



## The Need for Language Access in COVID-19 Hot Spots<sup>1</sup>

*There are over 14 million Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons in the 30 metropolitan<sup>2</sup> areas with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases.*

The percentage of LEP speakers is higher in the COVID-19 hot spots – e.g., a total of 13.5% for the top 30 metropolitan areas – than for the US as a whole (8.3% LEP).

By language spoken at home, the largest language access needs are as follows:

Language Spoken at Home	LEP Persons (Aged 5 and UP) in Top 30 COVID-19 MSAs	COVID-19 Hot Spot MSAs with Largest Populations of Specified LEP Speakers
Spanish	9,506,558	Los Angeles, New York, Miami
Chinese	1,359,283	New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco
Vietnamese	510,724	Los Angeles, Houston, Dallas
Korean	428,269	Los Angeles, New York, Washington DC
Tagalog	289,269	Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York
Arabic	283,622	New York, Detroit, Los Angeles
Russian	274,546	New York, Los Angeles, Chicago
Haitian	255,317	Miami, New York, Boston
Portuguese	213,582	Boston, New York, Miami
Polish	166,786	Chicago, New York, Detroit
French	156,570	New York, Miami, Washington DC
Bengali	130,742	New York, Detroit, Philadelphia

Data Source: US Census, 2018 1-year American Community Survey

By Top-30 COVID-19 Hot Spots with the highest percentage of LEP speakers, the largest language access needs by MSAs with the highest concentrations of LEP population are as follows:

MSA	% LEP	Top 5 Language Needs by LEP Population
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL MSA	23.5%	1. Spanish

<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 Hot Spots defined as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in which at least one county has 150+ confirmed cases of COVID-19 and where the total MSA has at least 3,000 confirmed, active cases

<sup>2</sup> As of 4/22/20, the 30 MSAs (listed in order of # of cases) which meet the above Hot Spot definition are: 1. New York, 2. Boston, 3. Chicago, 4. Detroit, 5. Philadelphia, 6. Los Angeles, 7. Miami, 8. Washington DC, 9. New Orleans, 10. Atlanta, 11. Seattle, 12. Bridgeport, 13. Houston, 14. Indianapolis, 15. Providence, 16. Denver, 17. Baltimore, 18. Dallas, 19. New Haven, 20. St. Louis, 21. Hartford, 22. Allentown, 23. Riverside, 24. San Francisco, 25. Nashville, 26. Columbus, 27. Worcester, 28. Phoenix, 29. Las Vegas, 30. Springfield, per <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html#g-cases-by-county>, NOTE: LEP data unavailable for New Orleans and Allentown



		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Haitian</li> <li>3. Portuguese</li> <li>4. French</li> <li>5. Chinese</li> </ol>
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA	22.0%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Chinese</li> <li>3. Vietnamese</li> <li>4. Korean</li> <li>5. Tagalog</li> </ol>
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX MSA	17.0%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Vietnamese</li> <li>3. Chinese</li> <li>4. Arabic</li> <li>5. Urdu</li> </ol>
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA MSA	16.3%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Chinese</li> <li>3. Russian</li> <li>4. Korean</li> <li>5. Bengali</li> </ol>
Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA MSA	15.3%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Chinese</li> <li>3. Tagalog</li> <li>4. Vietnamese</li> <li>5. Korean</li> </ol>
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA MSA	15.2%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Chinese</li> <li>3. Tagalog</li> <li>4. Vietnamese</li> <li>5. Korean</li> </ol>
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX MSA	13.0%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Vietnamese</li> <li>3. Chinese</li> <li>4. Korean</li> <li>5. Arabic</li> </ol>
Bridgeport-Stamford-Norwalk, CT MSA	12.4%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Portuguese</li> <li>3. Chinese</li> <li>4. Haitian</li> <li>5. Russian</li> </ol>
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA	10.7%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Polish</li> <li>3. Chinese</li> <li>4. Arabic</li> <li>5. Tagalog</li> </ol>
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV MSA	10.5%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Chinese</li> <li>3. Korean</li> <li>4. Vietnamese</li> <li>5. Amharic, Somali or</li> </ol>



		other Afro-Asiatic Language
Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH MSA	9.8%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Chinese</li> <li>3. Portuguese</li> <li>4. Haitian</li> <li>5. Vietnamese</li> </ol>
Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA	8.8%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spanish</li> <li>2. Chinese</li> <li>3. Vietnamese</li> <li>4. Korean</li> <li>5. Amharic, Somali or other Afro-Asiatic Language</li> </ol>