This document includes guidance for communicating about the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) to internal and external audiences.
KEY MESSAGES

- The National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) represents a shared vision for turning data into the knowledge urgently needed to address the pandemic.

- The N3C is a new effort that aims to build a centralized national data resource that scientists can use to study COVID-19 and identify potential treatments now and as the pandemic continues to evolve.

- The N3C is creating a clinical data analytics platform to systematically collect vast amounts of data from health care providers nationwide, harmonize it and make it available for researchers and health care providers to accelerate advances in COVID-19 research and clinical care.

- The N3C marshals the expertise and resources of the NCATS-funded Clinical and Translational Sciences Awards (CTSA) Program and its Center for Data to Health (CD2H) with overall stewardship from NCATS. It also leverages an existing framework of NCATS-supported cloud resources and collaborative informatics networks.

BRANDING

N3C

Always refer to the full name of the program as “National COVID Cohort Collaborative” on first reference. You may use “N3C,” “initiative” or “effort” on subsequent references. Please refer to the product of the N3C as an analytics platform. Avoid calling it a “data warehouse,” as that implies the effort is focused only on curating data.

NCATS/NIH Logos

In general, non-Federal entities may not use the NCATS/NIH logos on partner material about the N3C. NCATS support should be cited in text as outlined below. For additional information, see the NIH Policy Manual 1186 – Use of NIH Names and Logos.
Funding/Partnership Language and Attribution

The N3C is a partnership among the NCATS-supported Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program hubs and the National Center for Data to Health (CD2H) with overall stewardship by NCATS. Collaborators will contribute and use COVID-19 clinical data to answer critical research questions to address the pandemic.

Please note that N3C components are supported through [type of award] and cite NIH/NCATS and CD2H. Suggested wording for citing NIH support:

- This work is supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under award number U24TR002306 and individual CTSA Program grants under PAR-18-940, PAR-18-464, PAR-15-304, RFA-TR-14-009.

Suggested boilerplate for describing the role of a CTSA Program hub or other partner:

- [Hub name/Organization] is a partner/collaborator of the N3C, which is funded by NIH’s National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences.

Social Media

Please include the hashtag #N3C in your social media posts about this effort and, as appropriate, tag NCATS, CLIC and CD2H.

Facebook
NCATS: @ncats.nih.gov
Twitter
NCATS: @ncats.nih.gov
CLIC: @CLIC_CTSA
CD2H: @data2health
LinkedIn
NCATS: @NIH-NCATS

Websites

The primary websites with information about the N3C are:
ncats.nih.gov/n3c
covid.cd2h.org

Please include these URLs in your materials, including presentation slides, announcements, outreach emails, flyers and web pages.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Avoid Hyperbole

Avoid words that may be perceived as hyperbolic, such as “revolutionary,” “revolutionize” and “groundbreaking.” Avoid overstating the current status of the program to ensure that we manage expectations about the availability of the analytics platform.

Announcement Planning

- You may choose to announce your role on the N3C in news articles or press releases, websites, social media, presentations and other channels.
- Please consider incorporating the key messages, adhere to the communications guidance and follow the review process (below), as needed.
- NCATS will coordinate a major rollout of the N3C with all partners and collaborators once the analytics platform is available for researchers to use (expected by mid-summer).

Public-Facing Announcements

- Significant announcements about the N3C must be reviewed by NCATS and CD2H prior to being distributed. These include press releases, web announcements and articles developed by you or your institution and intended for a public audience. Social media and slide presentations do not need review.
- Please send material for review to Anita Walden at CD2H and Bobbi Gardner at NCATS.
- The review process may take up to 5 business days, so please plan accordingly.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about the N3C, contact NCATS_N3C@nih.gov.

For questions about the communications guidance, please contact Bobbi Gardner.

Stay up to date with NCATS activities and subscribe to the NCATS monthly e-newsletter.