

# Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

December 18, 2020



**\*\* The next DSLR Friday Update will be published Wednesday, December 30, 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](https://www.cdc.gov/stateandlocalreadiness/) or contact us at [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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**DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE** 

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- **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)



### CDC Reminds PHEP Recipients of December Deadlines

PHEP recipients must complete the following required action items by **Wednesday, December 30**. Recipients must:

- Validate, update if necessary, and submit Operational Readiness Review critical contact sheets even if there are no changes in personnel,
- Conduct second quarter MCM technical assistance action plan conference calls, and
- Conduct second quarter PHEP technical assistance conference calls.

CDC encourages PHEP recipients to discuss adjustments to PHEP and MCM technical assistance action plans with their DSLR project officers based on the intensity of their COVID-19 response efforts and to align their action plans with their current COVID-19 response activities. Jurisdictions may elect to reduce, alter, or pause MCM and PHEP action planning activities to concentrate efforts and resources on COVID-19 response activities. Jurisdictions that cannot feasibly advance action plan activities at this time must notify their DSLR project officers via email and indicate, "Response to COVID-19 – No New Activity."

A complete list of PHEP deadlines is available in the [Budget Period 2 operational timeline](#). Recipients should contact their DSLR project officers with any questions or for more information.



### **Vaccine Updates to Be Discussed during December 21 All-State Call**

CDC's 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) response team continues to host a series of national calls from **2 p.m. EST every Monday** to provide state and local partners with the latest information on the novel coronavirus outbreak and U.S. preparedness efforts. The December 21 call will include important updates from CDC's Vaccine Task Force. Invited participants include state, local, and territorial preparedness directors, state epidemiologists, state health officials, public health laboratory directors, and nongovernmental partners. Following is the participant information.

#### Participant Information

Bridgeline: 1(888) 455-8370

Passcode: 5206512

### **CDC Announces Holiday Schedule Change for Vaccine Planning Calls**

CDC has rescheduled the weekly COVID-19 vaccine response planning calls with jurisdictions for the weeks of Christmas and New Year's Day. **For these two weeks only** the calls will be held at 3 p.m. EST on **Tuesdays**. The new dates are:

- Tuesday, December 22
- Tuesday, December 29

The weekly call schedule remains in effect for all other weeks: 3:30 p.m. EST on Wednesdays.

### **New CDC Web Resources Available on COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities**

CDC has released several new Web resources on [COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities](#). Information is provided on how conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, play, and worship influence COVID-19-related health disparities. Public health agencies and others working to respond to COVID-19 can use this information to address disparities and tailor communication efforts in their health equity work. Decision makers also can use this information to inform plans for reducing the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 among racial and ethnic minority groups. In addition, interactive data and peer-reviewed literature are available to explore factors contributing to disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 observed among racial and ethnic minority groups.

### **Immunization Communication and Education Product Inventory Now Available**

CDC has released the first version of the Communication and Education Product Inventory related to COVID-19 vaccines. This inventory, an index of key content to support jurisdictional needs organized across different categories and stakeholders, can help planners quickly locate existing content and provide information on upcoming content in development.

CDC's Vaccine Task Force has uploaded the inventory on the immunization program [awardee SharePoint site](#). The inventory contains website and SharePoint links to existing products for ease of navigation. CDC plans to update this product inventory weekly to reflect new content, and jurisdictions will be notified of important changes and additions. Jurisdictions are encouraged to provide feedback on usability, content, structure, categorization, missed resources, and content that needs updating.

Preparedness directors who do not have access to the immunization SharePoint site should contact their immunization programs to access the inventory.

