

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

December 11, 2020



CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program is a critical source of funding, guidance, and technical assistance for state, local, and territorial public health departments to strengthen their public health preparedness capabilities and improve their response readiness. The Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL) Friday Update provides information and resources for PHEP recipients and other preparedness planners. Please share the newsletter with your colleagues.

For more information, visit the [CDC State and Local Readiness website](#) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE 

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- CDC Report Provides 10 Ways to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

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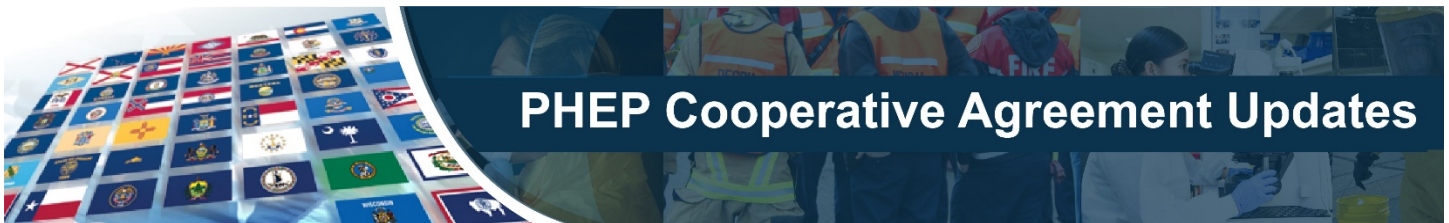
News You Can Use

- NHPP Director Position Now Open on USAJOBS
- PHAP Accepting Host Site Applications Starting December 15
- CDC Offers RealOpt© Training on January 14

Online Resources



- **December 30** – Submission of updated ORR critical contact sheets
- **December 30** – Quarterly recipient MCM technical assistance action plan conference calls (Q2)
- **December 30** – Quarterly PHEP technical assistance conference calls (Q2)



PHEP Recipient Conference Call Scheduled for December 16

The next monthly PHEP recipient conference call will be held from **3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 16**. December's call has been shortened to allow attendees to also participate in the weekly COVID-19 vaccine planning call at 3:30 p.m. EST. Following is participant information for the PHEP call.

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1607434087?pwd=Tmw3czliWGILVHFYRE1xZks1MXpkQT09>

Meeting ID: 160 743 4087

Passcode: 30303434

Zoom Dial in 1-646-828-7666



CDC Announces COVID-19 Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement No-Cost Extensions

The period of performance for the CDC COVID-19 Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement expires on March 15, 2021. CDC recognizes that funded jurisdictions may not be able to complete all of their approved activities by that date. Recipients that need more time to complete their approved activities can request up to an additional 12 months to do so. Since not all jurisdictions will likely need the full 12 months to complete the work and expend the funds, jurisdictions may request a time frame that is appropriate for their situation. Activities must be completed no later than March 15, 2022.

The deadline to submit no-cost extension requests is **January 15, 2021**. Recipients should submit requests via the Grants Management Module in GrantSolutions using the management amendment type for no-cost extensions. Jurisdictions may include budget adjustments as needed; no separate budget amendment is required. CDC will review requests and provide responses as quickly as possible after receipt. More information is available at [CDC Prior Approvals for Non-research Awards](#).

Recipients should direct any questions to their DSLR project officers or to DSLRCrisisCoAg@cdc.gov.

CDC Extends Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement ABU List

On December 8, CDC officially notified jurisdictions that the Office of Grants Services (OGS) has extended for another 12 months the approved but unfunded (ABU) jurisdictions eligible for funding under the Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response funding mechanism. The ABU list will now be in effect through **January 31, 2022**, meaning the current 65 jurisdictions will not have to resubmit ABU applications this year. This extension of eligibility does not impact the budget period of the current COVID-19 awards issued via CDC-RFA-TP18-1802. CDC sent letters with these details to the authorizing officials on record for the ABU jurisdictions. Recipients should direct any questions to their DSLR project officers or to DSLRCrisisCoAg@cdc.gov.

