

Special and Vulnerable Populations

COVID-19 Forum

September 24, 2021

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Today's Facilitators



Bob Burns, MPA
Director
National Center for Health
in Public Housing



Emily Kane, MPA
Senior Program Manager
National Nurse-Led
Care Consortium

Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Chat Icebreaker
- BPHC Update: Suma Nair, PhD, MS, RD
- Q&A with Suma
- Breakout Rooms
- Conclusion

National Training and Technical Assistance Partners (NTTAPs)



Forum's Predecessor: Special Pops Roundtable on Health Ctr. COVID-19 Vaccine Program, Spring 2021

Conducted Six Sessions, bi-weekly: (669 Attendees, Avg. 111/session)

- Roundtable 1. Vaccine Supply and Distribution, March 12, 2021, (161 Attendees)
- Roundtable 2. Outreach and Messaging, March 26, 2021 (129 Attendees)
- Roundtable 3. Staffing, April 9, 2021 (117 Attendees)
- Roundtable 4. Vaccine Hesitancy, April 23, 2021 (96 Attendees)
- Roundtable 5. Peer Sharing, May 7, 2021 (98 Attendees)
- Roundtable 6. Resource Sharing, May 21, 2021 (68 Attendees)

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum, 2021-2022

- Topics TBD based on status of COVID-19 and Health Center Challenges
- 4 Bi-monthly sessions per year (More if needed)
- 1 Hour Sessions, Fridays, 2-3 PM ET

- Session 1. September 24, 2021
- Session 2. November 19, 2021
- Session 3. January 28, 2022
- Session 4. March 25, 2022

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum, 2021-2022

- **Primary Goal:** Provide a vehicle for Health Centers, and other partners, e.g., PCAs and HCCNs, to engage in the timely exchange of information on addressing the impacts of COVID-19, including promising practices, resources and the challenges of providing treatment and prevention while maintaining operations and staff well-being.
- **Secondary Goal:** Enhance the quality, timeliness, and perceived relevance, authority and first-handedness of T/TA and information sharing, while reducing time and resources commitment for all– trainers/presenters, Federal agencies and participants/attendees alike.
- **Strategy:** Provide a collegial, virtual forum in collaboration with, and leveraging the resources and experience of NTTAPs, leading Federal Partners, and Health Centers.

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum, 2021-2022

Key Elements of Approach:

- Focus on relevant topics, e.g., COVID-19 Variants, Booster Vaccines, Youth Vaccines, Hesitancy, Staffing, etc.
- Address and Share Promising Practices, Resources and Challenges.
- Offer didactic presentations, Q&A, and breakouts-- with a “safe space” for discussions.
- Tailor content and format to the changing needs and priorities of the health centers.
- Provide feedback to BPHC on Health Center questions, concerns, challenges, needs and successes.

HRSA COVID-19 FAQs

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

If the answer to your question is not located here or in the [Coronavirus-Related Funding FAQs](#), please submit it through [Health Center Program Support online](#) and select "Coronavirus Inquiries (COVID-19)" as the issue type, or call 877-464-4772, option 2, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET, Monday-Friday (except federal holidays).

Access more [COVID-19 Information for Health Centers and Partners](#).

Access [FY 2020 Health Center Program Look-Alikes: Expanding Capacity for Coronavirus Testing \(LAL ECT\) Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Access resources for [UDS Novel Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Reporting](#).

https://bphc.hrsa.gov/emergency-response/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions?field_faq_category_tid=306&combine=

