

COVID-19 Vaccination: Reaching People Experiencing Homelessness and the Field

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Outline

- **COVID-19 Basics**
- **ACIP Recommendations for Vaccine Allocation**
- **Homelessness and State Allocation**
- **President Biden's National Strategy**

COVID-19 Basics from the CDC

What we know about COVID-19

- Infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can result in a range of illnesses, from mild symptoms to severe illness and death.
- We don't know how SARS-CoV-2 will affect each person.
- Some people are more likely than others to become severely ill, such as older adults (65+ years) or people with certain medical conditions.



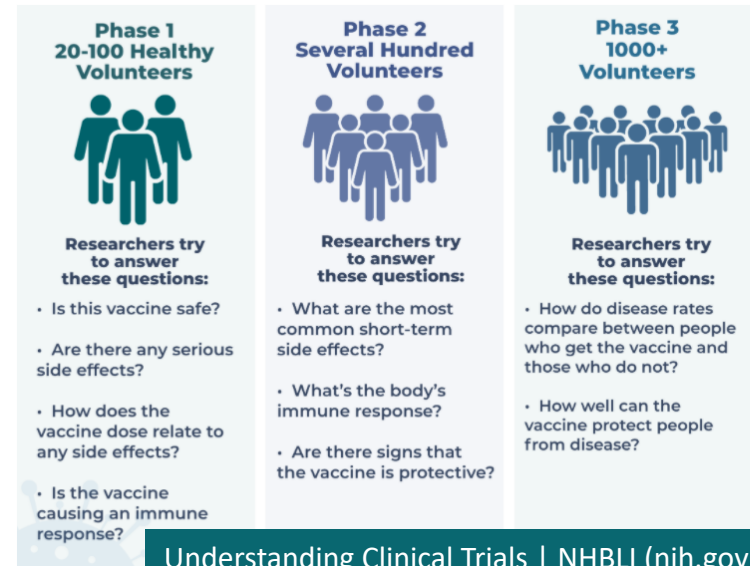
How to prevent COVID-19

- **Wear a mask** that covers your mouth and nose.
- **Avoid close contact** with others. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
- **Avoid crowds.** The more people you are in contact with, the more likely you are to be exposed to COVID-19.
- **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched surfaces daily.
- **Wash hands** often with soap and water.
- **Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer** with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.



Adding new measures for prevention: COVID-19 vaccines

- FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is a process that helps facilitate the availability and use of medicines and vaccines during public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- Two vaccines have received an EUA (1/19/21):
 - Pfizer-BioNTech (BNT162b2)
 - Moderna (mRNA-1273)
- COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the **same safety standards** as all vaccines.

