

U.S. National Pulse on Infectious Diseases among Farmworkers

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

Monthly Research Round-up

May 2023

The purpose of the National Pulse Research Round-up is to systematically collect and share 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 Research Round-up includes insights from recent data collection efforts with farmworkers and a summary of recent research and media articles published.

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

During the month of May, NCFH conducted two FCCAs: one in Oceana County, MI and the other in Fresno County, CA, both occurring simultaneously between May 18-21. These assessments are the third and fourth assessments conducted for Phase 3 of the FCCAs.

A total of 323 farmworkers were surveyed in Oceana County, Michigan, including 149 H-2A guest workers. Of the survey respondents, 284 reported having received at least one COVID-19 vaccination dose (88%). A total of 336 farmworkers were surveyed in Fresno County, California, including 49 H-2A guest workers. Two-hundred fifty-nine (259) respondents reported having received at least one COVID-19 vaccination dose (77%).

The FCCAs utilize a mixed-methods approach, including an intercept survey and qualitative interviews. Qualitative interviews provide additional context to vaccination strategies, including one interview participant from an FCCA completed in Texas last month, who identified interest of and involvement of employers in encouraging their employees to get vaccinated. "[Employers] did a cost analysis and they said it's in our interest to have these employees vaccinated because if one gets sick and you're working side by side with the next guy who you know, they're sorting milk or sorting onions or whatever, and they get sick, that whole thing is going to shut down... So they went out of their way to make sure that the employees got vaccinated" – TX farmworker-serving organization

NCFH will conduct the last two FCCAs of Phase 3 later this summer.

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

Media Articles

[WHO launches new initiative to improve pandemic preparedness](#)

World Health Organization, 4/26/23

[\\$600 check for farmworkers: who will receive it and how to request it](#)
as, 4/29/23

[Column: For Santiago Nieto, all roads in California lead to farmworkers](#)

Los Angeles Times, 5/15/23

[State taking input on new rules for working outdoors in wildfire smoke](#)

Yakima Herald-Republic, 5/25/23

Literature List

This section includes journal articles from the previous two months.

[Lessons from Dairy Farmers for Occupational Allergy and Respiratory Disease](#)

May 2023

This literature review focuses on respiratory disease among dairy farmers due to exposure to bioaerosols and their tie to decreases in lung function. Most recent studies examine exposure-response relationships to help inform the creation of effective interventions that improve respiratory health among these workers.

[Outreach to farmworkers before and during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

April 2023

This ethnographic study describes the navigation of remote areas to contact farmworkers who otherwise would not have received essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Farm management practices associated with influenza A virus contamination of people working in Midwestern United States swine farm](#)

May 2023

In this study, samples from farmworkers' hands and clothes were collected to test for Influenza A virus before and after working with piglets. The results show that handling infected piglets close to weaning age is a significant risk for Influenza A contamination. Recommendations from this article include washing hands and changing clothes after these activities.

[Dairy Farm Work and Protection from Gastrointestinal Illness](#)

May 2023

This Central Wisconsin study shows that working on a dairy farm was associated with significantly less severe GI illness symptoms in adults, comparing farmworkers with non-farmworkers.

[On-Farm Health Screening Needs of Immigrant Dairy Workers in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains](#)

April 2023

Findings from screening 300 dairy workers in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains suggest that there is a need for on-site health screenings and health education in that area.



**READ THE [NCFH COVID-19 IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL WORKERS FACT SHEET](#)
FOR MORE RESEARCH ARTICLES! (FINAL UPDATE)**