

# NCFH National Pulse

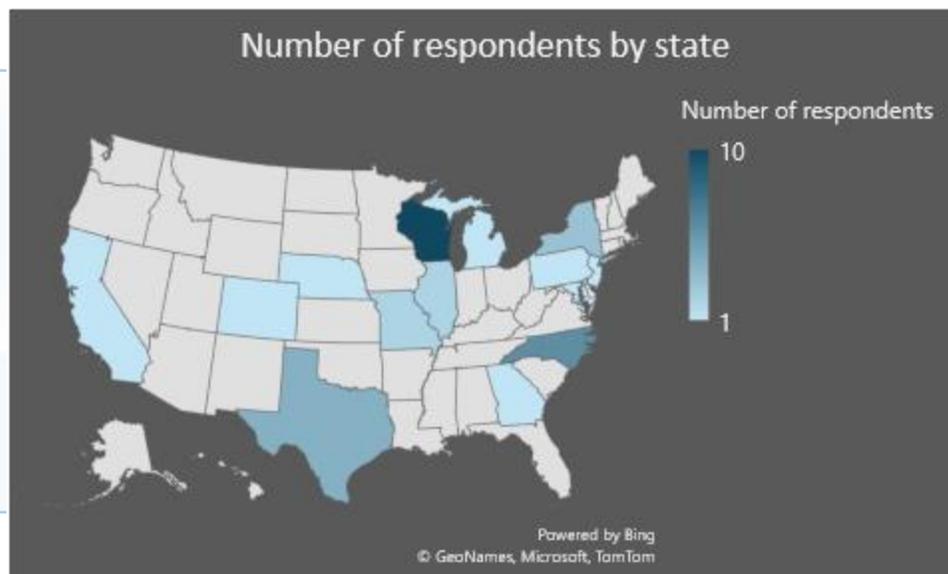
*Keeping a pulse on the health of farmworkers in the U.S.*

## Quarter 3: April, May, June 2024

The purpose of the quarterly editions of the National Pulse is to systematically collect and share current and emerging health issues among farmworkers in the U.S. The National Pulse includes findings from network surveys, insights from recent data collection efforts with farmworkers, and a summary of recent research and media articles published.

### Findings from Network Survey

The poll this quarter was sent out to approximately 40 community-based organizations and health centers that are known to serve animal production workers and was open for responses May 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The purpose of the poll was to rapidly collect information about languages spoken by dairy and poultry workers, H5N1 information needs among farmworker-serving organizations, and other related topics. A total of 29 individuals responded to the poll from 15 states, including four of the affected states (see map below). Some individuals sent the poll to other farmworker-serving organizations, so the total number of organizations invited to participate is unknown.



Of the 29 respondents, 83% served dairy workers, 52% serves poultry production workers, and less than half served beef cattle production workers (45%), meatpacking or slaughterhouse workers (45%), and swine/hog production workers (31%), and 24% of respondents serving other animal production workers. Respondents could serve different types of farmworker across these categories. Most (83%) respondents (who serve dairy workers) reported the dairy workers in their community to be Spanish-speaking and 66% reported them as English-speaking. Other languages spoken included Mixteco (17%), K'iche' (17%), Mam, Zapoteco, Arabic, French, Portuguese, Cambodian, Burmese, Hmong, Hindi, Bengali, various African languages, Kanjobjal/Q'anjob'al, Purepecha, and Triqui were each reported by one respondent.



*NCFH staff have identified additional languages spoken by dairy workers, including Nahuatl (Orizaba variety) & Quechua in the northern Colorado milkshed, Nahuatl (unsure which variety) on the Texas-Mexico border, Afrikaans in northern Texas and the Midwest among H-2A milk haulers.*

Among respondents who serve poultry workers, most (52%) reported the poultry workers in their community to speak Spanish and 35% reported that workers spoke English. Other languages reported by respondents from most frequently reported to least are Arabic, K'iche', Haitian Creole, French, Portuguese, Cambodian, Burmese, Hmong, Hindi, Bengali, and various African languages.

Most (66%) respondents reported not being aware of how concerned animal production workers are about H5N1.