Health Center Resource Clearinghouse

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Health Center Resource Clearinghouse. At the top left is the logo, a red and blue geometric shape, followed by the text "HEALTH CENTER RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE". To the right is a navigation menu with links: "ABOUT", "PARTNERS", "SEARCH", "PRIORITY TOPICS", "PROMISING PRACTICES", and "CONNECT". Below this is a red banner with white text: "YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED! ALL health centers should complete to the weekly HRSA/BPHC COVID-19 Survey. Your responses are critical to identify community health center needs related to addressing the COVID-19 crisis." Underneath the banner is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search the Clearinghouse: Enter Search Terms Here" and a dark blue "SEARCH" button. On the left side, there is a "COVID-19 Resources:" section with a list of categories: "COVID-19 Promising Practices", "Get Prepared: Vaccine Distribution", "Emergency Management and Operations", "Telehealth", "Governance", and "Special and Vulnerable Populations". The main content area features a large image of a healthcare worker in full PPE (goggles, mask, cap, and gloves) interacting with an elderly woman who is also wearing a face mask. Overlaid on this image is the text "Quick Finds: Use the links below to find resources on key topics". At the bottom of the image area, there are three icons with labels: a first aid kit for "Clinical Issues", a person icon for "HIT/Data", and a group of people icon for "Social Determinants of Health".

HEALTH CENTER RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE

ABOUT • PARTNERS • SEARCH • PRIORITY TOPICS • PROMISING PRACTICES • CONNECT •

YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED! ALL health centers should complete to the weekly HRSA/BPHC COVID-19 Survey. Your responses are critical to identify community health center needs related to addressing the COVID-19 crisis.

Search the Clearinghouse: Enter Search Terms Here **SEARCH**

COVID-19 Resources:

- > COVID-19 Promising Practices
- > Get Prepared: Vaccine Distribution
- > Emergency Management and Operations
- > Telehealth
- > Governance
- > Special and Vulnerable Populations

↓ Quick Finds: ↓
Use the links below to find resources on key topics

Clinical Issues HIT/Data Social Determinants of Health

www.healthcenterinfo.org

Got Vaccinators?

Some health centers are facing challenges recruiting qualified individuals to support and expand their vaccination capacity.

If you have promising practices, sample recruitment tools or template documents, please consider sharing on the [Health Center Resource Clearinghouse Vaccine Distribution](#) page by completing this short [submit your resource](#) form.

Zoom Etiquette

- All participants muted upon entry
- Cameras on (if possible)
- Engage in breakout rooms
- Raise hand if you would like to unmute



Mentimeter

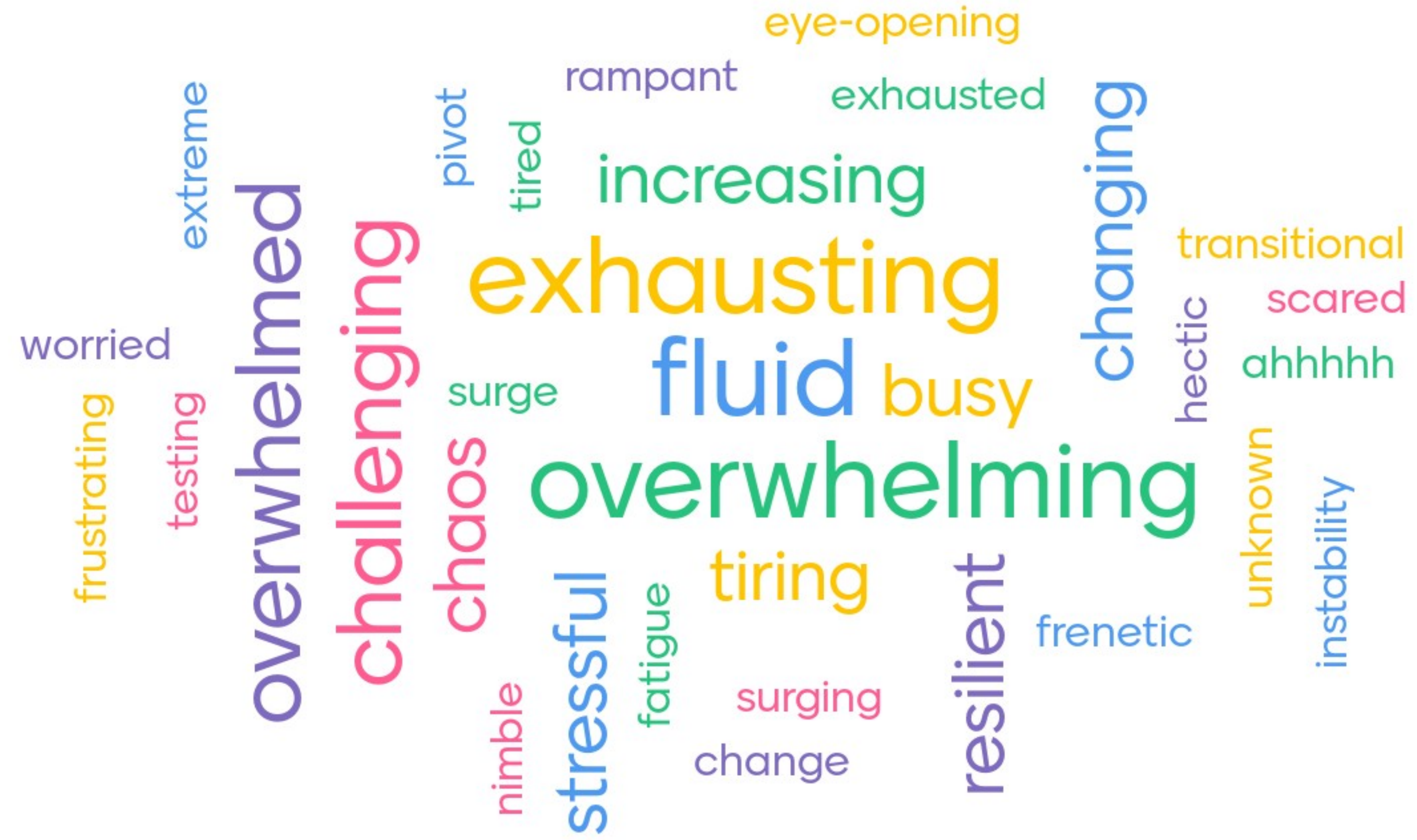
- Or, just go to www.menti.com in your browser or on your phone and use code **7371 4249**.



