

NCFH National Pulse

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

Quarter 4: July, August, September 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.

Data Collection Highlights

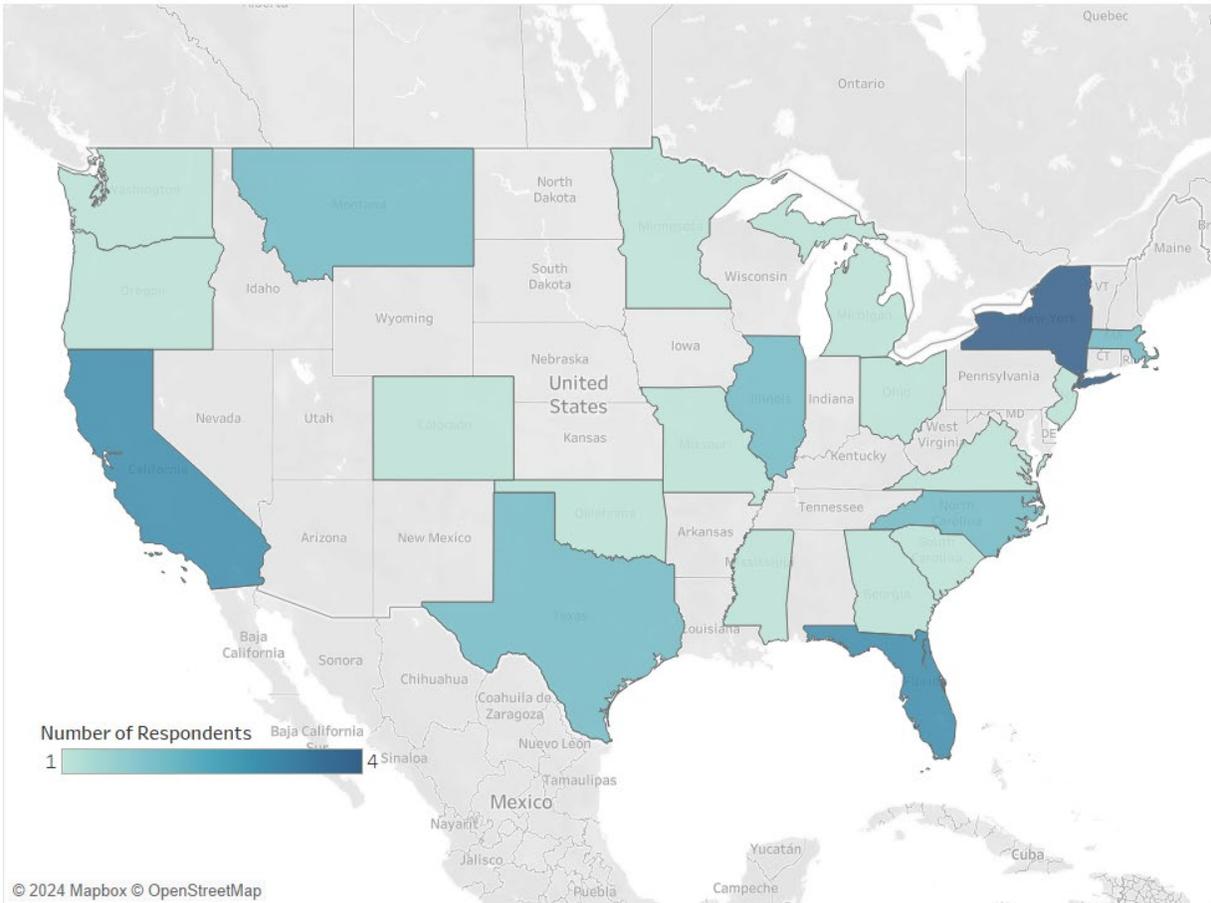
NCFH staff interviewed 307 H-2A guest workers this summer about general public health emergency preparedness in Monterey County, California and in Yakima County, Washington. Both of these counties employ thousands of H-2A guest workers on farms every year. Early findings indicate that the H-2A workers interviewed had relatively high uptake of key vaccines, the majority had employers who provided paid sick leave and isolation housing, and had been provided with instructions on emergency response plans by their employers. A report summarizing these findings will be posted on our website this winter.

Findings from Network Survey

The poll this quarter was sent to farmworker-serving organizations to collect information about influenza and COVID-19 vaccine availability in farmworker communities.

