

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

April 9, 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](https://www.cdc.gov/stateandlocalreadiness/) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE 

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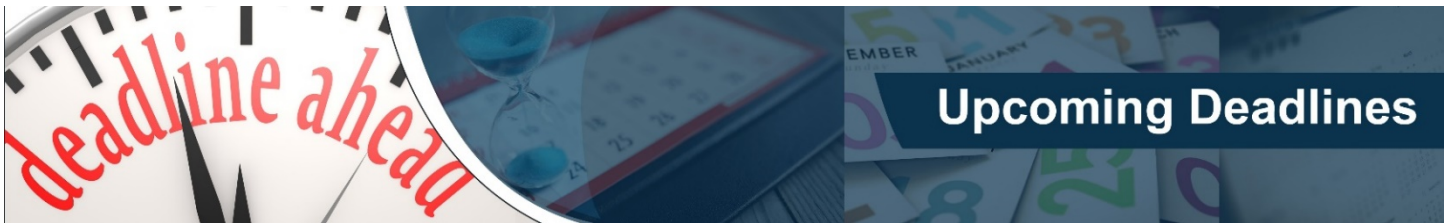
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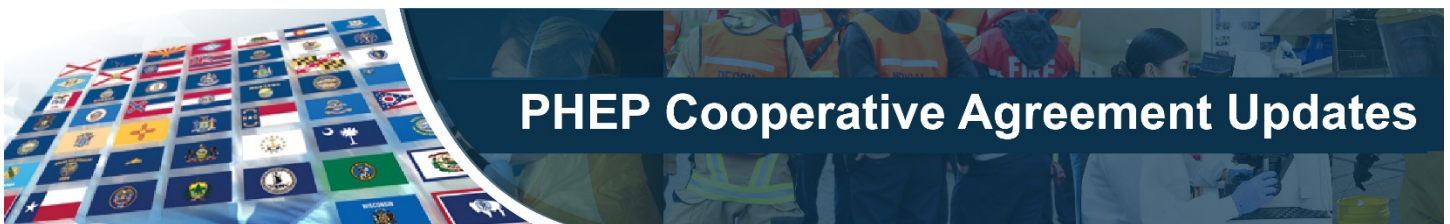
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- **April 16** – CDC Mental Health Survey Closes
- **April 23** – CDC CPR Director Position Application Deadline
Physician – [RF-602: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265900](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265900)
Health Scientist – [RF-601: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265400](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265400)



CDC to Host Field Staff Expansion Meeting on April 16

CDC will conduct an informational meeting from **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Friday, April 16**, with PHEP directors and state epidemiologists to discuss the expansion of its Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) program. CDC plans to create a national CEFO network that will support the emergency preparedness and response activities of every state, territory, and locality directly funded by the PHEP cooperative agreement. Beginning in July 2021, CDC will provide centralized PHEP funding to support one existing CEFO in each state or city. Concurrently, CDC will assess the interest and begin the process of developing CEFO assignments in the remaining 29 states, Los Angeles County, and Washington, D.C. When fully implemented, the national network will include 56 CEFOs directly funded by CDC.

CDC will provide additional details on the CEFO expansion and participant information for the April 16 call in a separate email to PHEP directors and state epidemiologists. Recipients with questions regarding the expansion or the upcoming call should contact CDC at preparedness@cdc.gov.

ASPR, CDC Cancel HPP-PHEP Recipient Call on April 21

The quarterly HPP-PHEP recipient conference call will not be held as scheduled on Wednesday, April 21. ASPR and CDC are planning a virtual HPP-PHEP recipient business meeting in May. Further details will be forthcoming.



COVID-19 Response Activities

CDC Awards \$3 Billion to Expand COVID-19 Vaccine Programs

CDC announced April 6 that it has awarded funding to support local efforts to increase vaccine uptake by expanding COVID-19 vaccine programs and ensuring greater equity and access to vaccine by those disproportionately affected by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. The awards are part of \$3 billion in funding that CDC has granted to 64 jurisdictions to bolster broad-based vaccine distribution, access, and administration efforts. The funding was made available by the American Rescue Plan and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and will provide critical support through CDC's existing immunization cooperative agreements in [communities around the country](#)

To ensure health equity and expanded access to COVID-19 vaccines:

- 75% of the total funding must focus on specific programs and initiatives intended to increase vaccine access, acceptance, and uptake among racial and ethnic minority communities; and,
- 60% must go to support local health departments, community-based organizations, and community health centers.

