

U.S. National Pulse on Infectious Diseases among Farmworkers

Keeping a pulse on the health of farmworkers in the U.S.

February Edition 2023

The purpose of this National Pulse is to systematically collect and share timely, significant network insights, current media stories, and research about issues and trends concerning COVID-19, influenza, and other emerging infectious diseases among farmworkers in the U.S. The National Pulse includes...

1. insights from recent data collection efforts with farmworkers; and
2. a summary of recent research and media articles published

Network Insights

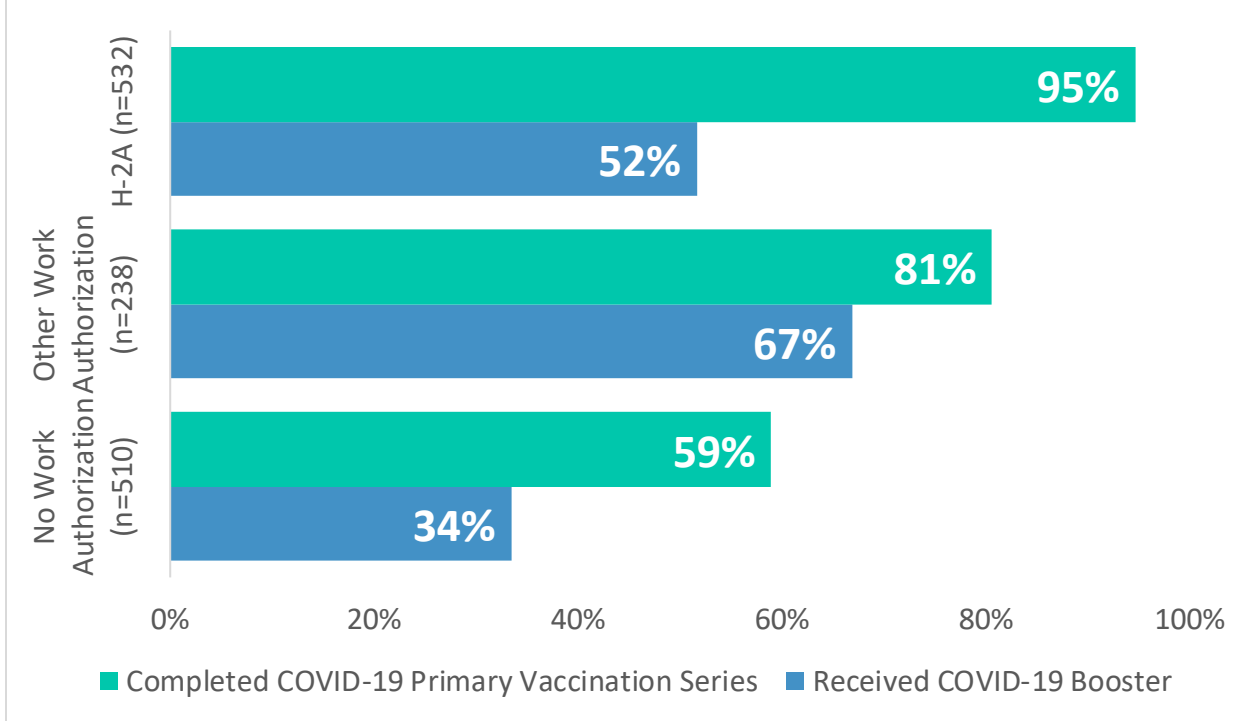
A poll was not conducted this month, but will resume as topics concerning COVID-19, influenza, and other emerging infectious diseases among farmworkers in the U.S. arise. [See past editions](#) for results of rapid polls conducted with farmworker-serving organizations.

NCFH Data Collection Updates: Farmworker COVID-19 Community Assessments (FCCAs)

Between March and August of 2022, five farmworker communities were assessed through Farmworker COVID-19 Community Assessments (FCCAs), and a total of 1,384 farmworkers participated in the surveys. This diverse sample included vulnerable subpopulations of workers, including 532 H-2A guest workers, 510 farmworkers without documentation, and 406 Indigenous farmworkers. *(Following the National Agricultural Workers Survey, NAWS, convention, NCFH created a composite metric to identify Indigenous respondents, utilizing a combination of responses from language spoken as a child and currently as an adult, and/or racially identifying as Indigenous.)*

Among all communities, initial COVID-19 vaccine uptake was high, but uptake of the booster was low. However, vaccine uptake differed among different subpopulations of farmworkers. H-2A guest workers had a higher uptake a COVID-19 vaccine (94.7%), compared to farmworkers without work authorization (59.0%) and farmworkers with other forms of work authorization (80.7%). Similarly, there was a significant difference in COVID-19 booster uptake between these populations, with farmworkers without work authorization having the lowest uptake (33.5%) (see the chart below).

Among all surveyed communities,
initial COVID-19 vaccine uptake* was high,
but uptake of the booster was low.
Uptake varied by work authorization status.



*Based on completing dosage of an FDA or WHO approved COVID-19 vaccine series

NCFH is gearing up to continue data collection for the FCCA project in six different communities this upcoming year.

To learn more about NCFH's Farmworker COVID-19 Community Assessments, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Media & Research

Media Articles

[New 'clinic on wheels' provides COVID, flu vaccines to farmworkers](#)

Palm Springs Desert Sun, January 24, 2023

[California farmworkers who worked during the pandemic eligible for \\$600 cash cards](#)

KCRA, February 10, 2023

[Farmworker study renews concerns about medical access, work conditions](#)

Bakersfield.com, February 12, 2023

Research Articles

[CDC-Supported National Network of Farmworker-Serving Organizations to Mitigate COVID-19](#)

American Journal of Public Health, January 2023

Many community-based organizations around the country quickly stepped up to meet the needs of farmworkers, but they often had limited capacity and resources to address needs. The purpose of this article is to describe the initial impact of the development of a national network focused on protecting farmworkers' health during the pandemic.

[Improving migrant health in the USA: opportunities for dermatologists to participate in care delivery, asylum medicine and community partnership](#)

British Journal of Dermatology, January 2023

This article provides suggestions to U.S. Dermatologists to support migrants struggling with skin infections, including some sexually transmitted infections. Their suggestions detail how to improve care delivery, increasing access to medicine for asylum seekers, and make connections with community organizations who serve farmworkers.

[Realities of Workers' Compensation Coverage for Agricultural Workers: Before, during, and into the Future of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Journal of Agromedicine, January 2023

This article provides recommendations to employers and health care providers about Worker's compensation (WC) during a viral pandemic. During the COVID-19 pandemic sick workers were left with no compensation for medical care or lost working hours. Additionally, families of workers who died due to COVID-19 received no compensation or benefits. WC's focus is protecting vulnerable workers against injury and illness. This article calls for an end of OSHA agricultural exemption but encourages employers to provide WC whether or not it is required.



[READ THE NCFH COVID-19 IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FACT SHEET!](#)

[THIS FACT SHEET IS UPDATED QUARTERLY TO BRING THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PANDEMIC'S IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.](#)