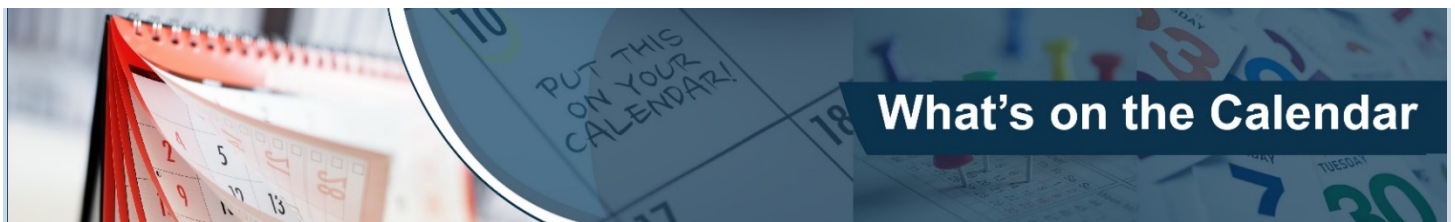
### **CDC Provides Information on Redistribution of Frozen Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**



CDC recognizes that redistribution of vaccine may be required by state and local immunization programs. Based on information to date from the manufacturer for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, immunization planners should consider the following.

- Jurisdictions should only start the redistribution process for product that will be used as soon as it arrives at the new location. Do not redistribute product to a new location for long-term storage.
- Move only the amount of vaccine that is needed at the satellite locations or clinics.
- Once a vaccine vial has been removed from the tray, the thawing process has begun. The vial cannot be returned to the thermal shipping container or to an ultra-cold freezer.
- Vaccine, once thawed, is viable for up to 120 hours at 2-8 ° C. Vaccine may be transported at 2-8 ° C if needed. After 120 hours, vaccine must be used or discarded. Any hours used for transport count against the 120-hour limit.
- If needed, ultra-frozen vaccine may be transported in its original shipping container with dry ice or in a portable ultra-cold freezer that can maintain a temperature of -80° C; however, only full trays of vaccine can be redistributed using this method to reduce the likelihood of damaging the vaccine vials in transit.

Jurisdictions with questions about the integrity of vaccine in their possession should call Pfizer Customer Service at 800-666-7248 (option 8) or email [CVGovernment@pfizer.com](mailto:CVGovernment@pfizer.com). CDC will update this information as needed if additional product-specific details are made available.



- **January 13** – PHEP Connects Webinar



### **FEMA Updates HSEEP Training and Exercise Guidance**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has updated its Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidance. HSEEP is a unit of FEMA's National Exercise Division, which focuses on building community preparedness nationally through exercise activities. HSEEP updates for 2020 can aid in exercise planning or reporting of real events and incidents. Based on the new guidance, the integrated preparedness plan workshop (IPPW) replaces the training and exercise planning workshop, and the integrated preparedness plan (IPP) replaces the multiyear training and exercise plan.

Other changes to the guidance include:

- Emphasis from training and exercise to an integrated approach to preparedness,
- Wholistic approaches to training and exercise,
- Additional focus on tracking all preparedness activities,
- Measuring capability changes, and
- Informing future preparedness activities.

Additional information on these changes is available in a recorded webinar now available online. Recipients can access the recorded webinar regarding the IPPW and IPP after registering [here](#).

FEMA has created a playlist of all its HSEEP training videos, which can be accessed at [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL720Kw\\_OoJlJRVI3gQiZzi2g72Ez8ISIA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL720Kw_OoJlJRVI3gQiZzi2g72Ez8ISIA).

For more information, PHEP recipients should contact their DSLR project officers or contact the HSEEP program at [hseep@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:hseep@fema.dhs.gov).



### **Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory is alerting public health departments, healthcare professionals, first responders, harm reduction organizations, laboratories, and medical examiners and coroners to the following issues as it relates to fatal drug overdoses by synthetic opioids. Of recent, there has been:



- Substantial increases in drug overdose deaths across the United States, primarily driven by rapid increases in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids excluding methadone (hereafter referred to as synthetic opioids), likely illicitly manufactured fentanyl;
- A concerning acceleration of the increase in drug overdose deaths, with the largest increase recorded from March 2020 to May 2020, coinciding with the implementation of widespread mitigation measures for the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The changing geographic distribution of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, with the largest percentage increases occurring in states in the western United States;
- Significant increases in overdose deaths involving psychostimulants with abuse potential (hereafter referred to as psychostimulants) such as methamphetamine; and
- Recommendations for communities when responding to the evolving overdose crisis.