For information on where funds will be distributed, please see www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/funding-update.pdf.

CDC Launches COVID-19 Vaccine Community Features

In the last several months, public health officials and partners across the country planned and launched the largest vaccination program in 60 years to fight the largest pandemic in more than 100 years. Vaccinating millions of people each day does not happen by accident. It takes people, planning, creativity, persistence, and just hard work. While the COVID-19 vaccination program is still in the early stages, CDC wants to look beyond the numbers to highlight the programs and the people that are the root of this historic effort.

CDC has launched the [COVID-19 Vaccine Community Features](#) site to help public health departments tell their stories. In addition to the site, CDC will promote features across CDC social media channels and use the stories in presentations to partners and internally.

Each week, CDC plans to highlight stories of innovation and proven public health practice to document and share the work health departments and partners are doing to increase vaccination access in their communities. While each community is unique, all face many of the same challenges. By sharing these stories, public health departments may help other colleagues across the country improve their vaccination programs.

Public health departments can send stories they would like CDC to feature to ISDcomm@cdc.gov. Include "CVCF Submission" in the subject, a summary of the story, and contact information. CDC will review the information and send follow-up instructions.

CDC Updates Strategies for Optimizing N95 Respirator Supply

On April 9, CDC updated its [recommended strategies for optimizing the supply of disposable N95 respirators](#) in healthcare settings when there is limited supply. CDC strategies include contingency and crisis capacity measures that augment conventional capacity measures and are meant to be considered and **implemented sequentially**. Once N95 respirator availability returns to normal, healthcare facilities should promptly resume conventional practices.

The most recent CDC updates acknowledged that the supply and availability of respirators approved by CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) have increased significantly over the last several months. The [NIOSH Certified Equipment List](#) identifies all NIOSH-approved respirators and approval holders.



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Tools and Resources

CDC Highlights DSLR Presentations at 2021 NACCHO Preparedness Summit

The virtual 2021 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit is scheduled for **April 13 to April 15**. This summit will offer an opportunity to share experiences and peer-to-peer learning as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to intersect with other crises. Following are sessions presented by CDC's Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL).

On-Demand Session

- "Access and Functional Needs Toolkit: Integrating a Community Partner Network to Inform Risk Communication Strategies" will be presented by Brenda Silverman from DSLR's Evaluation and Analysis Branch. This session will be available throughout the conference to registered attendees via ZOOM.

Tuesday, April 13

- 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT: "Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Town Hall – From Natural Disasters to Emerging Threats: Public Health Protects Your Community." Presenters, including DSLR Director Chris Kosmos, will provide different perspectives on their roles in the COVID-19 response.

Wednesday, April 14

- 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EDT: "A Tale of Two Functional Exercises: COVID-19 Alternate Care Sites in Memphis and Nashville." This session will be presented by Jennifer Johnson, DSLR's Senior Preparedness Field Assignee in Tennessee, and Paul Petersen, the state's emergency preparedness director.
- 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT: "DSLRL Town Hall – Mapping the Future of CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program." DSLR Director Chris Kosmos and other DSLR presenters will provide key PHEP program updates and facilitate a discussion of state, local, tribal, and territorial public health COVID-19 experiences and solicit input to help inform the future of public health emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Poster Presentation

- "Improving Processes for Identifying and Reporting Disaster-Related Deaths: A New Three-year Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Project 2020-2023," presented by Rebecca Noe from DSLR's Program Implementation Branch.

On Monday, April 12, prior to the start of the summit, NACCHO and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials will conduct a workshop with a small group of state and local participants to gather feedback on

CDC's Next Generation of PHEP initiative and enlist work group members; DSLR will provide opening remarks and participate in a question-and-answer discussion.



