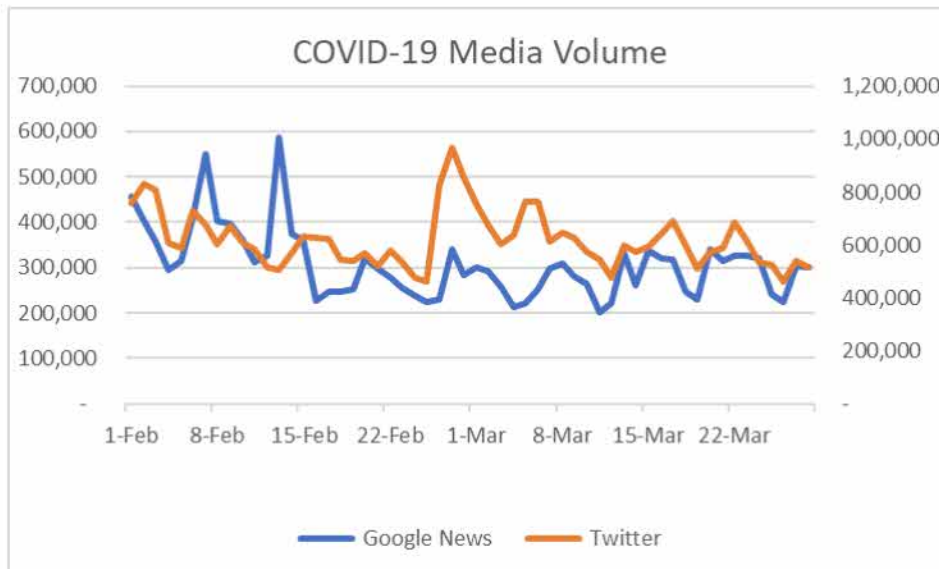
CDC/USG Mentions

- None

Emerging

- None

Metrics



From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Sent: Thu, 29 Jun 2023 18:34:08 +0000
To: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC)
Subject: FW: Web metrics 6-29-23
Attachments: Web Metrics 06-29-23.docx

From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>
Subject: Web metrics 6-29-23

Hi guys,

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(b)(5)

Thanks!
Colin

—
Colin Bernatzky (*He/him/his*)
Public Health Analyst | Presidential Management Fellow
Immunization Services Division
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Phone: 404-639-6406 | Email: ubq5@cdc.gov

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From: Dowling, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Sent: Tue, 11 Jul 2023 20:02:40 +0000
To: Meyer, Sarah (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Lee, James Tseryuan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC); Jatlaoui, Tara (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Cc: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Lindley, Megan C. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Subject: RE: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

Hi James,
Thanks, and I am happy to join the discussion.

Nicole

From: Meyer, Sarah (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <vif6@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 4:01 PM
To: Lee, James Tseryuan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <yvr0@cdc.gov>; Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>; Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC) <oqo2@cdc.gov>; Jatlaoui, Tara (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <kgz4@cdc.gov>; Dowling, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ncd5@cdc.gov>
Cc: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>; Lindley, Megan C. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <cvx9@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

Hi James,
Thanks for this flag! I'm happy to join a call. I would suggest Chris V as well, as I know this has come up previously around CDC's rapid response capabilities/strategies to address misinformation.
I shared this with CORVD as an FYI for now.
Sarah

From: Lee, James Tseryuan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <yvr0@cdc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 3:07 PM
To: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>; Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC) <oqo2@cdc.gov>; Meyer, Sarah (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <vif6@cdc.gov>; Jatlaoui, Tara (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <kgz4@cdc.gov>; Dowling, Nicole (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ncd5@cdc.gov>
Cc: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>; Lindley, Megan C. (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <cvx9@cdc.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

Dear [@Meyer, Sarah \(CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD\)](mailto:vif6@cdc.gov), [@Jatlaoui, Tara \(CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD\)](mailto:kgz4@cdc.gov), [@Dowling, Nicole \(CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD\)](mailto:ncd5@cdc.gov),

Attaching below Colin's note about the Uversky article making waves publicly, **would recommend reading the email in full.** (for a taste of the article itself – "Increased IgG4 synthesis due to repeated mRNA vaccination with high antigen concentrations may also cause autoimmune diseases, and promote cancer growth and autoimmune myocarditis in susceptible individuals.").

I would like to propose the following

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(b)(5)

[@Jatlaoui, Tara \(CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD\)](#) + [@Meyer, Sarah \(CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD\)](#) + [@Dowling, Nicole \(CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD\)](#) – are you okay with me planning a time for us to talk about this? Who else should be invited?

