

Intended for US healthcare professionals.

# Help to keep patients informed about COVID-19

COVID-19 is still an ongoing concern.<sup>1</sup> It remains important to discuss the potential impact of COVID-19 with patients to help them understand the importance of staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations.<sup>2</sup>

Actor portrayals.

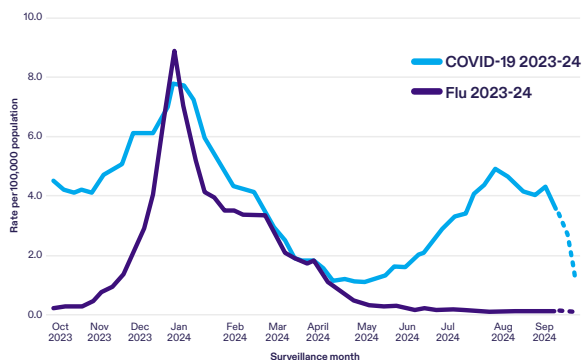
## Understanding the impact

People of all ages remain at risk for COVID-19-associated hospitalization throughout the year. In adults, the risk for hospitalization increases with age.<sup>3</sup>

According to the CDC, across all ages, the rate of COVID-19-related hospitalizations between October 1, 2023 and September 28, 2024 was

# 198 per 100,000 people<sup>3</sup>

RESP-NET weekly rates of COVID-19 and influenza virus-associated hospitalizations from October 1, 2023 through September 28, 2024<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup>Data are preliminary and subject to change as more data become available.

According to the provisional data from CDC's National Vital Statistics System, across all ages, between October 1, 2023 and September 30, 2024, there were

# ~59,000

## COVID-19-associated deaths<sup>4</sup>

THAT'S AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN ~160 DEATHS PER DAY IN THE US, PRIMARILY DRIVEN BY ADULTS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER<sup>5</sup>

## 2023-2024 formula vaccines were underutilized

According to the CDC, from September 2023 to January 2024,

# 91%

 of immunocompetent adults aged ≥18 years with a COVID-19-associated hospitalization

### DID NOT RECEIVE A 2023-2024 FORMULA COVID-19 VACCINE<sup>6†‡</sup>

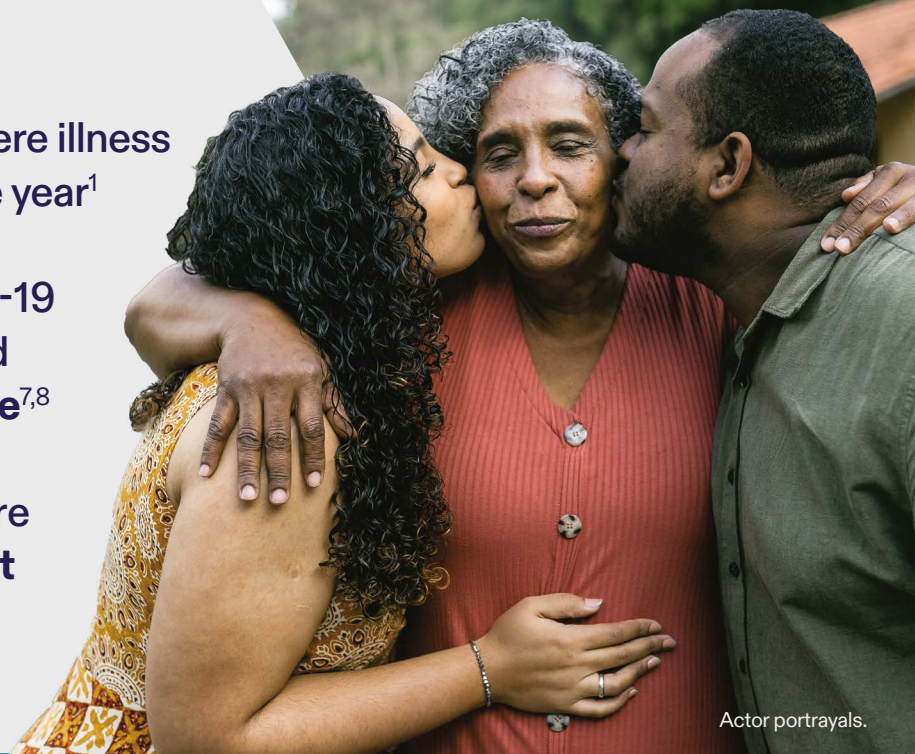
<sup>†</sup>Includes all eligible persons who did not receive a 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of the number of previous COVID-19 vaccine doses.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>‡</sup>Potential misclassification of vaccination status was 1 limitation identified by the authors.<sup>6</sup>

CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;  
RESP-NET = Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network.

# Help patients make informed decisions

- COVID-19 continues to cause severe illness and hospitalization throughout the year<sup>1</sup>
- Protection from previous COVID-19 vaccination wanes over time, and new variants continue to emerge<sup>7,8</sup>
- Updated COVID-19 vaccines were designed to help protect against currently circulating strains<sup>7</sup>



Actor portrayals.

## What you can do

### Work to turn hesitancy into confidence

With COVID-19 still making an impact, healthcare professionals play an important role in helping patients make informed health decisions.<sup>2</sup> As a trusted source of health information, a healthcare professional's strong vaccination recommendation can be a powerful motivator for patients.<sup>2,9</sup>

**Consider talking with patients about the importance of staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccination recommendations.**

**References:** 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). COVID Data Tracker. COVID-19 update for the United States. November 4, 2024. Accessed November 7, 2024. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home> 2. CDC. Talking with patients about COVID-19 vaccination. November 3, 2021. Accessed November 7, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/hcp/engaging-patients.html> 3. CDC. Respiratory Virus Hospitalization Surveillance Network (RESP-NET). October 10, 2024. Accessed November 13, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/resp-net/dashboard/index.html> 4. CDC. COVID Data Tracker. Trends in United States COVID-19 deaths, emergency department (ED) visits, and test positivity by geographic area. October 31, 2024. Accessed November 7, 2024. [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends\\_totaldeaths\\_select\\_00](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends_totaldeaths_select_00) 5. Taylor CA, Patel K, Patton ME, et al. COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations Among U.S. Adults Aged ≥65 Years — COVID-NET, 13 States, January–August 2023. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2023;72(40):1089-1094. 6. DeCuir J, Payne AB, Self WH, et al. Interim effectiveness of updated 2023–2024 (monovalent XBB.1.5) COVID-19 vaccines against COVID-19–associated emergency department and urgent care encounters and hospitalization among immunocompetent adults aged ≥18 years — VISION and IVY Networks, September 2023–January 2024. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2024;73(8):180-188. 7. CDC. Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. October 3, 2024. Accessed November 7, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html> 8. CDC, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. SARS-CoV-2 variant XEC increases as KP.3.1.1 slows. November 1, 2024. Accessed November 7, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/sars-cov-2-variant-xec-increases-as-kp-3-1-1-slows.html> 9. Bjork A, Morelli V. Immunization strategies for healthcare practices and providers. In: *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*, 14th ed. Hall E, Wodi AP, Hamborsky J, et al, eds. CDC, 2021.