

To: Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease
Fr: David Mermin, Emily Garner, and Brian Nienaber
Re: Takeaways – Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease AMR Update Survey
Date: October, 2021

Lake Research Partners, in partnership with The Tarrance Group, designed and fielded a nationwide online survey of 1,001 registered voters on behalf of the Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease. The survey fielded from September 1-9, 2021 and has a margin of error of +/-3.1%.

Critical topline findings from this research are highlighted below:

COVID-19

- **Most voters are coming into personal contact with COVID-19** – three-fifths (60%) say either they themselves or close friends or family have contracted the virus and 15% say they personally have contracted it. Just under one-third say they personally know someone who has died of COVID.
- **Voters are concerned about the virus.** Two-thirds are concerned that they themselves or a family member or close friend will get seriously sick or die from COVID (69%).
- Almost two-thirds (63%) of voters report they are already vaccinated. Another 16% say they are likely to get the vaccine but have not done so while 19% say they are not likely to get the vaccine.
 - **Democrats are the group most likely to already be vaccinated**, followed by independents, then Republicans.
 - Those who are vaccinated overwhelmingly say that they definitely or probably would get a booster shot if it were recommended (87%).
 - While most voters say their opinion on vaccination has not changed since they first heard about the COVID-19 vaccines (52%), more than one-third say that they are more likely to get vaccinated now (35%), while fewer than one in ten say they are less likely (9%).
 - **Voters' perceptions of the proportion of their friends and family that are vaccinated map closely to their own self-reported vaccination status.** Three-fifths say that all or most of their friends are vaccinated (59%), while 15% say about half are and 18% say less than half or none are.

Antimicrobial Resistance & Pandemic Preparedness

- **Voters are split on self-reported antibiotic usage.** Just under half of voters say someone in their household has taken an antibiotic in the past two years (46%) and half say that no one has (50%).
 - While most claim to use antibiotics correctly, **about one-third say they have taken antibiotics without consulting a doctor** (32%) and **a similar number say that they have stopped taking antibiotics before finishing a full prescription** (35%).
- **Voters are fairly confused on whether viruses can be cured using antibiotics.** While 46% of adults correctly identify that they cannot, 30% think that they can and 24% are unsure.
 - Confusion is somewhat lesser on the flu – while a majority of adults know that the flu cannot be cured by antibiotics (58%) nearly one-fourth think that it can (23%) and 19% are unsure.
 - **A much higher number correctly identify that bacterial infections can be cured by antibiotics** (72%) – there is less confusion on this.

- **Voters overwhelmingly believe that antibiotics are safe (83%) and effective (87%).**
 - These numbers are fairly robust across demographics.
- **Voters are somewhat familiar with the term “superbug” (42% know what it means) but it is far from ubiquitous.** Another one-third have heard of it but do not know what it means (38%) and 16% have not heard of it at all.
 - **A lower proportion know what “antimicrobial resistance” means** (34%) and over one-fourth have not heard of it at all (27%).
- **Despite having limited information about antimicrobial resistance (AMR), nearly three-fourths of voters say that they are concerned about it (73%),** including 28% who say they are very concerned.
 - After being given an informational statement about AMR, the proportion who say they are concerned about it ticks up to 81%, with 39% saying they are very concerned.
 - **Seven in ten voters say that developing new antibiotics to combat resistant bacteria should be a high or top priority (71%)** including one-third (32%) who say it should be a top priority.
 - **Democrats are consistently more concerned about this issue than independents and Republicans,** but levels are fairly high across all groups.
- After seeing additional information about antibiotic development, **about half of voters say that the amount of research being done currently is too low** (46%) and only 7% say it is too high.
- Nearly three-fourths of voters want to know where their member of Congress stands on the issue of developing new antibiotics (72%) and **64% say they would be more likely to vote for a political candidate who supports making the development of new antibiotics a priority,** including over one-fourth who say they would be much more likely (26%).
 - **A solid majority say that they oppose Congress cutting payments for vaccines, antibiotics, and other medicines** (60%), including 39% who are strongly opposed.
- **After hearing a short description of the PASTEUR Act, a substantial majority say passing it should be a high or top priority (59%)** including nearly one-fourth who say it should be a top priority (23%).
 - **This support is strongest among Democrats,** though a slim majority of Republicans also say this should be a top or high priority.
- **After hearing a description of the larger Pandemic Preparedness strategy, four-fifths of voters support the strategy (82%)** including 41% who strongly support it. Similarly, **four-fifths say that it is important for Congress to prioritize pandemic preparedness in the future (80%),** with a majority saying it is very important (54%).
 - **Democrats are again most enthusiastic,** but people of all partisan identities are very supportive.
 - **Three-fourths (73%) of voters say that they would be concerned if Congress cut federal funding for pandemic preparedness from \$30 billion to as little as \$5 billion.** While Democrats are most concerned, a majority of independents and Republicans are concerned as well.
- **Voters are very supportive of developing vaccines and antibiotics in the United States rather than abroad** – 82% say it is important and a majority (57%) say it is very important, with broad agreement across party identification on this issue.

Messengers & Messages

- **Voters are most interested in the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (57%) and pharmaceutical companies (53%) being involved in the effort to develop new antibiotics,** followed by the National Institutes of Health (48%).
- When voters are given several statements promoting the development of new antibiotics, **they are most enthusiastic about federal *Government Investment* (38% strongly support),** followed by an *Industry Initiative* promoting collaboration between the government, private-sector researchers, and academia (35%).
 - Enthusiasm for the *Industry Initiative* has dropped slightly since June of 2020 (-7) while support for *Government Investment* has remained fairly stable (-2).
 - Support for a *Cash Incentive* (34%) rewarding companies that successfully develop new antibiotics that address unmet needs performs much better with new wording emphasizing that this would help increase investment into needed research and development (+5).
 - Statements promoting a *Tax Incentive* (31%) for investing in the development of new antibiotics and suggesting we *Pay Hospitals* (26%) to cover costs involved in purchasing and using new antibiotics also perform better with new language that is simpler and clearer (both +6) but are still weaker than the other messages.
 - **Democrats are most enthusiastic about all of the statements, particularly *Government Investment*.** The numbers on *Industry Initiative* are closer across party ID.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to David Mermin (dmermin@lakeresearch.com) at 510-379-5180 or Brian Nienaber (bnienaber@tarrance.com) should you have any questions about this memo.