

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

December 3, 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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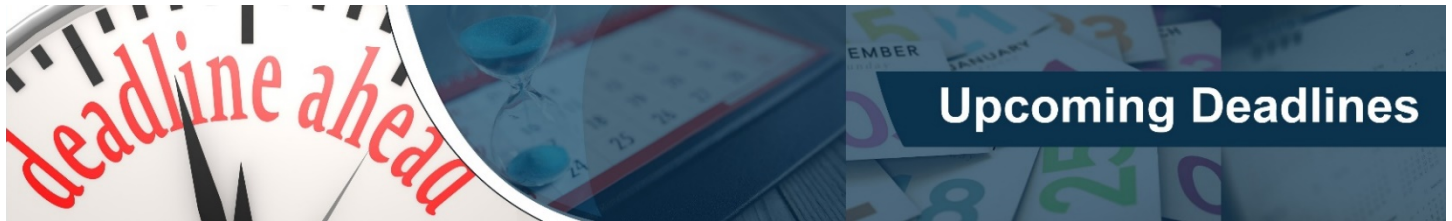
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- **December 31 – Critical Contact Sheets**



PHEP Critical Contact Sheet Data Due December 31

PHEP recipients are required to review and submit updates to their Critical Contact Sheet (CCS) data twice a year. The next deadline to submit CCS data is **Friday, December 31**. Normally, recipients can upload this information using CDC’s online data collection system. However, since the new PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) will not be open until 2022, PHEP project officers will email recipients the latest version of the CCS to review and updated as needed. Recipients must return via email their CCS forms, noting whether they have validated or updated the information, to their project officers by the December 31 deadline.

PHEP ORR Friday Feature: BP3 Requirements

CDC has modified its PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) implementation approach and reporting requirements for PHEP Budget Period 3 (BP3) to focus on capturing COVID-19 pandemic response data. To address these changes, this week’s PHEP ORR Friday Feature focuses on BP3 reporting requirements.



While CDC has released comprehensive PHEP ORR interim guidance to help recipients prepare for the expanded PHEP ORR evaluation, the agency has significantly reduced BP3 submission requirements for the 62 PHEP recipients and suspended local reporting requirements. PHEP recipients must submit BP3 documentation regarding:

- Descriptive data including critical contact, partner planning, and workforce development and training information;
- PHEP benchmarks;
- Emergency operations center activations;
- Annual PHEP exercises with access and functional needs partners; and
- Select new operational data elements.

Recipients can use their COVID-19 response activities to meet applicable PHEP requirements. In addition, recipients must submit COVID-19 pandemic response data in BP3, even if they already met their current five-year operational requirements, to enable CDC to conduct a national evaluation of the PHEP COVID-19

response. Submission of COVID-19 response data will fulfill recipients' PHEP five-year program requirements regarding pandemic influenza functional and full-scale exercises and the joint functional exercise with emergency management and health care coalitions. In doing so, recipients will reset their timeline for meeting the next cycle of five-year operational requirements.

To evaluate the PHEP COVID-19 response in BP3, CDC added two new PHEP ORR forms:

- Pandemic COVID-19 Functional Exercise: Vaccination for Critical Workforce Groups and Disproportionately Impacted Populations (VAC), and
- Pandemic COVID-19 Incident Response (RSP).

CDC developed the VAC and RSP measures to collect data about the jurisdiction's ability to respond to an actual pandemic in each of the domains described in the [Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities: National Standards for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Public Health](#). Recipients must submit the VAC and RSP by **June 30, 2022**, and upload additional response evidence no later than **October 31, 2022**, using the PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS). CDC will provide more information on the RSP and VAC requirements in the final PHEP ORR guidance to be released in early 2022 and with additional guidance orientation webinars following the release of the guidance.

As a reminder, CDC also temporarily suspended state evaluation of Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) local planning jurisdictions. This includes the new requirement that CRI jurisdictions complete the annual PHEP exercise incorporating access and functional needs partners as outlined in the BP3 continuation guidance. Instead, CDC recommends that CRI jurisdictions spend time during the current budget period planning for this exercise in Budget Period 4 (BP4).

For more information about BP3 PHEP ORR reporting requirements, recipients should contact their PHEP project officers or preparedness@cdc.gov.



CDC Expands COVID-19 Booster Recommendations

On November 29, CDC [expanded its recommendation on COVID-19 booster](#) doses for individuals 18 years and older. Adults ages 18 and older **should** receive a booster shot either six months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or two months after their initial Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The recent emergence of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters, and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19. Early data from South Africa suggest increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, and scientists in the United States and around the world are urgently examining vaccine effectiveness related to this variant. To stop the spread of COVID-19, communities should follow the [prevention strategies](#) that have been proven to work. More information can be found on the [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#) webpage.

First Case of Omicron Variant Detected in U.S.

On December 1, the California and San Francisco public health departments reported the [first confirmed case of Omicron variant detected in the United States](#). This recent case of the COVID-19 Omicron variant was discovered in an individual passenger that returned from South Africa on November 22. The individual, who was fully vaccinated and had mild symptoms that are improving, has been self-quarantining since testing positive. All close contacts have been notified and have tested negative.

