

U.S. National Pulse on Infectious Diseases among Farmworkers

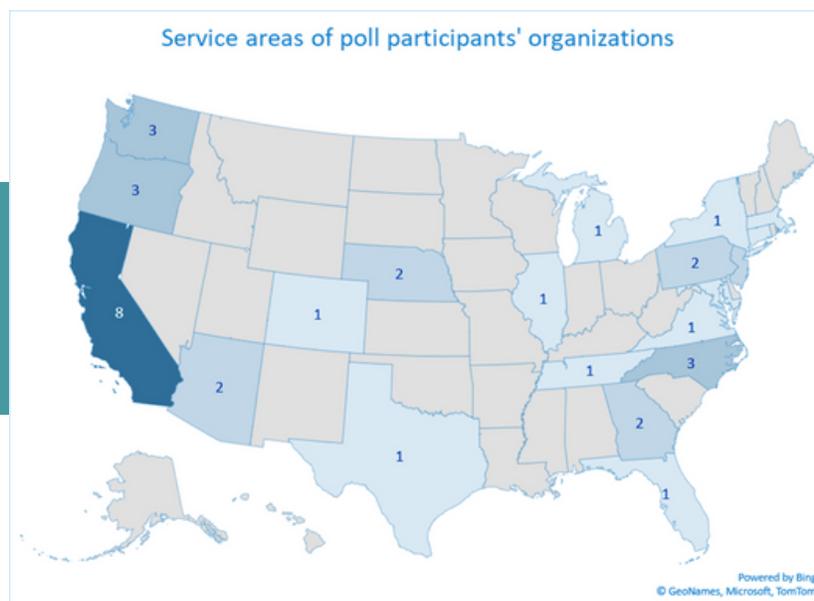
*Keeping a pulse on the health of farmworkers in the U.S.
July/August Edition 2022:
Long COVID*

The purpose of this National Pulse is to systematically collect and timely share 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. This edition includes...

1. Findings from a national poll of farmworker-serving organizations;
2. Insights from recent data collection efforts with farmworkers; and
3. A summary of recent research and media articles published

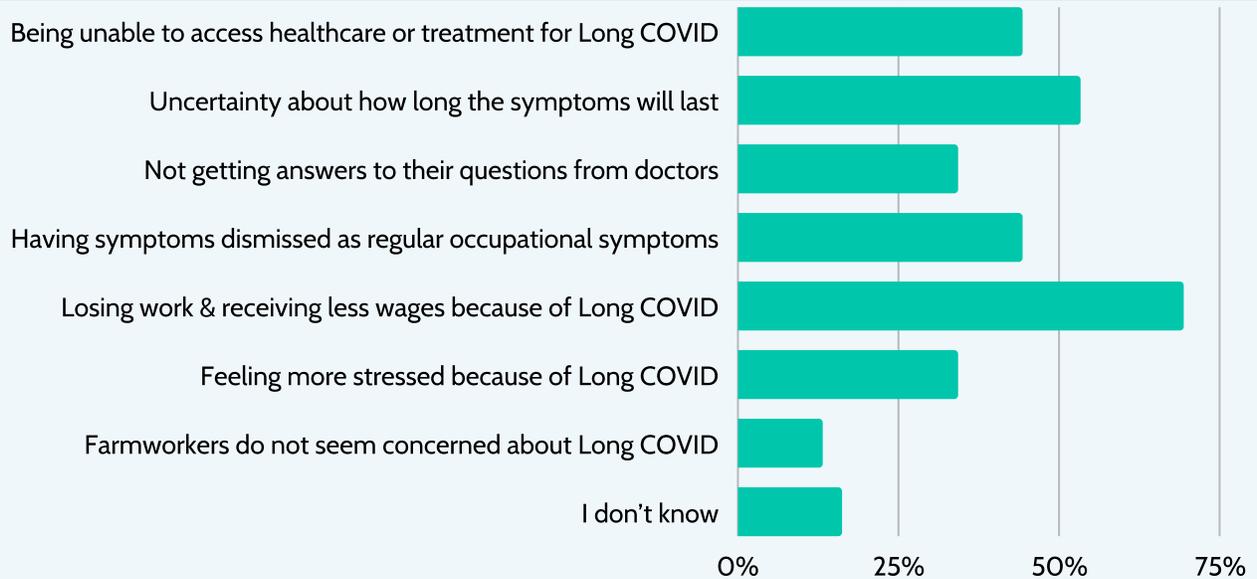
Network Insights

At the beginning of August 2022, NCFH circulated a short poll in English and Spanish via email to a total of 204 network contacts. These contacts include executive and outreach staff of Migrant Health Centers, farmworker-serving non-profit organizations, health department staff, and a small number of agricultural employers. A total of 32 recipients participated in the poll, who serve farmworkers in 21 states across the country. The primary focus of this month's poll was Long COVID.