CDC Releases COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit

In preparation for the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine, CDC has posted some ready-made materials that can be used to build confidence about COVID-19 vaccination among healthcare teams and other staff. These are part of [CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit for Medical Centers, Clinics, and Clinicians](#). Materials include:

- A guide for building vaccine confidence within health systems, medical offices and clinics
- Turn-key slide decks for immunization coordinators, the healthcare team and other healthcare personnel with information about COVID-19 vaccines, tips for building vaccine confidence, and tips for having effective vaccine conversations with patients
- Posters, fact sheets, FAQs, and social media
- Printable buttons/stickers for staff to wear once they've gotten their vaccine
- A video describing how ACIP makes recommendations and advises CDC on the use of vaccines in our country

Field Staff to Observe at Vaccination Sites

On Thursday, December 10, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory body, Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, recommended an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and it is expected that an EUA will be issued shortly. Pfizer vaccine will start to be shipped to more than 600 initial sites next Monday, December 14, through Wednesday, December 16. A survey link will be sent to vaccine ship-to site contacts to collect information on the adequacy and integrity of the thermal shipping container, vaccine vials, and ancillary supplies shortly before their shipment is scheduled to arrive.

Due to the significant investment of the U.S. Government in the COVID-19 vaccination program and the importance of these vaccines, CDC is assigning observers to document receipt and integrity of these products. In addition, these visits will allow CDC to gather important information on the early shipments and make process improvements as needed.

CDC field staff assigned to immunization and preparedness programs will be visiting a sample of these sites to observe the receipt of these shipments and may contact these sites prior to their visits. The field staff will complete the brief online survey on behalf of the sites they are observing and also will send photos to CDC to document any concerning aspects of the shipment. These CDC observers may contact immunization program managers and preparedness directors if they note any concerns.

CDC Activates Vaccine Coordination Watch Desk

CDC's Vaccine Coordination Center has launched a 24/7 Jurisdictional Watch Desk to provide COVID-19 vaccine technical assistance to the 64 jurisdictions funded by the Immunization Services Division. The

Jurisdictional Watch Desk began operations at 8 a.m. EST today, **Friday, December 11**, and will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

CDC provided immunization program managers and field staff with specific details regarding the operations of the call center including the CDC toll-free number jurisdictions should call for technical assistance related to COVID-19 vaccines. Preparedness directors should coordinate with their immunization colleagues for more information.

The call center is not intended to disrupt the existing relationship jurisdictions have with their regional support teams. CDC anticipates that, especially near-term, many jurisdictions will reach directly to their CDC regional teams; however, CDC encourages that jurisdictions use the call center as much as possible to enable CDC to provide the best service in the most efficient manner.

New COVID-19 Vaccine Resources Now Available

CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force has posted new resources on the CDC website, including meeting materials for advisory committee meetings and other updates.

- FDA's independent advisory committee, Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC):
 - [December 10 meeting materials](#)
 - [December 17 meeting materials](#)
- CDC's independent advisory committee, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP):
 - December 11 and December 13 meeting materials can be found on the [ACIP website](#).
- Earlier this week CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier spoke with **Dr. Nsikan Akpan** from National Geographic for a Fireside Chat about COVID-19 vaccines. Watch the interview [here](#).

The Vaccine Task Force also highlighted the following useful CDC materials about the vaccine recommendation process, vaccine safety, and the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program.

- [How CDC is Making Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- [Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- [Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#) (includes material about V-SAFE, VAERS, and Vaccine Safety Datalink, among other topics)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program FAQs](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Data Systems](#)

CDC encourages jurisdictions to use content syndication to link to CDC web content to help share social media messages more broadly.

Twitter

- https://twitter.com/DrNancyM_CDC/status/1335998254882959366
- <https://twitter.com/CDCDirector/status/1334628233493553153>
- https://twitter.com/Surgeon_General/status/1336273516581281792

Instagram

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/CljBfU4lh5l/>

LinkedIn

- https://www.linkedin.com/posts/centers-for-disease-control-and-prevention_healthcare-providers-mrna-vaccines-are-likely-activity-6742124836073586688-9sFa

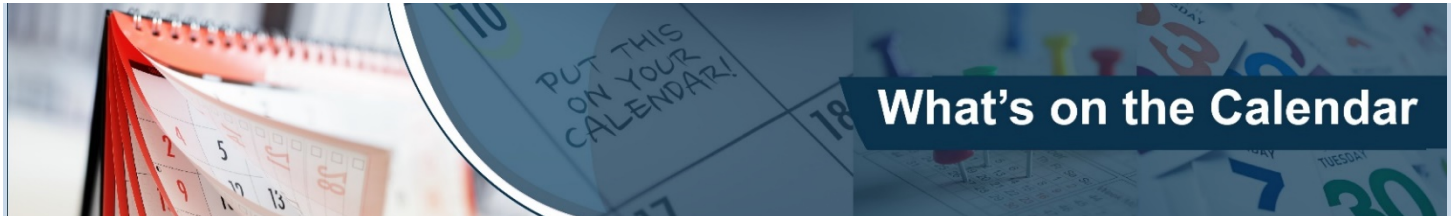
COVID-19 Pandemic Webinar for Community-based Organizations to Be Held December 16