Thanks,
James

From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:37 PM

To: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC) <ogo2@cdc.gov>; Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <grx5@cdc.gov>; Lee, James Tseryuan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <yvr0@cdc.gov>

Subject: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

Hi all,

I thought I'd share a bit more information related to the [Uversky et al. article](#)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) here's a lot of content in this email and many of the links are provided as background if interested, so don't feel pressured to click or read everything.

I. Uversky paper metrics

Per [Altmetric](#), the Uversky et al. paper has been accumulating a massive amount of attention:

- Currently the third-highest Altmetric attention score among all articles published by *Vaccines*
- **#248 all-time** across 24+ million publications tracked by Altmetric, putting it in the **top 0.001%** of all research outputs ever tracked by Altmetric
- Has been tweeted 22,000+ times from 15,000+ users

- Altmetric captures information about news outlets that link the article but clearly does *not* take steps to verify credibility, as the four English language “outlets” listed are:

- Epoch Times (b)(5)
- Zero Hedge (b)(5)
- XYZ.net.au (b)(5)
- Globalresearch.ca (b)(5)

II. Ongoing concerns about academic publishing

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best,
Colin

From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)

Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:08 PM

To: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <grx5@cdc.gov>

Subject: Web metrics 6-29-23

Hi guys,

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(b)(5)

Thanks!
Colin

—

Colin Bernatzky (*He/him/his*)
Public Health Analyst | Presidential Management Fellow
Immunization Services Division
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Phone: 404-639-6406 | Email: ubq5@cdc.gov

From: Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR)
Sent: Fri, 7 Jul 2023 21:07:05 +0000
To: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC); Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD); Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Lee, James Tseryuan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Subject: Re: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

Honestly, no idea (that could be due to my brain being on weekend mode rn)

but i feel like this needs to be its own special report just for the trend Colin noted but also highlighting how this has played out overtime

and we could highlight what themes/topics are these ant-vax topics covering

the evolving issues of scientific publication errors upon the security of the information environment

i could see DHS having opinions on this

From: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC) <oqo2@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>; Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>; Lee, James Tseryuan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <yvr0@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

Thank you for sending this, sir!

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Chris

-

Christopher Voegeli, Ph.D., MPH
Behavioral Scientist | Acting Inaccurate Health Information Mitigation Team Lead
Email: OOO2@cdc.gov
Work Phone: (404) 498-0176
Cell Phone: (316) 558-4313
Division for Communication Science and Services
Office of Communications, CDC

From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC) <oqo2@cdc.gov>; Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>; Lee, James Tseryuan

(CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <yvr0@cdc.gov>

Subject: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

Hi all,

I thought I'd share a bit more information related to the [Uversky et al. article](#) I flagged last week as well as some broader context about the potential threats to vaccine confidence posed by select scientific journals and publishers. There's a lot of content in this email and many of the links are provided as background if interested, so don't feel pressured to click or read everything.

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(b)(5)

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Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:08 PM

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Colin

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Phone: 404-639-6406 | Email: ubq5@cdc.gov

From: Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR)
Sent: Fri, 7 Jul 2023 19:49:30 +0000
To: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Subject: Re: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

also, idk if you knew of Lis Wilhelm or Tina Purnat prior to the whatsapp invitation they are great

they would love your opinion on all of this or anything

i encourage you to join the discussion if you feel comfortable

From: Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

in terms of scientific research literacy and technical literacy

(b)(5)

From: Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 12:41 PM
To: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>
Subject: Re: Follow-up on academic publishing + vax confidence

just an immediate reaction:

wow

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

regarding the subject of what you wrote, we need to discuss this in the Tuesday Research COP meeting w/ potential next steps or ways to discuss this/publish these issues

From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 7, 2023 12:36 PM

To: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC) <oqo2@cdc.gov>; Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>; Lee, James Tseryuan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <yvr0@cdc.gov>

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Thanks!