Where are you joining from?



What is one word to describe your organization's experience of COVID-19 in the last month?



What issue(s) concern you most related to COVID-19?

Access to testing

Staffing

Delta variant

Supplies

Inequitable care and treatment

Misinformation

Lack of direction and constantly changing protocols

Staffing,

Lack of cohesiveness as a country

What issue(s) concern you most related to COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccine policies

Vaccine hesitancy

Child vaccines

Healthcare mandate and loss of workforce

Healthcare shortages due to vaccine mandate

False info

Children eligibility

Workforce capacity for next wave of primary vax and boosters

Mandates

What issue(s) concern you most related to COVID-19?

Vaccines

ICU capacity

vaccine hesitancy

Never ending variants

Lack of data on breakthrough cases

Vaccine hesitancy

Booster shots

Reducing the impact on vulnerable people.

Vaccines and other preventive measures

What issue(s) concern you most related to COVID-19?

Vaccine confidence

Staffing

Testing

Patients not engaging

Contact tracing

Politics

Division in our communities

People not taking enough precautions.

Hesitancy

What issue(s) concern you most related to COVID-19?

Staffing

Will it ever get under control

Conflicting information

Patients health. Staff health. Normal.
Staff.

Vaccine policies

Seemingly never ending

Mandates

vaccine injuries

life after COVID-19



What issue(s) concern you most related to COVID-19?

CHC burnout

Changing regulations from OSHA and CMS

supplies. Normal day to day.

Hospital in crisis

Vaccinating

BPHC Update

Suma Nair, PhD, MS, RD

Director, Office of Quality Improvement
Bureau of Primary Health Care
Health Resources and Services
Administration