For further details regarding this CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory, additional information can be accessed [here](#).

### **Application Period for NHPP Director Position Closes Today, December 18**

Today, December 18, is the deadline to apply for the National Healthcare Preparedness Programs (NHPP) director position on [USAJOBS](#). 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 Host Site Application Period Now Open**

CDC's Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is currently accepting host site applications from interested organizations. Managed by CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support, PHAP 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 associates 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.

The application deadline is **February 16**. For additional information about PHAP or the application process, interested programs can email [phap@cdc.gov](mailto:phap@cdc.gov) or call 404-498-0030.



## CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 18](#)

## COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Vaccination Considerations for People who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)
- **NEW** [Care for Yourself](#)
- **NEW** [Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents](#)
- **NEW** [Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel](#)
- **NEW** [Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities](#)
- **NEW** [The Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel](#)
- **NEW** [What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19](#)
- **NEW** [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- **NEW** [When Vaccine is Limited, Who Gets Vaccinated First?](#)
- **NEW** [V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker](#)
- **NEW** [Wastewater Surveillance in Low-Resource Waste Systems](#)
- **NEW** [COVID-19 vaccination for health departments and healthcare providers](#)
- **NEW** [What Every Clinician Should Know about COVID-19 Vaccine Safety](#)
- **NEW** [COVID-19 ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- **NEW** [Interim Clinical Considerations](#)
- **NEW** [Local Reactions, Systemic Reactions, Adverse Events, and Serious Adverse Events](#)
- **NEW** [Interim Considerations: Preparing for the Potential Management of Anaphylaxis at COVID-19 Vaccination Sites](#)
- **UPDATED** [Vaccines](#)
- **UPDATED** [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVIDView](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths](#)
- **UPDATED** [Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases](#)
- **UPDATED** [Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths](#)
- **UPDATED** [Data on COVID-19 during Pregnancy: Birth and Infant Outcomes](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Webinar and Partner Calls Videos](#)
- **UPDATED** [Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure](#)
- **UPDATED** [Staffing Resources](#)
- **UPDATED** [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- **UPDATED** [How CDC Is Making COVID-10 Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- **UPDATED** [8 Things to Know about Vaccine Planning](#)
- **UPDATED** [8 Things to Know about the U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)
- **UPDATED** [Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- **UPDATED** [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- **UPDATED** [Ensuring COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- **UPDATED** [Social Media Toolkit: Holidays](#)
- **UPDATED** [Toolkit for Shared and Congregate Housing](#)

- **UPDATED** [Toolkit for Tribal Communities](#)
- **UPDATED** [Toolkit for Community and Faith-Based Organizations](#)
- **UPDATED** [Coping with Stress](#)
- **UPDATED** [Holidays and Stress](#)
- **UPDATED** [Winter Holidays](#)
- **UPDATED** [What In-home Social Service Providers and Clients Need to Know about COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#)
- **UPDATED** [Crew Disembarkations Through Commercial Travel](#)
- **UPDATED** [Air Travel Toolkit for Airline Partners](#)
- **UPDATED** [Road Travel Toolkit for Transportation Partners](#)
- **UPDATED** [The Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel](#)
- **UPDATED** [Employees: How to Cope with Job Stress and Build Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- **UPDATED** [Operational Considerations for Schools](#)
- **UPDATED** [Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Masks in Schools](#)
- **UPDATED** [Interim SARS-CoV-2 Testing Guidelines for Patients in Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities](#)
- **UPDATED** [Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities](#)
- **UPDATED** [Print Resources](#)

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**Christine Kosmos, RN, BSN, MS**

Director, Division of State and Local Readiness  
Center for Preparedness and Response  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

1600 Clifton Rd Atlanta, GA 30329 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: 888-232-6348

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