Colin

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Colin Bernatzky (*He/him/his*)

Public Health Analyst | Presidential Management Fellow

Immunization Services Division

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Phone: 404-639-6406 | Email: ubq5@cdc.gov

From: Trotochaud, Marc (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR)
Sent: Thu, 30 Mar 2023 16:09:02 +0000
To: Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR)
Cc: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Subject: Re: Reminder: Team Check-In Weekly Themes; Q1 Themes

Hi Michael,

Thanks for the note, I hope you are doing well! Here are my weekly top themes on behalf of the communication surveillance report team:

- Continued confusion around 2nd bivalent booster doses, especially in light of WHO guidance announcement ([STAT](#), [Reuters](#))
- Coverage of the end of the COVID-19 PH emergency (new bill passed today aims to end it early), the ending of the COVID task force, and what that means for access to vax and PPE ([WaPo](#))
- Worrying trends of new COVID variant (XBB1.16) potentially causing a surge in India, WHO is monitoring. ([USNWR](#))
- Continued social media traction for misinformation related to the dangers of mRNA vax. This week highlighted harms to microbiome and false claims of graphene oxide inclusion in the vax. ([Epoch Times](#), [Lauren Witzke](#))

I may need to think a bit more about quarterly themes, but here is the first few things that come to mind.

(b)(5)

Happy to meet to talk more about any of these ideas!

All the best,

Marc

--

Marc Trotochaud

Contractor, Tanaq Support Services
COVID-19 Response
Joint Information Center | Research and Evaluation Team
Teams Phone #: 404-498-1853
Email: mtrotochaud@tanaq.com

From: Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:54 AM

To: Yang, Chenmua (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <tyz0@cdc.gov>; Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>; Mitchell, Tremayne (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR) <vqb8@cdc.gov>; Boone, Kwanza (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <ryx0@cdc.gov>; Trotochaud, Marc (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/OD) (CTR) <uf13@cdc.gov>; Sorenson, Bryan (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <soi4@cdc.gov>

Cc: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Voegeli, Chris (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <oqo2@cdc.gov>

Subject: Reminder: Team Check-In Weekly Themes; Q1 Themes

Hi, Insights team!

In stead of meeting today, could yall please submit your **weekly top themes** in email, chat...whatever works for you best.

Regarding Q1 (1 Jan - 31 March 2023), please send your **quarterly top themes**,
After that, we will develop an outline for the report.
Ideally, the sooner the better but there is **no firm deadline**.

Is anyone interested in writing for this one? No pressure, at all, just offering opportunities to write.

Thank you for your time and all your work!

Michael

From: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC)
Sent: Fri, 30 Jun 2023 17:39:36 +0000
To: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Subject: Re: Web metrics 6-29-23

Got it! Thank you.

Chris

-

Christopher Voegeli, Ph.D., MPH
Behavioral Scientist | Acting Inaccurate Health Information Mitigation Team Lead
Email: OQO2@cdc.gov
Work Phone: (404) 498-0176
Cell Phone: (316) 558-4313
Division for Communication Science and Services
Office of Communications, CDC

From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) <ubq5@cdc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:34 PM
To: Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC) <oqo2@cdc.gov>
Subject: FW: Web metrics 6-29-23

From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <psv2@cdc.gov>; Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR) <qrx5@cdc.gov>
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Thanks!
Colin

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From: Bernatzky, Colin (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD)
Sent: Fri, 21 Jul 2023 19:52:16 +0000
To: Verma, Anisha (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Gazy, Michael (CDC/DDID/NCIRD/ISD) (CTR); Voegeli, Chris (CDC/OD/OADC)
Subject: Weekly web metrics + new preprint of note
Attachments: Web Metrics 07-20-23.docx, Epoch Times - CDC Used Journal to Promote Masks Despite 'Unreliable' and 'Unsupported Data'.pdf

Hi Chris, Anisha, and Michael,

I got back from DC late last night and am catching up on various items. Here's this week's related Google Trends report, with notable themes below:

- RFK Jr.
 - Several searches for “rfk jr jews” following RFK Jr.’s claim that COVID “targets” specific ethnicities
 - RFK Jr. congressional hearing and related content
- Brevard County, FL passes resolution describing COVID mRNA vaccines bioweapons, calling on DeSantis to ban them in FL
- Tucker Carlson and Asa Hutchinson interview fallout (increased interest in Tucker’s vaccination status)
- Increased interest in Fran Drescher’s views on vaccines
- Graphene oxide concerns continue to trend
- Another dubious journal preprint getting boosted in the Epoch Times (see below)
 - Epoch Times is also boosting the Lancet preprint flagged in a previous report
- FDA approval of new RSV vaccine

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CDC Used Journal to Promote Masks Despite ‘Unreliable’ and ‘Unsupported Data’: New Analysis

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A new [analysis of studies](#) in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) flagship scientific journal found the agency promoted the effectiveness of masks using unreliable data with conclusions unsupported by evidence.