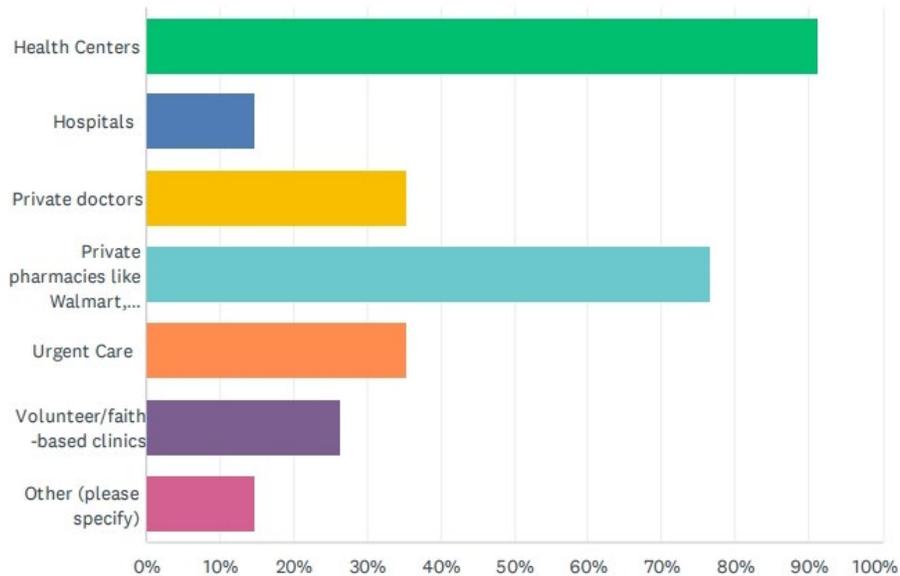
A total of 34 individuals responded. Some individuals sent the poll to other farmworker-serving organizations, so the total number of organizations invited to participate is unknown. Of the 34 respondents, most (91%) work directly with farmworkers. About half (52%) of respondents were employed by a health center (52%).

Number of Respondents by State



The top five types of locations in farmworker communities that offer vaccines to farmworkers, referenced by respondents, were health centers (reported by 91% of respondents), private pharmacies like Walmart, Walgreens, etc. (76%), private doctors (35%), urgent care clinics (35%), and volunteer/faith-based clinics (15%).

Figure 1: Types of locations offering vaccinations to farmworkers



Of these locations, 82% of respondents said **some** offer evening or weekend hours. Seventy-nine percent of respondents reported having established partnerships with these vaccine providers. Most respondents have not experienced any barriers with forming partnerships with vaccine providers, however most respondents reported that they did not have partnerships with vaccine providers outside of their state to facilitate vaccine access or health care access for farmworkers who move to other states for work.

Sixty-five percent of respondents said that of the locations that offer vaccines to farmworkers within their community, **some** of those locations offer low-cost COVID and influenza vaccines (low-cost was defined as costing less than \$30 for the patient). The average cost of the influenza vaccine reported was \$46, but can vary depending on age of the patient. The average cost of the COVID vaccine reported was \$117, but can vary depending on insurance.

More than a third (38%) of respondents had observed "chilling effect" behaviors among vaccine providers or health care providers towards farmworkers. Chilling effect behaviors could include behaviors such as a lack of available interpreters or staff who speak farmworkers' languages, rude or racist comments from staff towards farmworkers, etc. Respondents said language access continues to be a barrier, as well as cultural misunderstandings. There was note of anti-immigrant sentiment, and separately, rudeness. Half of the survey respondents (50%) had observed "warming effect" behaviors among vaccine providers or health care providers towards farmworkers. Warming effect behaviors could include behaviors such as strong interpretation/language access programs, friendly and professional staff, childcare for farmworker patients, community support services, free transportation services, etc. Respondents said that having bilingual CHWs who can interpret for farmworkers, providing free transportation, and keeping strong relationships with local health department and clinics helps enhance health care service access for farmworkers.

Media Articles

News articles from most recent to oldest

[Health and farmworker advocates urge ban of herbicide linked to Parkinson's](#)
September 2024

[With only gloves to protect them, farmworkers say they tend sick cows amid bird flu](#)
September 2024

[Migrant farm worker deaths show cost of the 'American Dream'](#)
September 2024

[CDC urges livestock workers get seasonal flu vaccine to cut pandemic risk](#)
July 2024

[CDC Issues Updated Guidance to Help Prevent Spread of Flu at Agricultural Fairs](#)
July 2024

Literature List

[Personal Protective Equipment Guidance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 Should Be Adapted to Meet the Needs of Dairy Farm Workers | The Journal of Infectious Diseases | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)
September 2024

[A Scoping Review on the Impact of COVID 19 on Vulnerable Populations: LGBTQ+ Persons, Persons Experiencing Homelessness, and Migrant Farm Workers in the US - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)
September 2024

[Critical Environmental Justice and Pandemic Events: Florida Farm Work during COVID-19 | Environmental Justice \(liebertpub.com\)](#)
August 2024

[No Asymptomatic Bird Flu in 35 Exposed Dairy Farmworkers | Infectious Diseases | JAMA | JAMA Network](#)
August 2024

[Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus outbreak in cattle: the knowns and unknowns | Nature Reviews Microbiology](#)
July 2024

[Review of the Knowledge, Barriers, and Facilitators of HPV Vaccination among Latino Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in the United States | Journal of Community Health \(springer.com\)](#)
July 2024

[Impacts of COVID-19 shelter in place across key life domains among immigrant farmworker Latina mothers and young adults | BMC Public Health \(springer.com\)](#)
July 2024

[From avian to human: understanding the cross-species transmission and the global spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza \(researchgate.net\)](#)
June 2024