

VACUNAS (VACCINES) UPDATE

National Alliance for Hispanic Health



COVID-19 WAS FOURTH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN 2022

According to data from the CDC, COVID-19 was the [fourth leading cause of death](#) in the U.S. in 2022, dropping from its place as the third leading cause of death in 2020 and 2021. COVID-19 contributed to nearly a quarter million deaths in 2022, which represents a 47% decrease from the 462,193 COVID-19 deaths in 2021. These data confirm that the death toll from the pandemic started to ease in 2022, but health experts warn that COVID-19 still continues to kill individuals in large numbers. Roughly 35,000 people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19 thus far in 2023. While the COVID-19 death rate is expected to continue declining, health officials emphasize the ongoing death toll is still significant.

The CDC encourages anyone who has not received an updated (bivalent) Pfizer or Moderna vaccine to do so now to better protect themselves from severe illness and death, regardless of whether they previously completed their (monovalent) primary series. **This is particularly true for adults ages 50 and over who are immunocompromised or have weakened immune systems, and people with underlying health conditions.**

Adults who are 65 and older are now eligible for an additional bivalent dose, and those who are immunocompromised may obtain additional doses on the recommendation of their healthcare provider. Stay [up to date](#) with your COVID-19 vaccines, visit www.vacunashelp.org for more information and go to www.vaccines.gov to find a COVID-19 vaccine near you.

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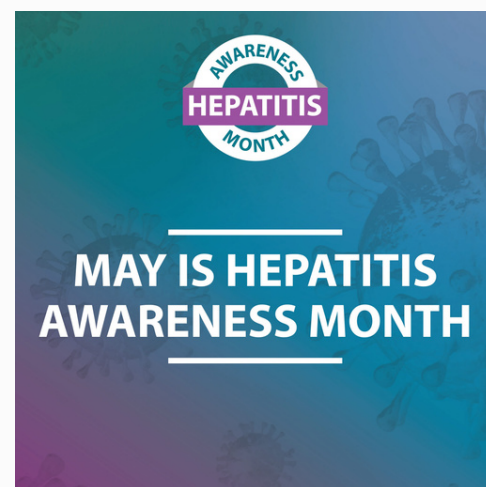
FDA APPROVES FIRST VACCINE FOR RSV

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration [approved](#) Arexvy, the first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine approved in the U.S., for individuals 60 years of age and older. [RSV](#) is a contagious respiratory virus that causes infections of the lungs and breathing passages. Although RSV is typically associated with infants, it can also be dangerous for seniors. Older adults, particularly those with underlying health conditions, are at high risk for severe disease caused by RSV. It is [estimated](#) that **around 159,000 adults 65 years of age and older are hospitalized each year with RSV in the U.S. and around 10,000 to 13,000 die due to RSV infection.** In a clinical trial with older adults, **Arexvy was 83% effective in preventing lower respiratory tract disease caused by RSV and 94% effective against severe disease.** The vaccine is expected to be available for older adults this fall in advance of RSV season. Health experts that advise the CDC on vaccine guidance will meet in June to discuss specific recommendations on use of the vaccine.



MAY IS HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH!

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver that is often caused by a virus, but can also be caused by heavy alcohol use, toxins, some medications, and certain medical conditions. **During Hepatitis Awareness Month, let's raise awareness of the most common types of viral hepatitis (hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C) while encouraging testing and vaccination.** Chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C are leading causes of liver cancer in the U.S., however, **both hepatitis A and hepatitis B can be prevented with vaccination,** and hepatitis C is curable with prescribed treatment. While over 90% of children have been vaccinated against Hepatitis B by the age of 2, only about 20% of adults have vaccine-induced immunity. Therefore in 2022 **the CDC [recommended](#) that all adults 19-59 years of age, and adults 60 years and older who are at high-risk for infection, get vaccinated.** Share free [resources](#) from the CDC within your community to encourage hepatitis testing and vaccination.



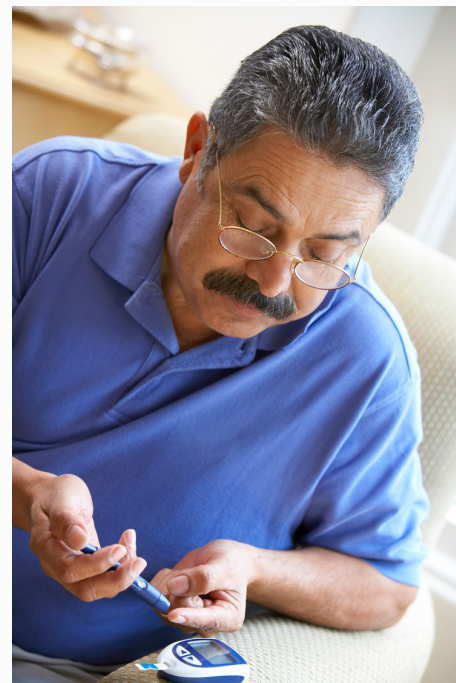
ADMINISTRATION LAUNCHING \$5 BILLION PROGRAM TO SPEED DEVELOPMENT OF CORONAVIRUS VACCINES

The Administration is [launching a \\$5 billion program](#) called “Project Next Gen” to speed development of coronavirus vaccines and treatments. **The program aims to better protect us from the currently mutating virus and potential threats from other coronaviruses in the future.** Similar to the previous “Operation Warp Speed” vaccine program, Project Next Gen will partner with private-sector companies to accelerate development of vaccines and therapies. The program will focus on three goals: **1) developing long-lasting monoclonal antibodies; 2) speed development of vaccines that produce mucosal immunity; and, 3) accelerate development of universal coronavirus vaccines to protect against new COVID-19 variants and other coronaviruses in the future.**



COVID-19 MAY INCREASE THE RISK OF TYPE 2 DIABETES

A [recent study](#) found that **individuals infected with COVID-19 were more likely to be diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes compared to individuals who had not been exposed to COVID-19.** The study also found that men with COVID-19 were more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than women, and individuals with severe COVID-19 needing hospitalization were more than twice as likely to develop diabetes compared to people not infected with the virus. Individuals admitted to the intensive care unit during their hospitalization were more than three times as likely to develop diabetes compared to those not infected with COVID-19. Researchers used a large data set from British Columbia to compare diabetes diagnoses between individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 and those not infected from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. While health experts note that the findings do not prove that COVID-19 infection causes diabetes, there are possible biological explanations for a link between the two conditions.



HHS BRIDGE ACCESS PROGRAM FOR COVID-19 VACCINES & TREATMENTS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently [announced a program](#) to provide access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments for uninsured individuals through their local pharmacies, community health centers, and other existing public health infrastructure. This new program, HHS Bridge Access Program for COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments, helps to address concerns regarding access to COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and treatment for uninsured individuals after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends on May 11th, 2023.

Key features of the program include providing COVID-19 vaccines through the existing adult vaccine safety net program known as Section 317. The CDC will purchase COVID-19 vaccines and distribute them to 64 state, territorial, and local health department immunization awardees. These awardees will then distribute vaccines to local health departments and participating HRSA-supported health centers. Additionally, the program will establish new partnerships with retail pharmacies that will enable them to continue offering free COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to uninsured individuals. HHS plans to make vaccines available free for uninsured persons as HHS would pay pharmacies for the cost of administering the shots, and pharmaceutical companies' patient assistance programs, working directly with the bridge program rather than individual patients, would bear the cost of the vaccines themselves. The pharmacy component of the program could be launched this fall and aims to include not only large pharmacy chains but local and independently owned chains as well.



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