The preprint, published July 11 on MedRxiv, found the CDC’s [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR) made positive findings about the efficacy of masks 75 percent of the time, despite only 30 percent of studies testing masks, and less than 15 percent having “statistically significant results.”

No studies were randomized, yet the CDC in over half of their MMWR studies, made misleading statements indicating a causal relationship between mask-wearing and a decrease in COVID-19 cases or transmission, despite failing to show evidence of mask effectiveness.

The inappropriate use of causal language in MMWR studies was directly adopted by then CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky to promote masks and recommendations urging Americans to mask up. The authors said their findings “raise concern about the reliability of the journal for informing health policy” and suggest bias within the journal.

The MMWR, often called “the voice of the CDC,” is the agency’s primary vehicle for “scientific publication of timely, reliable, authoritative, accurate, objective, and useful public health information and recommendations.”

The publication—subject only to peer review internally by the agency—is frequently used to draft national health policies. For example, mask requirements implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic for federal workers, travelers, schools, businesses, healthcare workers, and Head Start programs—“mirrored” CDC recommendations.

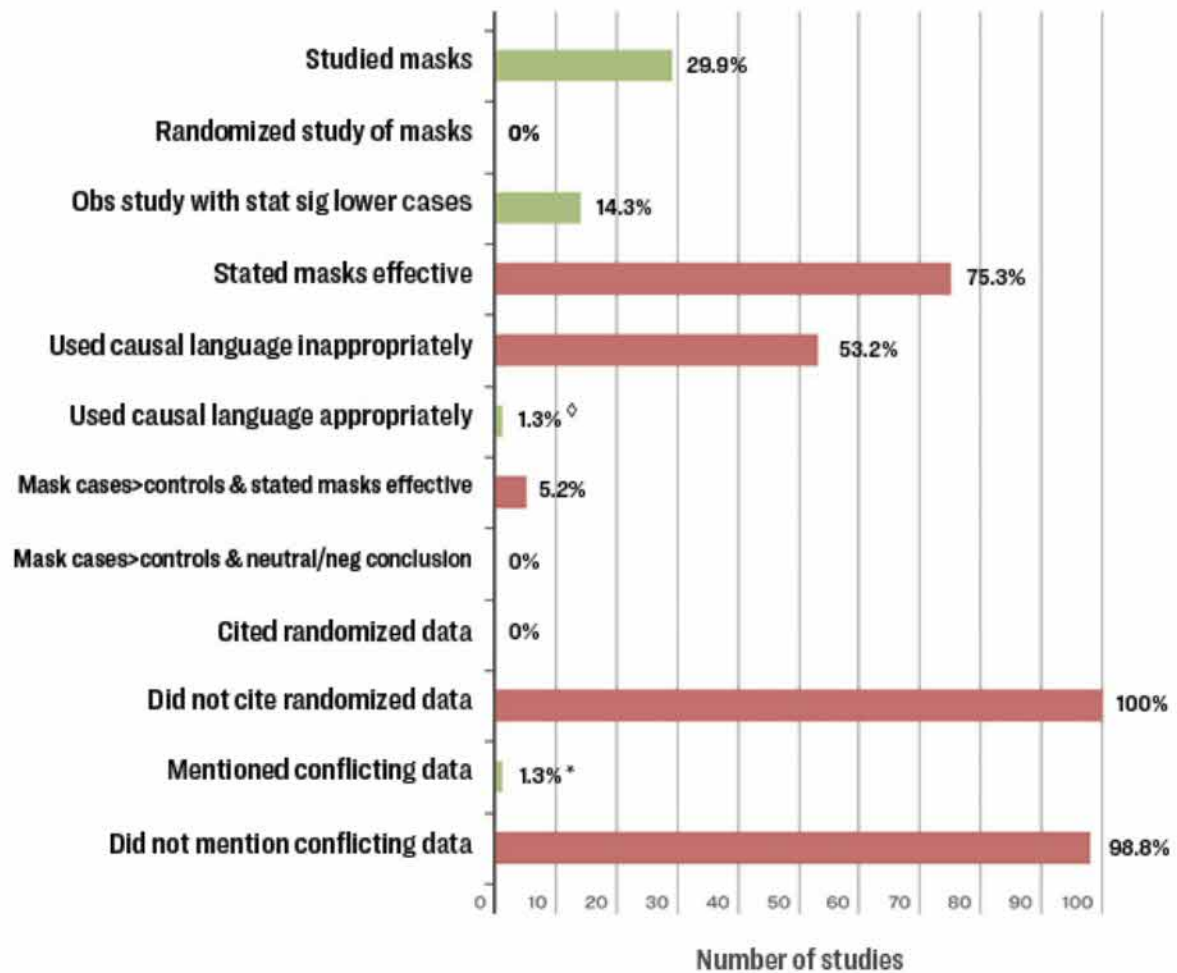
Of the 77 reviews cited in the agency’s MMWR used to promote masks, researchers found the following:

- Only 23 of 77 studies assessed the effectiveness of masks, yet 58 of 77 studies claimed masks were effective.
- Of the 58 studies, 41 used “causal language,” and 40 misused causal language. [Causal language](#) is where an “action or entity is explicitly presented as influencing another” and should not be used in [observational studies](#) because these types of studies merely identify “associations” and cannot establish that the “associations identified represent cause-and-effect relationships.”
- According to the analysis, the 40 studies that used causal language indicated with certainty that masks lower transmission rates, despite the fact their results, at most, found a correlation. In addition, 25 of the 40 studies didn’t even assess the effectiveness of masks.

The one remaining study used causal language related to particle filtration on mannequins with “unknown relevance for human health.”

- Of the 58 studies referenced above, only one mentioned conflicting data on mask effectiveness—the authors noted it was an international study primarily focused on influenza.
- Four of the 77 studies had more cases in the mask group than in the comparator group, yet all four studies concluded masks were effective.

None of the 77 studies assessed after 2019 were randomized, and none cited randomized data. **Randomized studies** are the “gold standard” for determining whether an intervention or treatment is effective. Instead, the CDC most commonly used observational studies without controls or comparison groups.



■ inappropriate
■ appropriate

[◇] mannequin study
* influenza study

Select characteristics of the 77 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) publications pertaining to masks.

Source: medRxiv

EPOCH HEALTH

“Honestly, it’s amazing & scary how apparently effective/convincing it was for the @CDCgov to state over & over masks are ‘critical’ & ‘important’ in spite of a total lack of high-quality data to support it,” Dr. Tracy Høeg, epidemiologist and co-author of the study [said in a tweet](#). It will be hard to trust the journal, which they use to inform health policy decisions, moving forward, [she added](#).

Concerns of Bias and Flawed Data Ignored by CDC

Researchers have previously raised [concerns about MMWR’s publication bias](#), flawed methodology, and errors with the CDC that would typically warrant retraction.

Challenging the journal is difficult because the MMWR is subject to its own “clearance process” within the agency that publishes the journal instead of the independent peer-review other scientific journals are subjected to.

Of the mask studies published in the MMWR, 91 percent had one or more authors affiliated with the CDC, with a median of 13 authors per paper, some co-authoring multiple papers. In total, there were 1,544 authors, which “speaks to the large amount of effort that went into studying and publishing about this topic in the journal,” researchers stated.

In addition, beginning in September 2020, political appointees may have “demanded the ability to review and revise scientific reports” in MMWR. The process used to analyze and publish scientific data in the MMWR, which is then promoted by the CDC, has not been made available to the public.

Researchers said that political involvement and lack of accountability by outside experts unaffiliated with the CDC could influence the journal’s ability to evaluate scientific data objectively and may explain why the agency “remains an international outlier” in continuing to recommend masks for COVID-19 in specific circumstances, including for children as young as two.

What topics would you like to read about? Please let us know at health@epochtimes.nyc

Sent:

Thu, 6 Jul 2023 22:02:20 +0000

Hi all,

I figured I'd share a bit more information related to the [Uversky et al. article](#) I flagged last week as well as some broader context about how vaccine confidence is being undermined by select scientific journals and publishers. There's a lot of content in this email, so don't feel pressure to click every link or read everything in one sitting.

Per [Altmetric](#), the Uversky et al. paper has been accumulating an **enormous** amount of attention:

- Currently the third-highest Altmetric attention score among all articles published by *Vaccines*
- **#250 all-time** across 24+ million publications tracked by Altmetric, putting it in the **top 0.001%** of all research outputs ever tracked by Altmetric
- Has been tweeted 22,000+ times from 15,000+ users
- Altmetric captures information about news outlets that link the article but clearly does not take steps to verify credibility, as the four English language "outlets" listed are:

- Epoch Times (b)(5)
- Zero Hedge (b)(5)
- XYZ.net.au, (b)(5)
- Globalresearch.ca, (b)(5)

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