

# NCFH National Pulse

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

Quarter 1: October, November, and December 2023

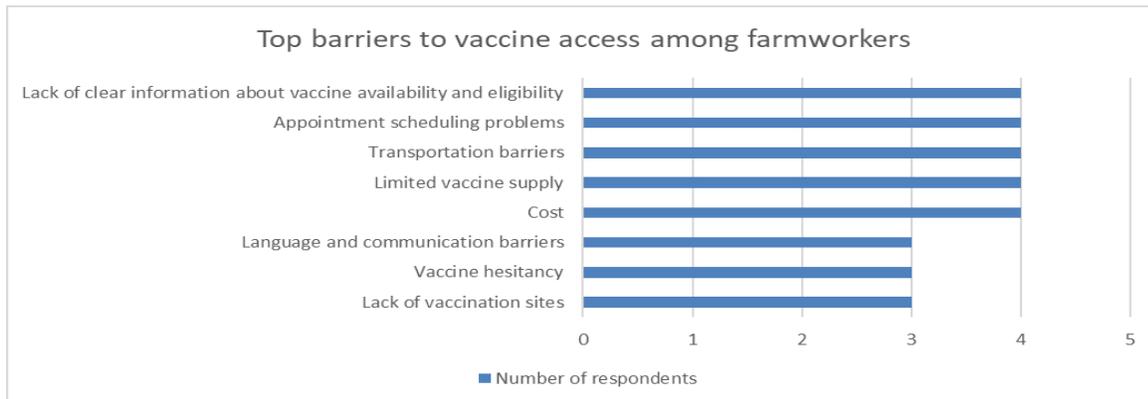
The purpose of the quarterly editions of the National Pulse is to systematically collect and share current and emerging health issues among farmworkers in the U.S. The National Pulse includes findings from network surveys, insights from recent data collection efforts with farmworkers, and a summary of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

## Findings from Network Survey

The poll this quarter explored the CDC's Bridge Access Program, which provides free COVID-19 vaccines to adults without health insurance and adults whose insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs. This program will end by December 31, 2024. Use these resources to [promote the program](#) and [expand equitable access](#) for COVID-19 vaccination.

Among all poll participants (n=29), 85% were aware that there are free COVID vaccines available through the CDC Bridge Access Program. Among health centers, 92% were aware, and among all other types of organizations, 80% were aware. Among health centers that were aware of the CDC Bridge Access Program, 50% were enrolled, 38% knew how to enroll but were not enrolled, and 13% did not know how to enroll. In addition, among these health centers, 0% correctly selected all eligible populations, however, 67% partially selected correct eligible populations.

Among all respondents, 54% did not believe that farmworkers in their community are having issues accessing the current COVID vaccine, while 29% believed that farmworkers are having issues. Among those that believed farmworkers were having issues accessing the current COVID vaccine, respondents identified top barriers including lack of clear information about vaccine availability and eligibility, appointment scheduling problems, transportation barriers, limited vaccine supply, and cost.



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

In collaboration with the Office of Binational Health at the California Department of Public Health, NCFH conducted two Rapid Community Assessments in early November in San Diego and Imperial Counties. A total of 682 farmworkers were surveyed between both counties. A little over three-fourths of participants (77%) were fully vaccinated with an FDA- or WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine, while only 11% were unvaccinated. In addition, 46% of participants received a flu vaccine in the past 12 months. A full report of the findings in these communities will be available in early 2024.

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

### **Media Articles**

[New report exposes significant gaps in pesticide safety regulation enforcement, impact on farmworkers](#)

Vermont Law & Graduate School, Sept 7, 2023

[Nighttime Harvests Can Protect Farmworkers from Blistering Heat, but They Bring New Risks](#)

Eater, Oct 12, 2023

[How Florida farmworkers are protecting themselves from extreme heat](#)

Grist, Oct 27, 2023

[U-M researchers document farmworker abuse in Michigan](#)

Michigan News, Oct 30, 2023

[Extreme Heat Pushes More Farmworkers to Harvest at Night, Creating New Risks](#)

Inside Climate News, Oct 31, 2023

[California imports doctors from Mexico to fill gaping holes in farmworker healthcare](#)

Los Angeles Times, Nov 8, 2023

[Central Coast Organizations Speak Out on Two Farmworker Deaths in Santa Barbara County](#)

Santa Barbara Independent, Nov 9, 2023

[Migrant worker's death prompts calls for extreme heat labor laws](#)

NC Health News, Nov 13, 2023

[Crisis hotline opens for farmers, ranchers, loggers and fishermen in Oregon](#)

Oregon Capital Chronicle, Nov 20, 2023

## Literature List

[EXPOSED AND AT RISK: Opportunities to Strengthen Enforcement of Pesticide Regulations for Farmworker Safety](#)

September 2023

A policy analysis revealing the inadequacies in legal safeguards meant to shield farmworkers from the adverse health impacts of pesticide exposure completed by the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at the Vermont Law and Graduate School, in partnership with Farmworker Justice.

[SARS-CoV-2 infection and long COVID among California farmworkers](#)

September 2023

This study was conducted to determine the prevalence of long COVID among California farmworkers. The study reported that 61.8% of participants had suspected or test confirmed COVID infection over 28 days. The authors found that farmworkers with long COVID had functioning limitations and reported greater fatigue than those with no COVID-19 history.

[Essential agriculture, sacrificial labor, and the COVID-19 pandemic in the US South](#)

October 2023

This article is a commentary on working conditions of H-2A workers in Georgia as a result of the COVID pandemic. The author brings to awareness the term agricultural exceptionalism, which



the author argues is a myth that agriculture should not have the same rules and regulations as other industries as it reinforces racial capitalism in the United States.

### [Communications for US Populations With Limited English Proficiency During Infectious Disease Outbreaks: A Scoping Review](#)

October 2023

This scoping review reports that most studies documented basic language barriers in communication during the COVID pandemic but limited research on nuanced barriers or languages other than Spanish.

### [Mobile Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines to Migrant Farmworkers in Minnesota](#)

November 2023

This report describes the mobile vaccination fair model that the University of Minnesota's Mobile Health Initiative utilized to distribute vaccines to migrant farmworkers and their families in southern Minnesota. In turn, this initiative enhanced partnerships among organizations, bridged geographic barriers, and expanded language access and services for southern Minnesota farmworkers.