Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo

Editors-in-Chief

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Dear Editor,

Please consider the attached manuscript titled “Potential impact of annual vaccination with reformulated COVID-19 vaccines: lessons from the U.S. COVID-19 Scenario Modeling Hub” for rapid consideration as an Original Investigation in *JAMA*. This manuscript presents two years of projections of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths under different scenarios of viral evolution and vaccination. This work aims to help inform decisions about vaccination and help institutions and individuals prepare for the likely impact of COVID-19 in the coming years. Results from this analysis were presented at the recent, September 12, meeting of ACIP. **We believe rapid review of this manuscript is appropriate due to the need for individuals, physicians and institutions to make decisions about vaccination in the coming weeks and months, as well as the time-sensitive nature of projections for the coming respiratory virus season.**

Since January 2021, the U.S. COVID-19 Scenario Modeling Hub has provided projections of the likely course of the COVID-19 epidemic under various conditions by ensembling projections of multiple modeling teams. Such ensemble-based predictions have been shown to be instrumental in producing robust projections and informing public health policy across various pathogens. In this manuscript, we applied the Scenario modeling Hub approach to project COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths from April 2023–April 2025 and potential benefits of vaccination, under plausible assumptions about viral evolution and waning immunity. Our ensemble projections based on eight contributing models suggest that COVID-19 is expected to cause annual epidemics peaking November–January over the next two years, causing approximately 1 million cumulative hospitalizations and 100,000 cumulative deaths each year. While significant, annual vaccination with reformulated vaccines has the potential to substantially mitigate this burden, saving tens of thousands of lives each year.

We believe these results will be of interest to a wide range of medical and public health professional and the general public. Hence, we believe that *JAMA* provides the best platform for disseminating this research, given its wide readership in the public health community and its steadfast commitment to evidence-based public health policies. All authors have reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript, and we confirm it has not been submitted for publication elsewhere.

Sincerely,

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