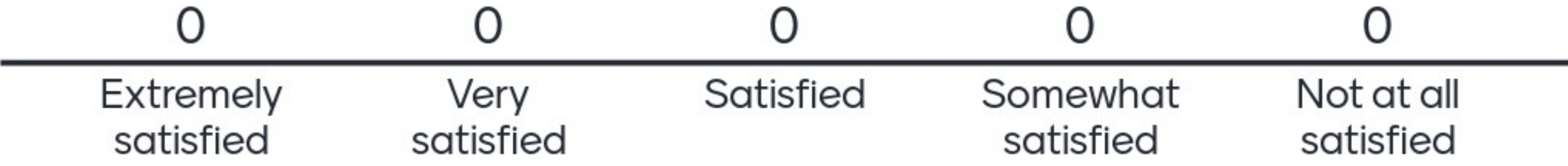
Breakout Rooms

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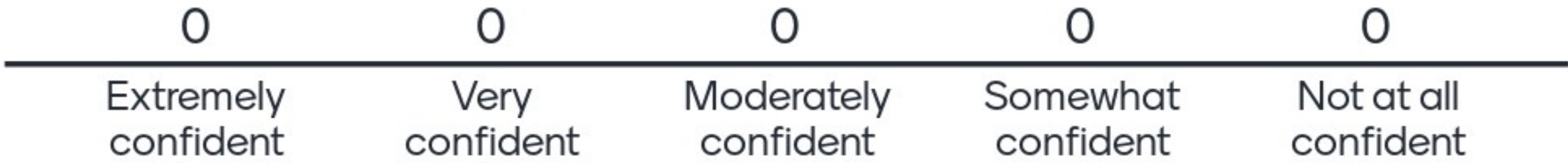
Evaluation + Thank you!

Next session: November 19th

Overall, how satisfied are you with this learning activity?



How confident are you that you will be able to apply information from this learning activity at your health center/organization?



Based on your level of knowledge prior to the learning activity, how would you rate changes to your knowledge as a result of the learning activity?

0	0	0	0	0
Extremely high level of knowledge gained	High level of knowledge gained	Moderate level of knowledge gained	Minimum level of knowledge gained	No knowledge gained

Please list future topics that you would like to see covered in these roundtable discussions.

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Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum

Friday, September 24, 2021

Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program Team
Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Vision: Healthy Communities, Healthy People



Presenter



Suma Nair PhD, MS, RD
Director, Office of Quality Improvement
Bureau of Primary Health Care
HRSA



Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program

AGENDA

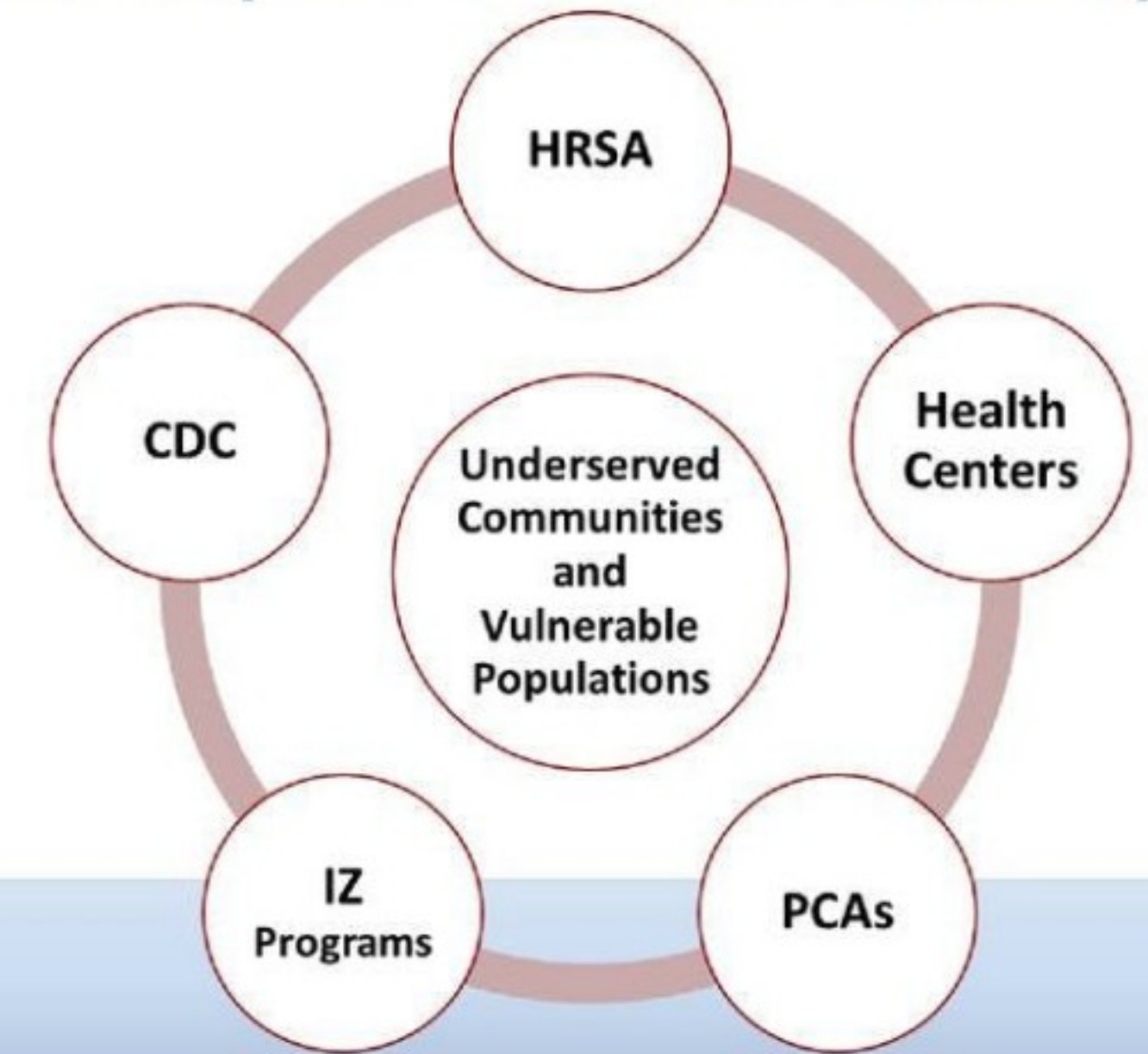
- Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program Updates
- Monoclonal Antibody Therapies
- [Path Out of the Pandemic COVID-19 Action Plan](#)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Planning Checklist
- Pediatric COVID-19 Doses
- Questions and Answers



Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program Overview

- Established in February 2021 to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines
- Separate federal allocation deployed in coordination with state and local jurisdictions
- HRSA and CDC partnered to directly allocate COVID-19 vaccine to health centers across the nation

Partnerships to Enhance Health Equity



Vaccine Program Focus Populations

Individuals experiencing homelessness	Public housing residents	Migrant/seasonal agricultural workers	Patients with limited English proficiency	Low income and minority patients	Rural/frontier populations	Tribal/Urban Indian populations
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Access information on the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program: <https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/health-center-program>

