

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

March 5, 2021



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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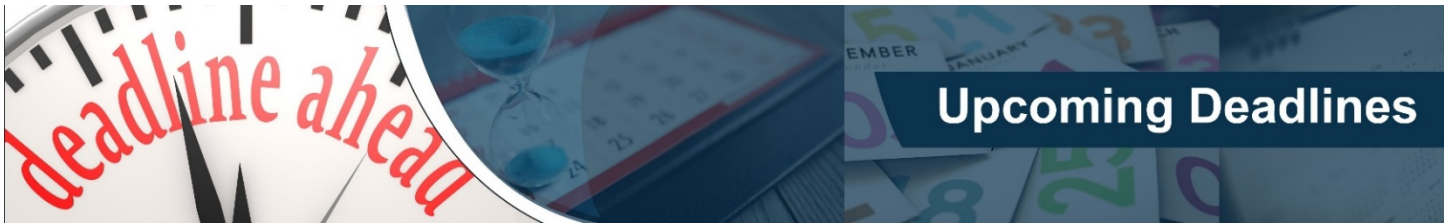
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- **March 5** – PFA Host Site Letters of Intent Due
- **March 16** – PHEP BP3 Application Deadline



CDC's March 10 PHEP Connects Webinar to Highlight Findings from National Vaccine Forum

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar will be held from **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EST on Wednesday, March 10**. CDC presenters Sara Zeigler and LeShaundra

Cordier will provide an overview of the National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine, a three-day event hosted by CDC to share promising practices and lessons learned and to support COVID-19 vaccination in communities across the country. The forum highlighted work to increase vaccination efforts being done at all levels of government, across nongovernmental organizations, across public-private partnerships, and at individual levels. Presenters will share success stories from the forum, as well as resources and practical tools to promote effective and equitable vaccine administration and implementation.



Participants can log onto <https://adobeconnect.cdc.gov/r60oog3mlz5/> to view the webinar. To listen to the audio portion via phone line, dial 1-888-455-5125 and enter participant passcode 4495815. Registration is not required to join this webinar via Adobe Connect. This webinar will be recorded and accessible for later viewing. Continuing education credit will not be offered for this presentation. For more information on the PHEP Connects webinar series, contact preparedness@cdc.gov.

CDC Provides Guidance on PERFORMS Access for New Users

Jurisdictions that want to provide access to PERFORMS for new users must request that invitations for SAMS registration be sent to the new users. This invitation request must be submitted by either the jurisdiction's PHEP director or PHEP project officer via email to PERFORMSSupport@cdc.gov. PERFORMS support staff will initiate the SAMS registration process. Questions regarding the SAMS application process should be directed to the SAMS Help Desk at samshelp@cdc.gov or 1-877-681-2901.

Users must access PERFORMS through the Internet Explorer (IE) browser. Currently, other browsers will not be able to open PERFORMS. In IE, new users should add cdc.gov to IE/Tools/Compatibility View Settings. For assistance with PERFORMS, contact PERFORMSSupport@cdc.gov.

Resources Available from February PHEP Connects Webinar with FDA

Presenters during the February 10 PHEP Connects webinar provided an overview of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) emergency preparedness and response tools to facilitate access to critical medical countermeasures (MCMs) and provided related resources for emergency response stakeholders. FDA presenters also discussed emergency use authorizations (EUAs) and FDA's COVID-19 response EUA efforts, as well as other emergency response authorities. Following are links to the webinar resources.