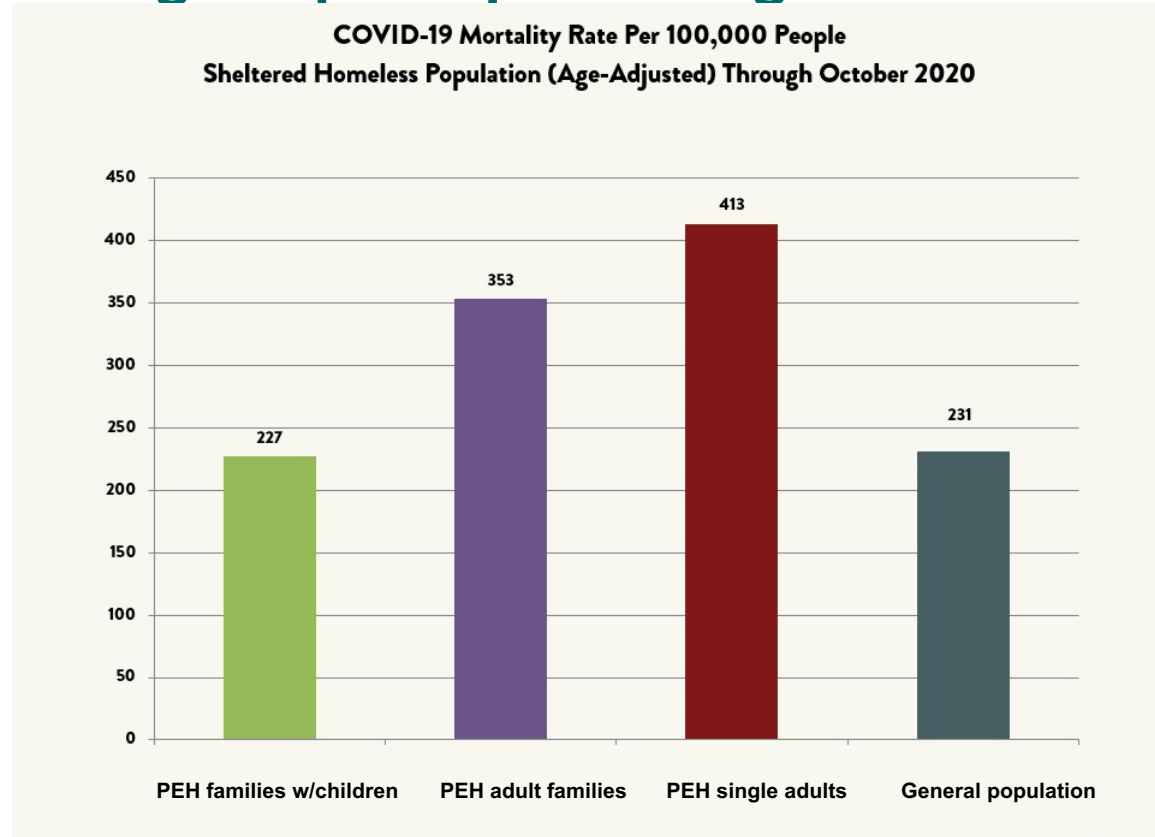


ACIP Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation

1a	1b	1c
Health Care Personnel	75 Years or Older	65-74 Years of Age
Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities	Non-Health Care Front-Line Essential Workers -	16-64 Years of Age with High-Risk Medical Conditions -
	<i>First Responders</i>	<i>Obesity</i>
	<i>Corrections Officers</i>	<i>Diabetes</i>
	<i>Public Transit Workers</i>	<i>Cardiovascular Disease</i>
	<i>Grocery Store Workers</i>	<i>Essential Workers not Included in 1b –</i>
	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Food Service Workers</i>

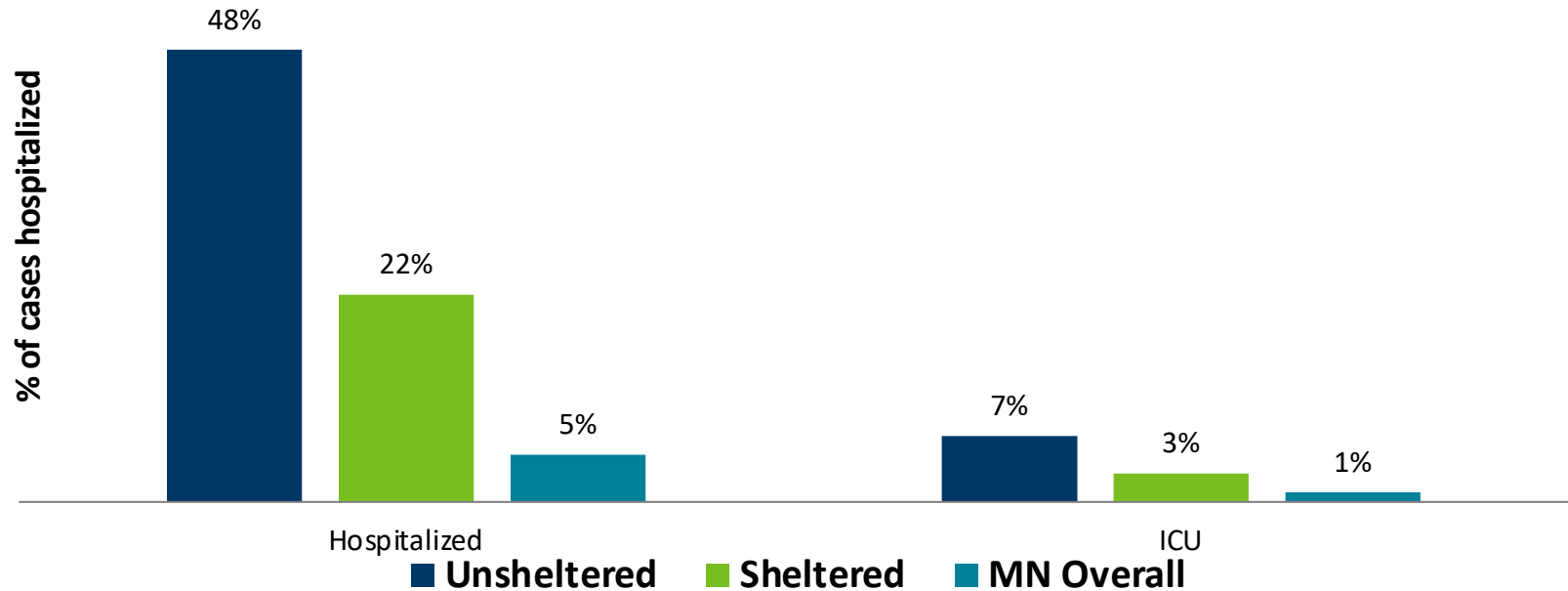
What About People Experiencing Homelessness and Those Working in the Field?