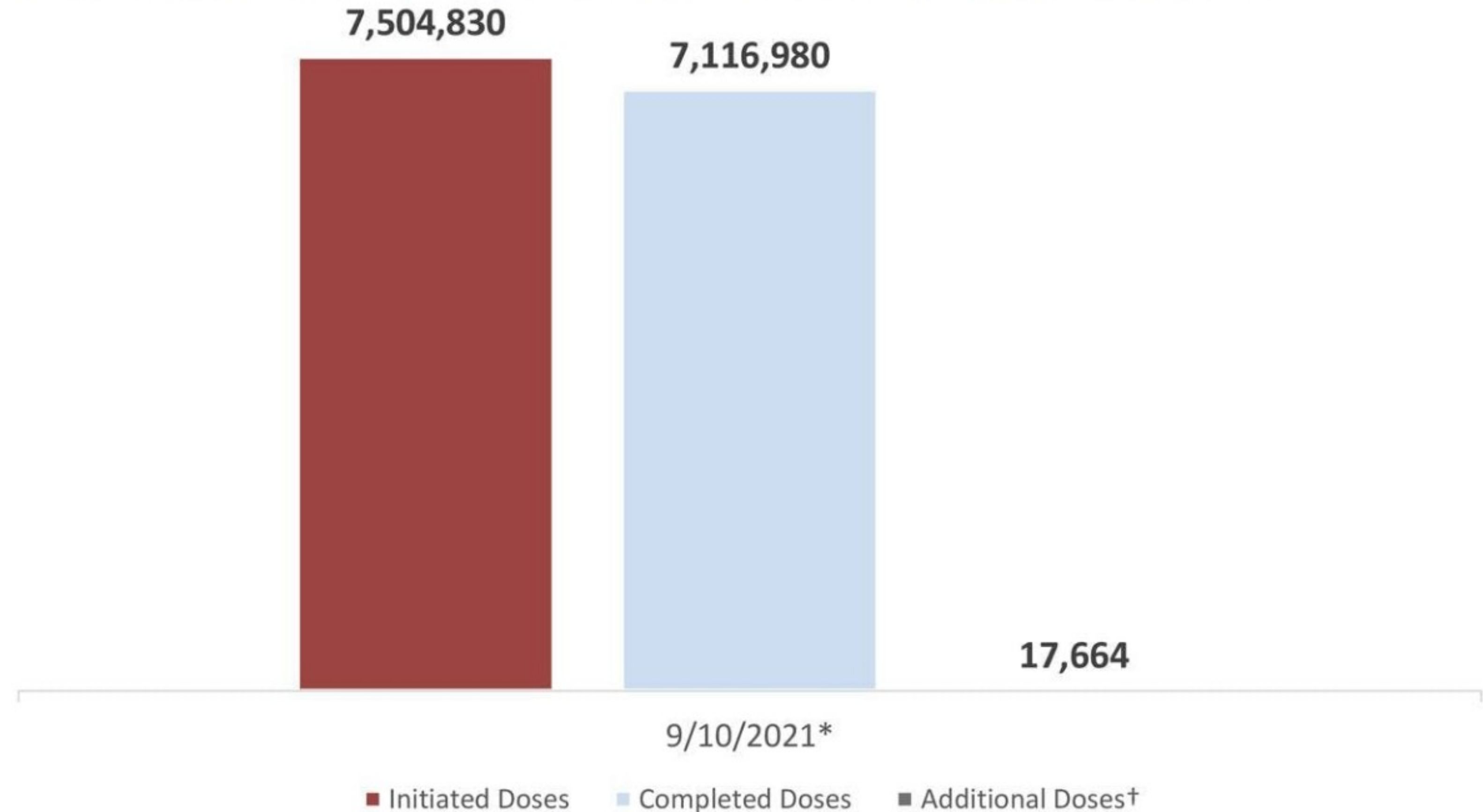


Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Accomplishments

A total of **14,639,474 COVID-19 vaccine doses** have been administered by health centers to date.

HC Vaccine Program

- **865** HCs/LALs participating in the HC Vaccine Program
- **6,389,574** COVID-19 vaccine doses administered
- **75%** to racial and/or ethnic minorities
- **37%** to Special Populations and patients with LEP
- **524,866** COVID-19 vaccine doses administered to adolescents



*Survey moved to bi-weekly reporting starting with the 7/16/2021 survey; † additional doses were added to the 9/10/2021 survey

Source: [Health Center COVID-19 Bi-Weekly Survey, 2020-2021](#)

For additional information regarding Health Center COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients, please visit: [Health Center COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Racial and Ethnic Minority Patients Dashboard](#)



Health Center Vaccine Program Updates

Looking Ahead

- Continue to Focus on Unvaccinated
- Vaccine Boosters
- Pediatric Vaccine Planning
- Vaccine Co-Administration (COVID-19 and Adult/Pediatric Vaccines)

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots

- Clinical Guidelines
- Vaccine Ordering
- Operational Considerations
- Patient and Provider Education
- Data and Reporting



CDC Recommendations for Pfizer-BioNTech Boosters

6 months after Pfizer-BioNTech primary series the following individuals are eligible for boosters:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster
- People aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions **should** receive a booster
- People aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions **may** receive a booster based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- People aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster based on their individual benefits and risks



