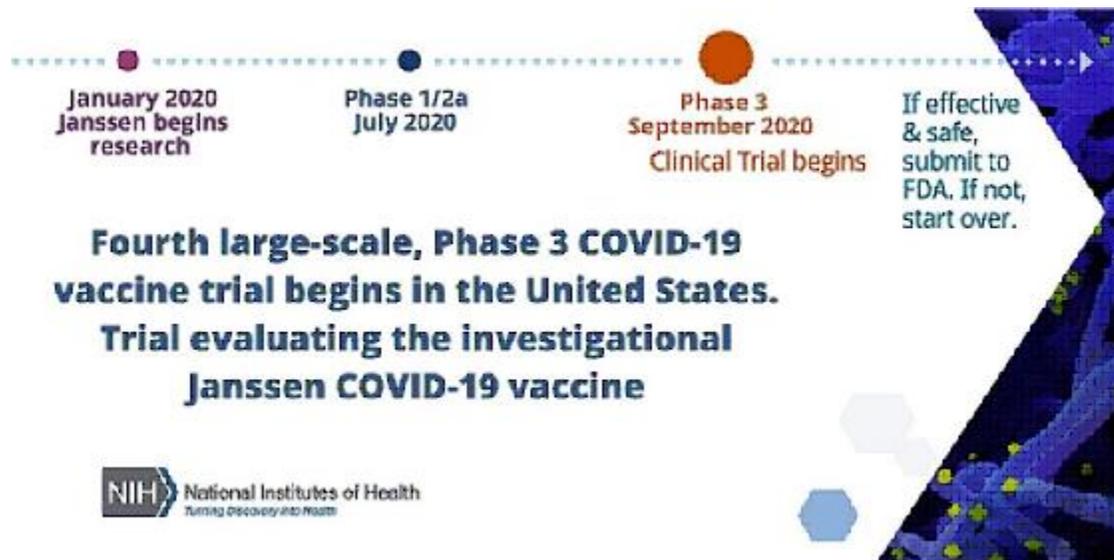


Fourth Large-Scale COVID-19 Vaccine Trial Begins in the United States: Today, NIH announced that [Johnson and Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine entered Phase 3 of their clinical trial](#). This is the 4th vaccine to enter Phase 3 clinical trials in the U.S. and represents the Administration's commitment to bringing a safe, effective vaccine to the American people by the end of the year. The trial is designed to evaluate if the investigational Janssen COVID-19 vaccine (JNJ-78436725) can prevent symptomatic COVID-19 after a single dose regimen. Up to 60,000 volunteers will be enrolled in the trial at up to nearly 215 clinical research sites in the United States and internationally. Enrollment diversity in the trials is crucial. You can volunteer here: <https://www.coronaviruspreventionnetwork.org/>.



Senate HELP Hearing for An Update on the Federal Response to COVID-19: NIAID Director Dr. Anthony Fauci, CDC Director Dr. Robert Redfield, Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Brett Giroir, and FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn testified today in front of the Senate HELP Committee to give an update on the federal response to COVID-19. You can watch the hearing and read their testimonies [here](#).



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"In the end, FDA will not authorize or approve a vaccine that we would not feel comfortable giving to our families." -- FDA Commissioner @SteveFDA



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"As we've indicated previously, we plan on seeking advice from the Vaccines and Related Biologics Products Advisory Committee." @SteveFDA said. The committee's decision will be public, and the public will be able to comment. "The process will be transparent and independent."



Funding

Administration Announces \$200 million from CDC to Jurisdictions for COVID-19 Vaccine Preparedness:

HHS is announcing upcoming action by the [CDC to provide \\$200 million to jurisdictions for COVID-19 vaccine preparedness](#). Funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) will provide critical infrastructure support to existing grantees through CDC's immunization cooperative agreement. CDC is awarding \$200 million to 64 jurisdictions through the existing Immunizations and Vaccines for Children cooperative agreement. These funds, along with the previous support CDC has provided, will help states prepare for the COVID-19 vaccine.

Testing and Treatment

NIH Expands Clinical Trials to Test Convalescent Plasma Against COVID-19: Two randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials funded by the NIH are expanding enrollment to [further evaluate convalescent plasma as a treatment for patients hospitalized with COVID-19](#). Preliminary observational studies indicate that convalescent plasma may improve outcomes among severely ill and hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Prospective, well-controlled randomized trials are needed to generate sufficient data on

whether convalescent plasma is effective and safe for the treatment of COVID-19. Convalescent plasma is blood plasma taken from people who have recovered from COVID-19. It contains antibodies that can recognize and neutralize SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, as well as other components that may contribute to an immune response.

Testing at HBCUs: To date, the federal government has delivered 249,000 Abbott BinaxNOW tests to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in order to prevent potential COVID-19 outbreaks in higher-risk communities.

CMS Updates

CMS Issues Urgent Call to Action Following Drastic Decline in Care for Children in Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program Due to COVID-19 Pandemic: Today, CMS released preliminary Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) data revealing that, during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), [rates for vaccinations, primary, and preventive services among children in Medicaid and CHIP have steeply declined](#). This decline may have significant impacts on long-term health outcomes for children, as Medicaid and CHIP cover nearly 40 million children, including three quarters of children living in poverty and many with special health care needs that require health services. Further, as many schools remain closed for in-person instruction, many of the key services children receive may be delayed, such as child screens and vaccinations prior to the start of the school year or in-school services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. Because preventative and routine healthcare is crucial to ensuring that children stay healthy, CMS is releasing this preliminary data to raise awareness of the vital services Medicaid and CHIP provides, and calling on stakeholders to take action to make services more readily available so that we can begin closing the gap in care for children. A [Fact Sheet](#) and [Preliminary Medicaid & CHIP Data Snapshot](#) have been released for review.

Information for Specific Populations

Coronavirus Scams, Older Adults, & Financial Protection: Join experts from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and the Administration for Community Living at HHS for a [free webinar](#). The FTC will begin the program with an overview of coronavirus-related scams targeting older adults. The CFPB will share resources to help older adults avoid financial distress due to the pandemic. HHS will conclude the webinar with a discussion of the role of the aging network, including Adult Protective Services, legal services attorneys and Long-term Care Ombudsman program experts. The panelists will share government resources for aging service providers and older consumers.

Research Updates

Changing Age Distribution of the COVID-19 Pandemic: CDC released an MMWR on the [Changing Age Distribution of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) in the U.S. between May and August, 2020. During June–August 2020, COVID-19 incidence was highest in persons aged 20–29 years, who accounted for >20% of all confirmed cases. Younger adults likely contribute to community transmission of COVID-19. Across the southern United States in June 2020, increases in percentage of positive SARS-CoV-2 test results among adults aged 20–39 years preceded increases among those aged ≥60 years by 4–15 days. Strict adherence to community mitigation strategies and personal preventive behaviors by younger adults is needed to help reduce infection and subsequent transmission to persons at higher risk for severe illness.

Don't Forget to Get Your Flu Vaccine: CDC recommends getting the flu vaccine by October 31 for this year's flu season. Surgeon General Adams is leading by example by getting his flu vaccine!