Printed materials like fliers, posters, or door hangers, and videos (including videos for social media) were the most frequently reported as the most helpful way to educate workers about H5N1. Almost all respondents said these materials need information about treatment and medication, isolation and quarantine, preventing exposure to H5N1, where and how to get tested for H5N1, how H5N1 spreads, and information about signs and symptoms of H5N1. For influenza medication, information on how the medication helps and how effective it is, cost, steps needed to obtain the medication, who can get it, doses, and side effects were requested.

Only two respondents had heard of dairy farms that had dairy herds infected with H5N1 in their area, and none had heard of a poultry flock infection in their area. Two respondents had interacted with dairy workers who had symptoms of H5N1. One respondent had interacted with poultry workers with H5N1 symptoms. (*Symptoms of H5N1 include conjunctivitis (red or swollen eyes, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, fatigue, diarrhea, nausea, difficulty breathing).*)

## Media Articles

News articles from most recent to oldest

- [Toddler Infected With H9N2 Strain—Second Human Case In India - Forbes](#)  
June 2024
- [Status Update: Traces of H5N1 Detected in Austin-Travis County detected in wastewater surveillance. Risk to public remains low. | AustinTexas.gov](#)  
June 2024
- [Additional influenza A \(H5\) case detected in Michigan](#)  
May 2024
- [mRNA vaccine by UPenn scientists could manage bird flu outbreak \(msn.com\)](#)  
May 2024
- [USDA Announces \\$824 Million in New Funding to Protect Livestock Health; Launches Voluntary H5N1 Dairy Herd Status Pilot Program | USDA](#)  
May 2024
- [Farmworkers face high-risk exposures to bird flu, but testing isn't reaching them - USA Today](#)  
May 2024
- [US, European nations consider vaccinating workers exposed to bird flu - Reuters](#)  
May 2024
- [H5N1 Dairy Policy Response and Needs - Southern Farm Network](#)  
May 2024
- [Dairy workers urged to protect against bird flu - Ag UPDATE](#)  
May 2024
- [In the News: Public Health's efforts to reduce H5N1 risk](#)  
May 2024
- [Pandemic Potential: New Research Shows H5N1 Bird Flu Can Transmit Through Air](#)  
May 2024
- [Child labor found at poultry plant after teen killed: feds | Miami Herald](#)  
May 2024
- [The Bird-Flu Host We Should Worry About - The Atlantic](#)  
May 2024
- [Avian flu outbreak forces major layoffs at Michigan's largest poultry farm - WKAR](#)  
May 2024
- [Six Idaho dairy farms have the avian flu. Here's what you need to know](#)  
May 2024
- [Herbruck's Poultry Ranch lays off 400 workers due to HPAI - Michigan Farm News](#)  
May 2024
- [The CDC Has a New Map of Where Bird Flu is Spreading, What to Know](#)  
May 2024
- [Bird flu found in western China as US combats cattle outbreak | Reuters](#)  
May 2024

## Literature List

[Organophosphate Pesticide Exposure And Risk Of Sars-Cov-2 Infection](#)

August 2024

[Influenza H5N1 and H1N1 viruses remain infectious in unpasteurized milk on milking machinery surfaces](#)

May 2024

[Worries about bird flu in US cattle intensify](#)

May 2024

["I definitely cannot afford to be feeling poorly if there's no need to be": A qualitative evaluation of antiviral uptake following suspected occupational exposure to avian influenza](#)

May 2024

[Bird flu: Person with rare strain in US sparks alarm about cow transmission](#)

May 2024

[Bird Flu Outbreak in Dairy Cows Is Widespread, Raising Public Health Concerns](#)

May 2024

[What CDC Is Doing to Respond to Bird Flu Outbreaks in Dairy Cows and Other Animals in the United States](#)

May 2024

[Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus infections of dairy cattle and livestock handlers in the United States of America](#)

May 2024

[The invisibility of farmworkers: Implications and remedies](#)

May 2024

[Highly pathogenic avian influenza A \(H5N1\) Virus infection in a dairy farm worker](#)

May 2024

[Outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A \(H5N1\) Viruses in US Dairy Cattle and Detection of Two Human Cases—United States, 2024](#)

May 2024



[Effect of a dairy farmworker stewardship training program on antimicrobial drug usage in dairy cows](#)

May 2024

[Precarious Work and Housing for Michigan Farmworkers During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond](#)

April 2024

[Integrative Review of the Knowledge, Barriers, and Facilitators of HPV Vaccination Among Latinx Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in the United States](#)

April 2024