*88% of respondents work
directly with farmworkers*

Nearly 70% of respondents were either somewhat or very concerned about Long COVID among farmworkers in their communities. Zero respondents were not concerned at all. Based on their work with farmworkers, respondents identified top concerns about Long COVID among farmworkers in their communities. Very few respondents believe that Long COVID is not a concern among farmworkers.

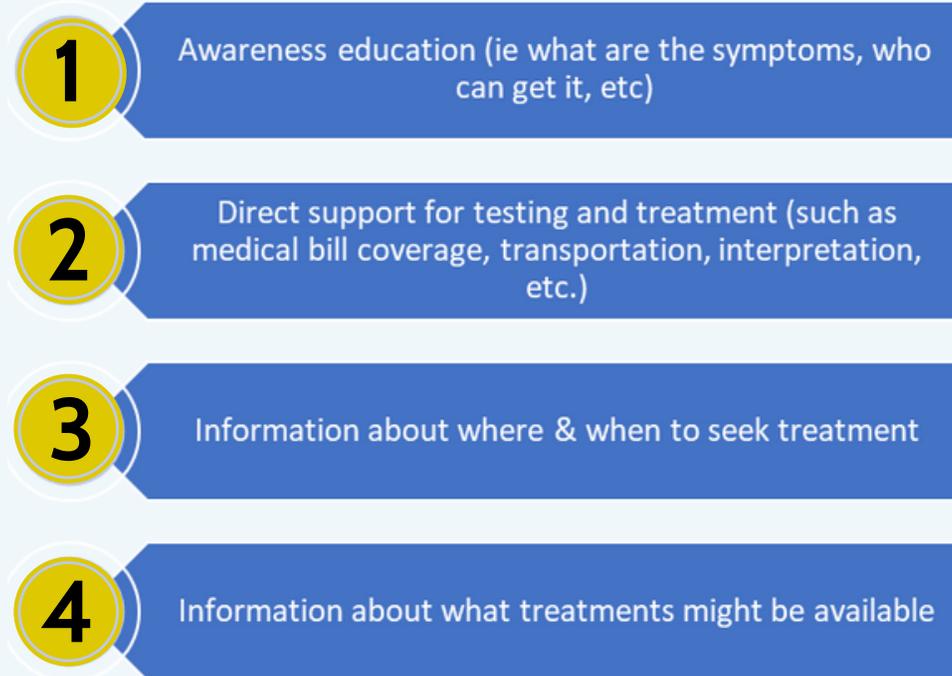


"Farmworkers are frustrated as it's such an unknown and they aren't able to return to work; not just an 'excuse to not be able to work.' A lack of understanding of the farmworkers position." -Poll respondent

"How to understand and manage it [Long COVID], and how to make time in a world where they cannot have a day off without it affecting their income and your ability to take care of your needs." -Poll Respondent

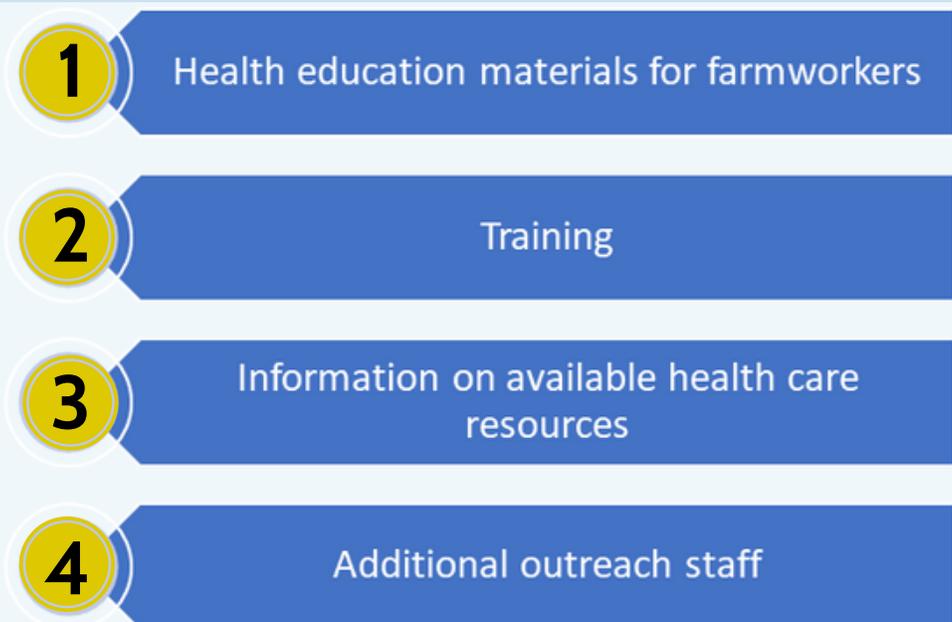
Respondents ranked the top types of resources that farmworkers need about Long COVID. Awareness education resources for farmworkers were ranked as the top type of resource. See Figure 1 for the other top ranked resources farmworkers need about Long COVID.