COVID-19 among People Experiencing Homelessness



PEH are hospitalized at a much higher rate than all Minnesotans.

COVID-Related Hospitalizations through January 21, 2021



CDC considerations for congregate settings

- Staff and residents share an increased risk of disease.
- Jurisdictions may choose to vaccinate persons who reside at congregate living facilities (e.g., homeless shelters) at the same time as the frontline staff.



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/phased-implementation.html>

States Have Updated Prioritization to Include Homelessness in Early Stages

- 26 states include congregate settings in 1b
- 28 states have moved people 65 and older to either 1a or 1b
- Homelessness is also listed in 1c

<https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/the-covid-19-vaccine-priority-line-continues-to-change-as-states-make-further-updates/>

National Strategy for COVID-19 Response – 7 Goals

- **Restore trust**
- **Launch a safe and effective vaccine campaign**
- **Mitigate spread through testing, masking, data....**
- **Expand the Defense Production Act**
- **Safely re-open schools, businesses, and travel**
- **Advance equity**
- **Restore global leadership and future preparedness**

Key Components of the National Strategy (Examples)

- **Vow to meet the needs of hard-to-reach populations to make vaccines more accessible and equitable – work with local public health officials**
- **Create as many venues for vaccines as possible in communities and settings people trust**
- **Drive equity – use demographic data of hardest hit communities to direct resources (establish Health Equity Taskforce)**
- **Work with Congress to strengthen social safety nets (such as housing)**

Resources on the CDC website

COVID-19 Vaccination General Information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

Resources for COVID-19 and Homelessness:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/index.html>

COVID-19 Vaccination among People Experiencing Homelessness FAQs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/vaccine-faqs.html>

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Congress in 2021

A preliminary look at priorities on homelessness

Three categories of issues

COVID-related crisis response

Strengthening the homeless assistance system

Making housing a public good

Other possibilities

Some basics on what Congress will be doing

Emergency response bill – “Rescue”

Another big bill responding to crisis – “Recovery”

Regular appropriations

Other legislation

“Reconciliation”

Only requires 50+1 Senate votes

Budget resolution, reconciliation instructions

Only to deal with issues related to budget

Requires additional work by Senate Committees

Can only be used once for each fiscal year

Has not yet been used for FY21

“Rescue”

Our ask –

Money for homelessness - \$6-8 billion

Additional emergency rental assistance - \$25 billion

500,000 vouchers - \$28 billion

Acquisition funds homelessness - \$44 billion

“Rescue”

Committees working on it today, this week
After that, Leadership will make decisions
Bipartisan? Maybe
Reconciliation? Probably
“Deadline”: Mid-March

Homelessness Appropriations

Seeking a \$300 million increase for homeless assistance

Other priorities that will be developed

“302(b) letter” coming shortly

Key period will probably be in the summer

Big changes to housing policy

Universal (“mandatory”) vouchers – historic possibility

Will it be in Biden “Recovery” proposal (late February)?

Will Congress undertake it?

Recovery/Stimulus/Infrastructure bill coming after Rescue
A FY22 Reconciliation bill?

OSAH Agenda – rent subsidy, capital, emergency
assistance: We’ll keep going until it’s done

Congress

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