

Getting More Rural Americans Connected to Vital Health Services: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that they have signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to work together on the [Rural Telehealth Initiative, a joint effort to collaborate and share information to address health disparities, resolve service provider challenges, and promote broadband services and technology](#) to rural areas in America. This action delivers on President Trump’s recently signed Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Telehealth Access. The ongoing coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of telehealth in delivering quality healthcare to rural Americans.



Vaccine Updates

It’s Out! Draft Framework for Equitable Allocation of the COVID-19 Vaccine: As mentioned in yesterday’s email, the National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine’s released their [Discussion Draft for the Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine](#). There will be a [listening session tomorrow](#) from 2:00 – 5:00 PM ET about the draft and [public comments](#) will be accepted through September 4, 2020.

Testing and Treatment

Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments: CDC updated [resources for conducting contact tracing](#) to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Ineffective PPE: The FDA alerted health care facility risk managers, procurement staff, and health care providers that medical gowns sold by Laws of Motion PPE, including surgical gowns, have potential quality issues that affect the level of fluid barrier protection and should not be used as personal protective equipment at this time. The [Letter to Health Care Providers](#) includes information for reporting problems with the Laws of Motion PPE gowns, including surgical gowns.

Testing Updates: To date, the FDA has currently authorized 230 tests under EUAs; these include 186 molecular tests, 40 antibody tests, and 4 antigen tests.

Reopening Information

Operating Schools During COVID-19: CDC released updated considerations on [how schools can protect health during COVID-19](#).

Staffing Resources: CDC updated [resources and guidance on enhancing frontline public health capacity](#) in state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments to intensify the coordinated response to COVID-19.

Information for Specific Populations

Limiting Workplace Violence Associated with COVID-19 Prevention Policies in Retail and Services Businesses: CDC updated [strategies to limit violence towards workers](#) that may occur when businesses put in place policies and practices to help minimize the spread of COVID-19 among employees and customers.

Research Updates

Study Ties COVID-19-Related Syndrome in Kids to Altered Immune System: NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins on a [study that ties COVID-19 related syndrome in kids to altered immune system](#). With COVID-19 cases in children having increased by 21 percent in the United States since early August, NIH and others are continuing to work hard on getting a handle on this poorly understood complication. Many think that MIS-C isn't a direct result of the virus, but seems more likely to be due to an [intense autoimmune response](#). In a recent study in *Nature Medicine*, some of the first evidence that MIS-C is connected to specific changes in the immune system that, for reasons that remain mysterious, sometimes follow COVID-19.



Francis S. Collins @NIHDirector · 7h

Why do some #kids with #COVID19 develop a severe inflammatory syndrome days or weeks later? Some hints from studies of their #immune systems. #NIH



Study Ties COVID-19-Related Syndrome in Kids to Altered Immune Syst...
Most children infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, develop only a mild illness. But, days or weeks later, a small percentage ...
[directorsblog.nih.gov](#)

NIH-Supported Study to Track Prevalence and Impact of SARS-CoV-2 Among Pregnant Women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: NIH has launched a [study to track the prevalence and impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection among approximately 16,000 pregnant women](#) in seven low- and middle-income countries. The study will follow women through pregnancy and 12 months after childbirth to compare maternal, fetal and newborn outcomes of participants who have been infected with the virus to those of pregnant women who have not been infected.