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Emerging Viral Pathogens and Vaccine Access for Vulnerable Populations

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Newly emerging viral pathogens such as the SARS-COV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 and the most recent Orthopox virus that causes Monkeypox have led to global infections that can be life-threatening, particularly in medically underserved and vulnerable individuals with underlying comorbidities. Approved vaccines are now available for some of these emerging pathogens; however, vaccine hesitancy and resistance have been particularly high among ethnic populations and rural communities due to a history and legacy of racial injustices, social inequities, and negative experiences within a long-standing, culturally insensitive healthcare system. Communities with poor vaccination rates are especially vulnerable, and continual community spread of the emerging pathogen can result in genetic changes that can allow these viral pathogens to be more contagious, cause more severe disease, and evade immune response produced by vaccinations. Therefore, it is essential to provide all communities with education, awareness, and access to safe and effective vaccines.

Dr. Donald J. Alcendor

Guest Editor



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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