CDC Foundation President and CEO Dr. Judy Monroe and CDC Principal Deputy Director Dr. Anne Schuchat will discuss the current COVID-19 response, including the latest information about vaccines and vaccine distribution plans during a webinar from **3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16**. A local expert will

also speak about vaccine-related challenges and opportunities. This will be the CDC Foundation's second in its series of webinars for community-based organizations and their partners, who are crucial to an effective COVID-19 response.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to worsen, health experts warn the winter months will be especially difficult. COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are increasing at record numbers, with some healthcare systems preparing for bed and staff shortages. While safe and effective vaccines are on the horizon, communities will face numerous challenges related to logistics, distribution, and overcoming vaccine hesitancy.

Interested participants may register for the webinar on [Zoom](#).



- **December 16** – PHEP Recipient Conference Call



CDC Report Provides 10 Ways to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic surges across the nation, individuals, families, and communities can take action to save lives, fuel economic recovery, and restore our communities. This includes wearing masks, staying 6 feet apart from others, and avoiding nonessential indoor spaces and crowded outdoor settings. Communities can put policies in place to increase access to testing, protect healthcare workers and people at risk for severe illness, and plan for widespread vaccination.



A [new CDC report](#) outlines a combination of 10 evidence-based strategies to slow and ultimately stop the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone can:

- Wear a mask consistently and correctly.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from others.
- Limit contact with others.
- Avoid nonessential indoor spaces (like enclosed restaurants) and crowded outdoor settings.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Get tested and stay home and away from others if you have COVID-19.
- Stay home and away from others if you've been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- Postpone travel. Those who choose to travel by plane domestically should consider getting tested before and after travel.

Communities can:

- Enact policies to protect communities: universal use of face masks, restrictions on use of nonessential indoor spaces such as bars, and increased access to testing.
- Safeguard healthcare personnel, other essential workers, and people most at-risk for severe illness.
- Plan for and implement vaccine distribution.

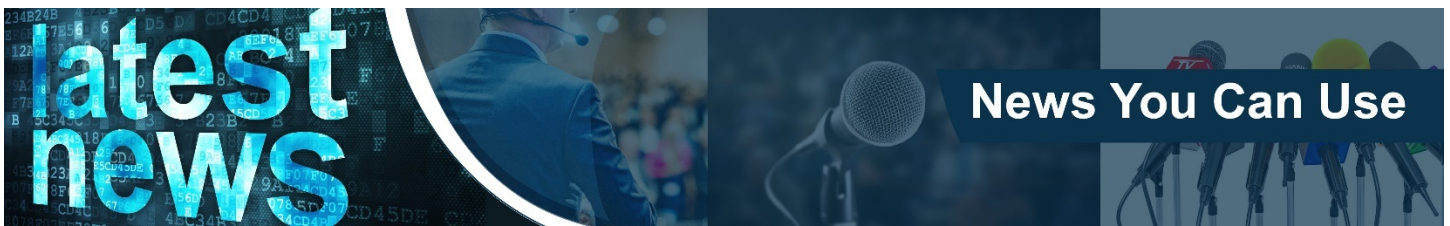
Healthcare providers can:

- Protect themselves and their patients by following all prevention strategies.
- Encourage patients to protect themselves from COVID-19.
- Get the vaccine when it's available.
- Talk to patients about COVID-19 vaccines and listen to their concerns with empathy.

To learn more about COVID-19, visit the COVID-19 Data Tracker ([Integrated County View](#)).

COVID-19 Vaccination Training for Healthcare Professionals Now Available

The Public Health Foundation, in collaboration with CDC, has compiled a list of CDC's current vaccine storage, handling, and administration trainings, along with trainings on communicating with patients about vaccines into a "COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs for Healthcare Professionals" on TRAIN. The listing can be found at [Training plan - TRAIN Learning Network - powered by the Public Health Foundation](#). The listing currently contains the "COVID-19 Vaccine Training: General Overview of Immunization Best Practices for Healthcare Providers." It will be updated as additional trainings related to COVID-19 become available.



NHPP Director Position Now Open on USAJOBS

The National Healthcare Preparedness Programs (NHPP) is currently accepting applications for the position of director on [USAJOBS](#); **December 18** is the application deadline. This supervisory public health advisor position is located in the Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, headquartered in Washington, D.C. The [vacancy announcement](#) includes more information on the responsibilities and requirements for the position, which provides administrative oversight and direction of all NHPP activities, including the Hospital Preparedness Program.