Additional Booster Considerations from CDC

- ACIP and CDC's recommendations only applies to select populations who received the Pfizer vaccine
- People in the recommended age groups who received the Moderna or J&J/Janssen vaccine will likely need a booster shot
- Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals who are eligible for an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine should get that dose at least 28 days after the completion of their primary series
- CDC and ACIP will continue to follow the science, and evidence will inform decision-making about booster shot recommendations



Resources

- [CDC's Clinician Outreach and Communication Call](#)
(Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, 2-3 PM ET)
- Updated [CDC Booster Page](#)
- Updated [Interim Clinical Considerations](#)



New Resource

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Planning Checklist** includes information on staying connected, updating information systems and communications, bolstering partnerships, and tips for managing inventory
- COVID-19 booster shots will be given to individuals in accordance with all requirements and recommendations from the FDA, CDC, and ACIP



COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Planning Checklist

This document is a resource for health centers to assess their readiness to administer COVID-19 booster shots. A booster shot refers to a vaccine given to someone who built enough protection after completing an initial series of vaccinations, but that protection decreased over time. COVID-19 booster shots will be given to individuals in accordance with all requirements and recommendations from FDA, CDC, and the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

1. Stay Connected



- Visit the [Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program webpage](#) for general information about the program.
- Check in with your jurisdiction's Immunization Program Manager for the latest information and guidance specific to your jurisdiction. (For a list of program managers, copy and paste the following URL into your browser address bar: <https://www.immunizationmanagers.org/page/MemPage>)
- Monitor the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Support webpage](#) for updated recommendations, requirements, and other guidance.
- Visit the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot webpage](#) for the latest guidance.

Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program participants should:

- Frequently check the [Vaccine Program Online Community \(VPC\)](#) to review program updates, training/technical assistance information, and engage with other health centers. For help logging in or requesting access, please contact [Health Center Program Support](#).
- Tune into the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program's office hours. Visit the [VPC's Upcoming Events](#) page under the Discussion Board for more information.

2. Information Technology



- Remain aware of changes to Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program and/or jurisdictional immunization reporting requirements. For the latest Health Center Vaccine Program guidance and reporting requirements, visit the [VPC](#) and [Health Center Survey](#) webpages. For the latest guidance from your jurisdictional immunization program, contact your Immunization Program Manager. (For a list of program managers, copy and paste the following URL into your browser address bar: <https://www.immunizationmanagers.org/page/MemPage>)
- Prepare data collection systems to support new requirements, including but not limited to: new codes for billing and payments, survey reporting, and tracking vaccine types and doses.
- Ensure you have a process to verify that patients receive the right vaccine type and dose, especially if the patient does not have a vaccination card.
- Ensure patient reminder and scheduling systems are up-to-date and have the capacity to handle increases in user traffic.



