

# Making an Impact

THE CDC FOUNDATION RESPONDS TO COVID-19

Response Update 29  
November 19, 2021

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

**Update:** Globally, more than 256.3 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including approximately 5.1 million deaths. In the U.S., there have been more than 47.5 million confirmed cases and more than 768,000 deaths.

**CDC Update:** As of November 19, 2021, more than 228 million people in the United States have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Of those, 195.7 million are fully vaccinated. Learn more from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID Data Tracker](#).

CDC [now recommends everyone ages five and older](#) get a COVID-19 vaccine to help protect themselves. Children ages five years and older can get an age-appropriate dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines.

**What the CDC Foundation is doing:** To date, individuals, philanthropies, organizations, corporations and government funders have committed \$549.4 million for the CDC Foundation's COVID-19 response, and the Foundation has deployed those funds in over 93 U.S. states and territories and other countries.

Many parents are concerned about the health and safety of their children at school, and these concerns are taking a toll on mental health for parents and their children. We encourage all parents and others interested in education and mental health to listen to [the latest episode of our Contagious Conversations podcast](#) featuring an interview with two representatives from the National PTA, the oldest and largest child advocacy group, who share their perspectives on the impact of the pandemic on education.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, healthcare workers, support staff, volunteers and medical and emergency technicians have put their lives at risk to protect and care for their communities. According to Kaiser Health News, more than 3,600 American frontline healthcare workers died in the first 12 months of the COVID-19 response, leaving too many families with grief, emotional stress and financial struggles. The [Brave of Heart Fund](#), created by the Foundations of New York Life and Cigna with charitable partner E4E Relief, aims to bring support and comfort to these families. [Learn how you can support these efforts.](#)

Sorority membership doesn't end with college graduation. Alumnae chapters around the country actively encourage a lifelong commitment to service and sisterhood, and for some—including Philadelphia-area chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.—those efforts have taken on a whole new dimension in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more about the work of these groups and others in our stories section.](#)

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

## Supporting the Work to Save and Protect Lives:

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

- Working with Arizona State University to **target the enhancement of water points in the Navajo Nation**. Safe drinking or potable water is a basic essential. Through the work of the Foundation and partners on the ground, these new water points are providing safe handwashing, cleaning, drinking and cooking to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- Granting awards to the Afghan Health Initiative, Commonwealth Catholic Charities, the Nationalities Service Center and the International Rescue Committee to **support direct service provision and activities that meet the immediate public health needs of Afghan evacuees** resettling in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. These organizations will be facilitating access to immediate healthcare, mental health and critical preventative healthcare services and education, such as pediatric and adult immunizations, screenings, mental health first aid and other unique resettlement needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Supporting Tribal community-based organizations in the Great Plains states** by awarding local community COVID vaccine partnership grants to the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council and the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board. Efforts will focus on building COVID vaccine confident communities through the implementation of locally focused education and outreach and facilitate access to vaccines for Tribal communities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

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