PHAP Accepting Host Site Applications Starting December 15

CDC's Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is accepting host site applications from interested organizations **starting December 15**. PHAP, managed by CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support, is a two-year, on-the-job training program for early-career public health professionals. State, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments, nongovernmental organizations, public health institutes and associations, academic institutions, and CDC quarantine stations can all apply to be PHAP host sites. Prospective host sites must be able to host an associate from October 2021 to October 2023.

PHAP can extend the reach of CDC programs while providing vital workforce support to public health agencies. The [PHAP website](#) contains helpful program and host site application information, including recorded [webinars](#), information about eligibility, answers to frequently asked questions, and testimonials from previous host sites. For additional information about PHAP or the application process, interested programs can email phap@cdc.gov or call 404-498-0030.

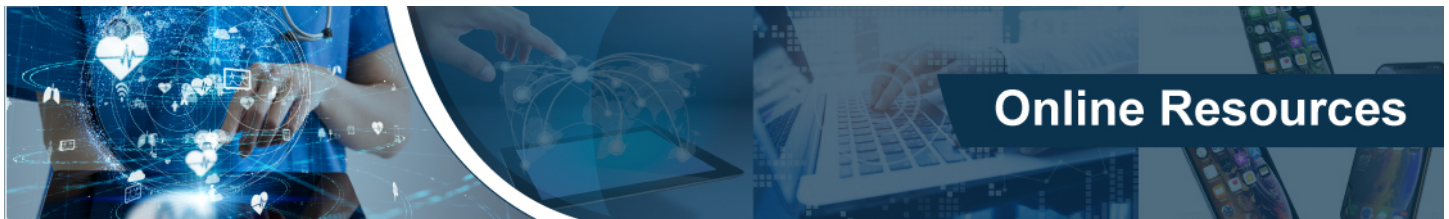
CDC RealOpt© Training Sessions Begin on January 14, 2021

The next CDC virtual instructor-led RealOpt© training session on vaccination and point-of-dispensing (POD) sites will be held on **Thursday, January 14**. Participants will learn the basic components of RealOpt©, a computer modeling program that determines POD or vaccination site staff requirements and examines process efficiencies based on site-specific configurations. With this tool, participants will learn to manipulate existing POD and vaccine flow models and how to run and interpret the performance reports. By the end of the session, participants will have learned how to build or modify their own models to identify where staff should be allocated and how to eliminate bottlenecks and optimize processing times.

Training sessions in 2021 will be held on the following dates.

- Thursday, January 14, 2021
- Thursday, February 18, 2021
- Monday, March 15, 2021
- Thursday, April 22, 2021
- Monday, May 10, 2021
- Thursday, June 10, 2021
- Thursday, July 8, 2021

CDC encourages POD and vaccination managers, local and state medical countermeasure planners, and other preparedness planners to register for a monthly training session. Registration for the RealOpt© training session is required on [CDC TRAIN](#). The training registration deadline is **seven days** prior to the course delivery date.



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 11](#)
- [Summary of Guidance for Public Health Strategies to Address High Levels of Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Related Deaths, December 2020](#)
- [MMWR: Notes from the Field: E-cigarette, or Vaping, Product Use–Associated Lung Injury Cases During the COVID-19 Response — California, 2020](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Ventilation](#)
- **NEW** [Estimated Disease Burden of COVID-19](#)
- **NEW** [Winter Holidays](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
- **UPDATED** [Operational Considerations for Adapting a Contact Tracing Program to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- **UPDATED** [Considerations for Use of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing in Nursing Homes](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 By the Numbers](#)
- **UPDATED** [Notification of Exposure: A Contact Tracer's Guide for COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATED** [Health Department-Reported Cases of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\) in the United States](#)
- **UPDATED** [FAQs and Communication Resources for Wildland Firefighters](#)
- **UPDATED** [Developing a Framework for Assessing and Managing Individual-Level Risk of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Exposure in Mobile Populations](#)
- **UPDATED** [Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#)
- **UPDATED** [Toolkit for Businesses & Workplaces](#)
- **UPDATED** [Toolkit for Worker Safety & Support](#)
- **UPDATED** [Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Point-of-Care Testing](#)
- **UPDATED** [Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#)
- **UPDATED** [Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)
- **UPDATED** [Older Adults](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Testing Overview](#)

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