- [CDC's February 10 PHEP Connects U.S. FDA Emergency Response Authorities and Access to Medical Countermeasures Webinar Recording](#)
- COVID-19 Updates (FDA): www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19
- Sign up for Medical Countermeasures Initiative (MCMi) email updates (FDA): www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/medical-countermeasures-initiative-mcmi
- FDA Main EUA Page (including COVID-19 EUAs): www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization
- FDA EUA Guidance: www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/emergency-use-authorization-medical-products-and-related-authorities
- MCM Expiration Dating Extensions (FDA): www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/expiration-dating-extension
- Emergency Dispensing Orders (FDA): www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-dispensing-orders
- Emergency Use Instructions (CDC): www.cdc.gov/anthrax/public-health/eui-antibiotics.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fanthrax%2Fmedical-care%2Femergency-use-doxycycline-ciprofloxacin.html
- PREP Act (HHS): www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/prepact/Pages/default.aspx



New COVID-19 MMWR Released on ACIP Recommendations for Janssen Vaccine

CDC recently released a Morbidity and Mortality Report (MMWR) regarding the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) interim recommendations for the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. The early release MMWR can be accessed at:

[The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, February 2021.](#)

March 8 COVID-19 Partner Update Focuses on New Vaccination Resources

CDC's next weekly partner call, scheduled for **3 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST on Monday, March 8**, will focus on "Expanding the COVID-19 Vaccination Toolbox: An Update on Johnson & Johnson's Janssen Vaccine EUA and New Federal Vaccination Programs." Click [here](#) to register for the partner call.

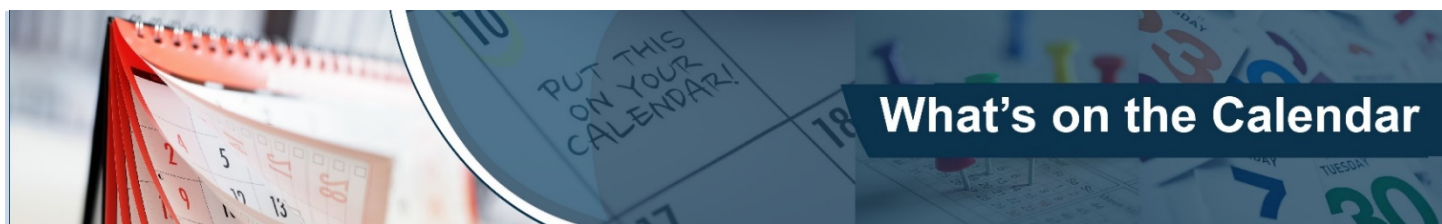
National Vaccine Forum Materials Now Available on CDC Website

CDC's recent National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine highlighted a variety of materials and resources to help support COVID-19 vaccination. Over the course of the three-day forum more than 100 experts from 87 organizations across 31 states and tribes shared work being done at all levels of government, across nongovernmental organizations, across public-private partnerships, and at the individual level to increase COVID-19 vaccination. A collection of [resources](#) assembled from the forum can be found on the [CDC website](#).

NEJM Article Provides Perspective on Encouraging Acceptance of COVID-19 Vaccines

A [New England Journal of Medicine \(NEJM\) article](#) published March 3 provides insights into COVID-19 vaccination communication efforts based on recent polls. The report's authors, including Gillian SteelFisher, a senior research scientist and director of global polling for the Harvard Opinion Research Program, examined 39 nationally representative, randomized polls with publicly available tabulations that were conducted between August 2020 and February 2021 to better understand public attitudes toward taking a COVID-19 vaccine and the factors likely to affect willingness to do so going forward. The report's framework provides a perspective different from that of much of the media reporting on individual polls and informs recommendations for outreach efforts to encourage vaccine uptake.

CDC's Division of Emergency Operations has worked closely with the Harvard research program since the 2001 anthrax attacks to better understand public perceptions regarding public health preparedness issues. While this article was not funded by CDC, much of the insights have evolved through the Harvard program's work over the years with CDC responders and members of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials and the National Public Health Information Coalition.