On November 30, the U.S. SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group (SIG) made the decision to classify the Omicron variant as a Variant of Concern (VOC). Learn more at [What You Need to Know About Variants](#).

CDC Tightens Testing Requirement for International Travel to U.S.

On December 2, CDC revised the current Global Testing Order to shorten the timeline for required testing for all international air travelers to one day before departure to the United States. This revision strengthens already robust protocols in place for international travel, including requirements for foreign travelers to be fully vaccinated.

As more information is learned about the Omicron variant, this new one-day testing policy will help to protect travelers and the health and safety of American communities from COVID-19. These orders put in place a stringent and consistent global international travel policy that is guided by public health.

Beginning December 6, all air travelers, regardless of citizenship or vaccination status, will be to be required to show a negative pre-departure COVID-19 viral test taken the day before they board their flights to the United States. CDC continues to recommend that all travelers get a COVID-19 viral test three to five days after arrival and that unvaccinated travelers should quarantine for seven days after travel.

The U.S. government and the airline industry are committed to making this process as seamless as possible for the traveling public. These travel requirements will be effective for air travel to the United States from any foreign country departing at or after **12:01 a.m. EST on December 6.**

Further guidance and operational details are available at the [CDC Orders](#) and [Travel](#) webpages.

Updated COVID-19 Resources Now Available

- **UPDATED** On November 26, the White House Administration released [A Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019](#). More information about this proclamation can be found at [Travelers Prohibited from Entry to the United States](#) and on the [CDC Travel Recommendations by Destination](#) webpage.
- **UPDATED** The November 26 [CDC Statement on B.1.1.529 \(Omicron variant\)](#) describes how CDC is responding to reports of the Omicron variant.
- **UPDATED** CDC's [Increasing Seasonal Influenza A \(H3N2\) Activity, Especially Among Young Adults and in College and University Settings, During SARS-CoV-2 Co-Circulation](#) provides recommendations and reminders about the 2021-2022 influenza season.



What's on the Calendar

- **December 8** – PHEP Connects Webinar
- **December 15** – PHEP Recipient Call



Preparedness and Response Resources

CDC's PHEP Connects Webinar Scheduled for December 8

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar, "How Disaster Epidemiology Tools and Methods Meet Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities," is scheduled for **1 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 8.** The webinar will highlight how disaster epidemiology aligns with CDC's capability standards and integrates with emergency management.



Tess Konen, senior epidemiologist at the Minnesota Department of Health and co-chair of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee, will define disaster epidemiology (DE) and its role in all phases of the emergency management cycle and provide an overview of how DE tools and methods align with CDC's preparedness and response capability standards. Andrew Adams, CSTE senior program analyst, will share disaster epidemiology resources and how to access CSTE technical assistance resources. The presentation will describe specific tools and resources, such as Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) and Emergency Responder Health Monitoring and Surveillance (ERHMS), and provide local and state examples of how agencies can integrate DE into their preparedness plans and responses. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (669) 254-5252 (Audio only)

Meeting ID: 1612411865

Passcode: 569595

Web Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612411865>

CDC Develops New Interactive Home Ventilation Tool

CDC, in collaboration with the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) (NIST) and with support from CDC Foundation, has developed an interactive tool located on the CDC [COVID-19 home ventilation page](#). The tool, based on NIST modeling data, allows users to see how simple ventilation methods can keep virus particles from building up in the air in their homes. Users can input the actions they are taking in their homes, such as opening windows, running a HEPA air purifier, and improving their heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system's air filter, and receive an estimate of how much their air quality has improved. A [more detailed version](#) of the tool can be found on the NIST website.

Good ventilation, along with other [protective actions](#) such as getting vaccinated and wearing a mask, can help prevent the spread of COVID-19.



CDC Observes National Influenza Vaccination Week

National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW), recognized this year from December 5-11, is an annual observance to remind and encourage individuals six months and older to get vaccinated against influenza to be protected during the upcoming winter months. NIVW materials are available for others to encourage vaccination among people who haven't gotten their influenza vaccine. Visit CDC's [National Influenza Vaccination Week](#) webpage for more resources and information, including the [NIVW Digital Media Toolkit](#).



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 3](#)
- [Economic Cost of Injury — United States, 2019](#)
- [State-Level Economic Costs of Fatal Injuries — United States, 2019](#)
- [Incidence of Nonfatal Traumatic Brain Injury–Related Hospitalizations — United States, 2018](#)

- [Vital Signs: HIV Infection, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention Among Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men — United States, 2010–2019](#)
- [Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness — Six U.S. Jurisdictions, December 2020–August 2021](#)
- [Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Suicidal Ideation Among State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, March–April 2021](#)
- [QuickStats: Rate of Cesarean Delivery, by Maternal Prepregnancy Body Mass Index Category — United States, 2020](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [CDC Expands COVID-19 Booster Recommendations](#)
- **NEW** [First Confirmed Case of Omicron Variant Detected in the United States](#)
- **UPDATED** [Improving Ventilation in Your Home](#)
- **UPDATED** [What You Need to Know About Variants](#)
- **UPDATED** [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC Orders](#)
- **UPDATED** [Travel](#)
- **UPDATED** [A Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Certain Additional Persons Who Pose a Risk of Transmitting Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
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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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