Figure 1: Long COVID Resources for Farmworkers, Ranked by Importance



Respondents also ranked the top types of resources that organizations need about Long COVID, see Figure 2.

Figure 2: Long COVID Resources for Organizations, Ranked by Importance



- Types of training that would be useful for organizations include:
- 1) Impact of Long COVID on farmworkers with comorbidities (88%),
 - 2) What medical experts understand about Long COVID (78%), and
 - 3) How COVID vaccinations impact Long COVID (75%).

I feel like getting the diagnoses is hard because farmworkers are less likely to have seen a provider prior to COVID. This may cause symptoms of Long COVID to be mistaken something that was undiagnosed due to lack of routine medical testing/visits.
-Poll respondent

Farmworker COVID-19 Community Assessments



NCFH published the first community report from Phase 2, for [Colquitt County, Georgia](#). A total of 273 surveys were collected with farmworkers in early spring. Findings indicate that almost three out of four (72%) respondents were fully vaccinated with an FDA or WHO approved COVID-19 vaccine, while only 28% of respondents had received at least one booster dose. Findings suggest additional barriers to vaccines for farmworkers who are undocumented, with a vaccination uptake of 37%, and only 5% received at least one booster dose.

Next-up: [Sampson County, North Carolina Community Report](#) just released!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NCFH'S FARMWORKER COVID-19 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS, [CLICK HERE](#).

Media & Research

Media Articles

[Food production employers repeatedly violated COVID-19 guidelines, report says](#)

NPR for Central California, July 7, 2022

- "The report looked at data from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health from April 2020 to August 2021, and found food production employers had four times more citations for breaking COVID-19 guidelines than all other sectors combined, including non-food manufacturing, retail, health care, skilled nursing and elder care."
- "The report also found that food production employers paid significantly less financial penalties for those violations."

[¡Salud! Helps Ensure That Latinx Vineyard Workers Get Much-Needed Health Care](#)

Willamette Week, July 13, 2022

- "When COVID arrived, ¡Salud! had the credibility and history with the community to encourage vaccines and provide testing. 'People trust the program.'"

[Mexico Says U.S. Agreed to Increase Work Visas for Mexicans and Central Americans](#)

Times of San Diego, July 14, 2022

- "The United States agreed to increase the number of work visas for Mexicans and Central Americans during high-level talks in Washington this week, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said."

[Op-ed: Farmworkers Face Stress and Depression. The Pandemic Made It Worse.](#)

Civil Eats, July 28, 2022

- "A new study underscores the multitude of stresses faced by farmworkers, including the ongoing impact of COVID-19, increasing heat and climate crises, as well as challenging working and living conditions."

Research Articles

[Power-building Partnerships for Health: Lessons From Santa Barbara About Building Power to Protect Farmworker Health and Advance Health Equity](#)

Journal of Public Health Management & Practice, July-August 2022 Volume

- Abstract: "The distribution of power in society is "upstream of the upstream" social determinants of health, and community organizers redistribute power to change social and political systems that shape health. Power-building Partnerships for Health (PPH) was launched in 2018 and pairs local public health departments and community organizing groups to support transformational health equity work, prioritizing trust and relationship building as precursors for action. Through PPH, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department partnered with 2 grassroots organizations, CAUSE and MICOP. This partnership led to their launching a Latinx Indigenous Migrant Health COVID-19 Task Force and to the passing of a first-of-its-kind Health Officer Order on safety in farmworker housing. This practice brief discusses the importance of relationship building and key activities within PPH, and the roles of both the health department and community organizers in taking action to advance health equity in Santa Barbara County during the pandemic."

[A Socio-Ecological Model to Assess Tuberculosis in Migrant Farmworkers in the US-Mexico Border Region](#)

Occupational Diseases and Environmental Medicine, May 31, 2022

- Abstract: “This research paper focuses on recommendations to mitigate Tuberculosis infection—both latent and active—in the migrant farmworkers in the United States with a special focus on the US-Mexico border. Using the Socio-Ecological Model as a theoretical framework, the TB health issues faced by this group are studied. The various determinants of health at every level of the Socio-Ecological Model are cogitated upon and culturally appropriate interventions are suggested. This research paper corroborates the fact that health issues facing mobile communities like migrant farmworkers require a synergistic approach by various stakeholders spanning the length and breadth of the Americas.”