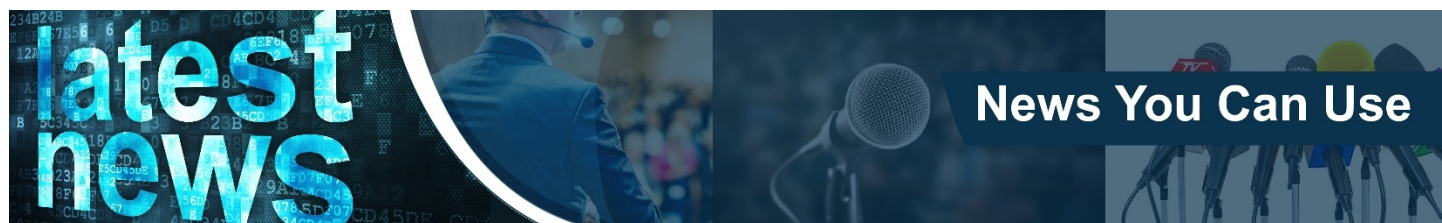
- **March 15** – [RealOpt© Training](#)
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CDC Releases New Access and Functional Needs Toolkit for Emergency Planners

CDC has developed a new [Access and Functional Needs Toolkit](#) to help emergency planners achieve effective communications through the integration of a community outreach information network. The toolkit provides a framework to organize planning for broad groups of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, recommended action steps, and noteworthy practices from the field.

The toolkit is organized in two sections. Section 1 provides an overview of access and functional needs and examples of groups that may be at greater risk or disproportionately impacted before, during, and after an emergency. This section includes noteworthy practices, key considerations, and resources for effective communication. Section 2 outlines a four-step process and recommended action steps to successfully integrate a network of community partners into the risk communication process. This section provides customizable tools and instructions, templates, worksheets, partner engagement practices, and other resources. When completed, jurisdictions can incorporate the worksheets into their communication plans and use them to evaluate opportunities to improve their partner integration practices.



CDC Requires Airlines to Collect Contact Information from DRC, Guinea Passengers

In response to current outbreaks of Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Guinea, CDC issued [an order](#) requiring airlines to collect contact information for all passengers boarding flights to the United States who were in DRC or Guinea within the 21 days before their arrival in the United States. Effective March 4, this order will provide CDC with access to travelers' contact information for appropriate public health follow-up and intervention.

This order follows the February 2020 interim final rule that authorized CDC to require airlines and other aircraft operators to collect certain data from passengers before they board flights to the United States and to provide the information to CDC within 24 hours of a CDC order.

The U.S. government will also begin to redirect air passengers from DRC and Guinea to six U.S. airports where more than 96% of air passengers from these countries already arrive. The six airports include New York (JFK), Chicago (ORD), Atlanta (ATL), Washington D.C. (IAD), Newark (EWR), and Los Angeles (LAX). Passengers can expect their contact information to be verified by U.S. government officials on arrival to ensure it is accurate and complete. CDC will share contact information securely with state and local health departments for passengers' final destinations in the United States.

CDC Offers RealOpt© Training on March 15

The next CDC virtual instructor-led RealOpt© training session on vaccination and point-of-dispensing (POD) sites will be held at **1 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 15**. 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.

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 through [CDC TRAIN](#). Registration deadline is **seven days** prior to the course delivery date. Additional training sessions will be held on the following dates.

- Thursday, April 22
- Monday, May 10
- Thursday, June 10
- Thursday, July 8



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, March 5](#)
- [The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, February 2021](#)
- [First Identified Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Variant P.1 in the United States — Minnesota, January 2021](#)
- [Travel from the United Kingdom to the United States by a Symptomatic Patient Infected with the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Variant — Texas, January 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATED** [Frequently Asked Questions about V-Safe](#)
- **UPDATED** [How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- **UPDATED** [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine \(Johnson & Johnson\) Questions](#)

- **UPDATED** [People with Developmental Disabilities](#)

CDC Wants to Hear from PHEP Recipients

CDC wants to hear how PHEP jurisdictions are preparing for and responding to incidents, emergencies, and disasters, whether it's the COVID-19 pandemic, recent weather events, or other public health emergencies. Recipients can highlight their experiences in emergency preparedness, response, or recovery by emailing the State and Local Readiness mailbox at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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