CDC Mental Health Survey Extended to April 16

CDC has developed a survey for **ALL** U.S. public health workers to better understand and address the mental health impact and support needs for these crucial workers who have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey is intended for full-time and part-time employees, contractors, fellows, and others who worked in state, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments in 2020 and will look at demographics, job categories, and questions to assess symptoms of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). All survey responses are **anonymous**, and no personal identifiers will be collected. Participation is completely voluntary, and participants may withdraw from the survey at any time. CDC has extended the survey deadline; **the survey link will remain open until 11:59 p.m. EDT on Friday, April 16. Please share widely with staff at all levels and functions of your health department.**

Public health staff can access the [survey](#) here.

For more information on CDC's mental health study, contact the survey team at eocevent442@cdc.gov.

CDC Highlights Publications Focusing on PHEP-related Topics

Below is a list of recent publications involving the DSLR PHEP Program.

- [COVID-19 Response Efforts of Washington State Public Health Laboratory: Lessons Learned](#). Released March 18, this publication details the response efforts of the Washington State Public Health Laboratory (WA PHL) as they were in the process of building upon and initiating innovative preparedness activities to strengthen laboratory testing capabilities, operations, and logistics during the outbreak of COVID-19.
 - Authors: Heather P. McLaughlin PhD, Brian C. Hiatt BS, Denny Russell BS, Christina M. Carlson PhD, Jessica R. Jacobs PhD, Ailyn C. Perez-Osorio PhD, **Michelle L. Holshue MPH (CDC CEFO)**, Sung W. Choi PhD, and Romesh K. Gautam PhD
- [Public Health Emergency Response Leadership Training: A Qualitative Assessment of Existing Educational Opportunities and Perceived Facilitators, Barriers, and Priorities in Professional Development](#). Released on March 12, this report presents results of four focus groups comprised of 23 employees from PHEP recipient jurisdictions. The groups were conducted during the 2019 Preparedness Summit.
 - Authors: Yang Li, MPH, MS; Ebert B. Hsu, MD, MPH; Xiaohong M. Davis, PhD, MS, MA; **Gail M. Stennies, MD, MPH (DSLRL)**; Nhu N. Pham, MPH; Mary C. Fisher, PhD, MS; Juliana L. Pearson, MA; Daniel J. Barnett, MD, MPH; Silvia M. Trigoso, MPH; Michelle N. Podgornik, MPH, MSLIS; **David W. Hunter, MPH, MSW (DSLRL)**; **Sara J. Vagi, PhD (CPR)**
- [Going Viral: The 3 R's of Social Media Messaging during Public Health Emergencies](#). Published February 18, this article proposes a framework using the "3 Rs" principle of social media — Review, Recognize, and Respond — to help public health practitioners design tailored messages that prevent disease and promote health before, during, and after a public health emergency.
 - Authors: **Bhavini P. Murthy, MD, MPH, Tanya LeBlanc, PHD, MS, Sara J. Vagi, PhD, (CPR), Rachel Nonkin Avchen, PhD (DSLRL)**



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, April 9](#)
- [Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Associated with a Local Bar Opening Event – Illinois, February 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Program — Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota, September–November 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality Among American Indian/Alaska Native and White Persons — Montana, March 13–November 30, 2020](#)
- [Use of Stay-at-Home Orders and Mask Mandates to Control COVID-19 Transmission — Blackfeet Tribal Reservation, Montana, June–December 2020](#)
- [College and University COVID-19 Student Testing Protocols, by Mode of Instruction \(N = 1,849\) — United States, Spring 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATED** [Cases in the U.S.](#)
- **UPDATED** [Provisional Mortality Data - United States, 2020](#)
- **UPDATED** [Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of April 8](#)
- **UPDATED** [Reporting COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits](#)
- **UPDATED** [How to Talk about COVID-19 Vaccines with Friends and Family](#)
- **UPDATED** [Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments](#)
- **UPDATED** [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Recovery from COVID-19 for All Air Passengers Arriving in the United States](#)
- **UPDATED** [US COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants](#)
- **UPDATED** [Late Sequelae of COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATED** [Long-Term Effects of COVID-19](#)

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.

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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