Path Out of the Pandemic



Vaccinating the
Unvaccinated



Keeping Schools
Safely Open



Increasing Testing &
Requiring Masking



Further Protecting
the Vaccinated



Protecting Our
Economic Recovery



Improving Care for
those with COVID-19

Pediatric Immunizations



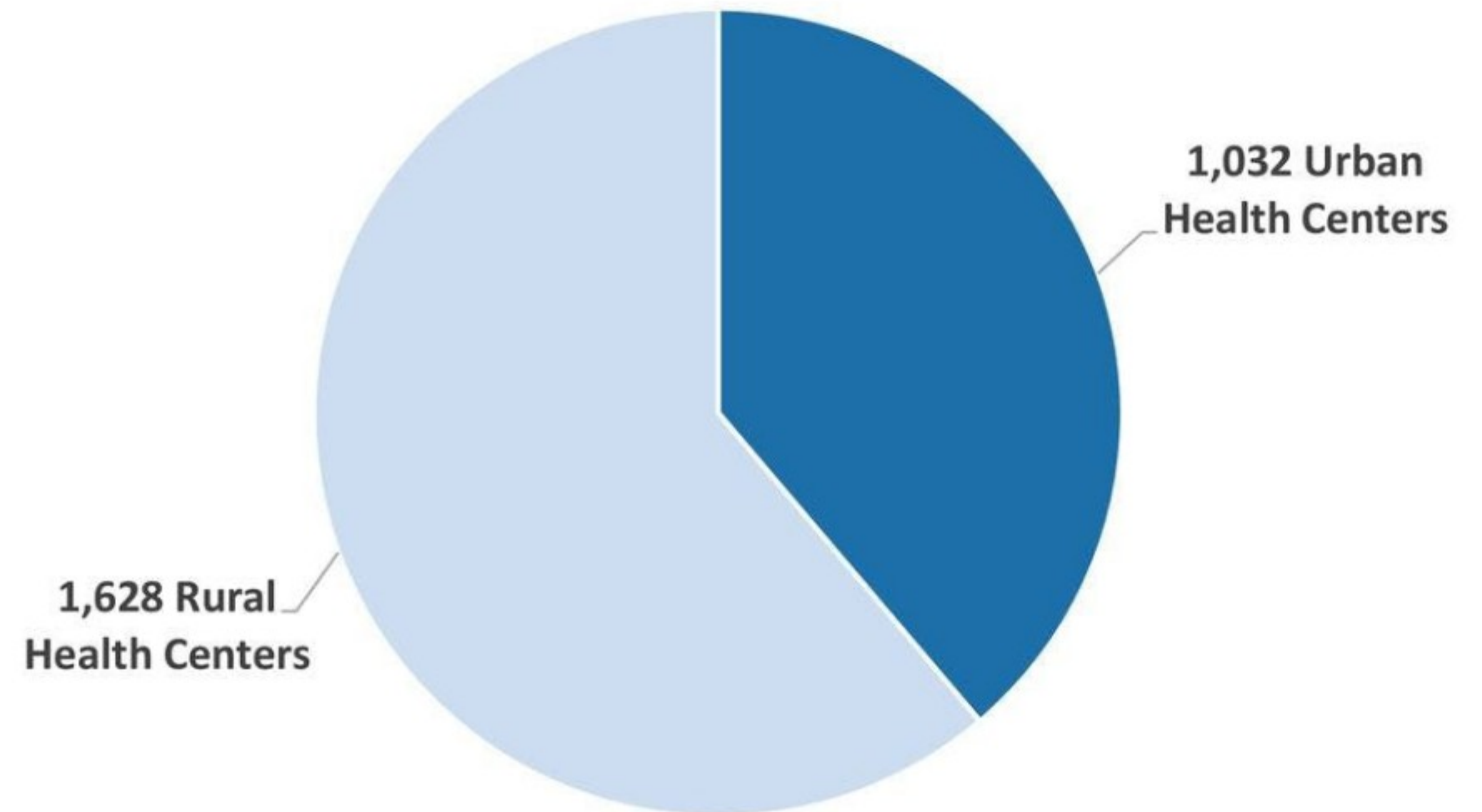
- In preparation for the eventual approval of the COVID-19 vaccine for children, this is a reminder to administer missed vaccines and other immunizations, including the flu shot, to your adolescent and child patients.
- Administering those shots in advance of the COVID vaccine will reduce the number of shots to be given at the same time as the COVID vaccine.

COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) Therapy

525 health centers provided patients with access to monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapy, either directly or through referrals.

- **60 health centers** administered **2,660 mAb doses** directly to patients.
- Challenges in providing access to mAb therapy:
 1. Therapy administration/onsite logistics
 2. Staffing capacity
 3. Access to therapeutics

mAb Doses Administered by Health Center Type



*Survey updated to include mAb data starting with the 8/27/2021 survey
Source: [Health Center COVID-19 Bi-Weekly Survey, 2020-2021](#)



Questions?



Thank You!

Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



For general information on the Health Center COVID-19 Vaccine Program, please visit:
<https://www.hrsa.gov/coronavirus/health-center-program>.

bphc.hrsa.gov

[BPHC Contact Form](#)



[Sign up for the *Primary Health Care Digest*](#)

