



MEDIA ADVISORY

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15 Healthcare Organizations Call on Food and Drug Administration to Expedite Approval of COVID Treatments Options

The National Hispanic Medical Association sent a letter to the FDA with 14 other healthcare organizations asking for expedited approval of COVID treatments as seasonal virus activity grows

WASHINGTON — the [National Hispanic Medical Association \(NHMA\)](#), the nation's largest membership organization of Hispanic physicians, and 14 healthcare organizations urge the FDA to expedite the study and approval of COVID treatments, including monoclonal antibodies, to protect people, especially those who are immunocompromised from new COVID variants.

Respiratory virus activity is rising in the U.S., leading to many hospitalizations. In the week concluding on December 23, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) revealed over 29,000 hospital admissions due to COVID-19. During this same period, there was a 12% surge in weekly emergency department visits, and hospitalizations increased by approximately 17%.

Monoclonal antibodies showed great promise early in the pandemic; however, none of the five antibody treatments approved by the FDA for emergency use for COVID are no longer effective against new COVID strains. The FDA must update and expedite monoclonal antibodies and other COVID treatments that protect against new mutations. Expanding these prevention tools beyond vaccines will help address health inequity among underserved communities.

Irasema Garza, former assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Labor, and Guadalupe Pacheco, director of programs at the National Hispanic Health Foundation, pointed out in a recent op-ed that Latinos "are 19% of the population but account for more than 24% of COVID cases in the United States. When the CDC used weighted population distributions,

Established in 1994 in Washington, DC, the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) is a non-profit association representing the interests of 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States. NHMA is dedicated to empowering Hispanic physicians to be leaders who will help eliminate health disparities and improve the health of Hispanics.



Latinos comprised 33% of COVID deaths, highlighting the serious disproportionate impact of COVID on this community."

"Given that Hispanic physicians represent only seven percent of U.S. practicing physicians, NHMA partners with the entire health workforce to advocate for improved access to COVID -19 treatments for our disproportionately impacted communities," said Dr. Elena Rios, president and CEO of NHMA.

[Click here](#) to read the full letter to the FDA from **NHMA, Latinx Medical and Health Society, National Association of Latino Healthcare Executives, National Hispanic Nurses Association, The Latino Coalition, Equality Science, National Latino Behavioral Health Association, Latino Medical Students Association, Alliance for Aging Research, Association of American Indian Physicians, Concilio CDS, Inc., HealthyWomen, National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, National Hispanic Council on Aging and Why We Vaccinate.**

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