

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

December 17, 2021

**** The next DSLR Friday Update will be published Wednesday, December 29, 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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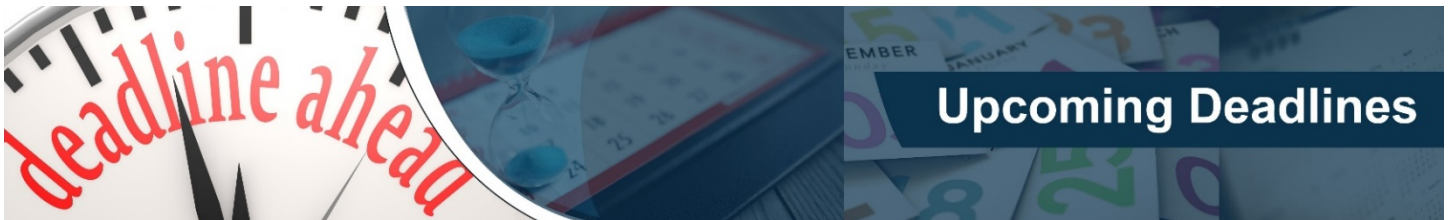
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Preparedness and Response Resources

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Online Resources

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- **December 31** – Critical Contact Sheets



PHEP ORR Friday Feature: Highlighting BP3 Requirements

In anticipation of the release of the updated PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) guidance and the launch of the PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS), this week's PHEP ORR Friday Feature recaps PHEP Budget Period 3 (BP3) program requirements and PORTS availability to ensure PHEP recipients know what to expect in the second half of BP3.



CDC has significantly reduced BP3 submission requirements for the 62 PHEP recipients and suspended state evaluation of Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) local planning jurisdictions. In BP3, the 62 PHEP recipients must submit:

- Critical contacts, partner planning, and workforce development and training information;
- PHEP benchmark data;
- Emergency operation center activation data;
- Annual PHEP exercise data; and
- Select new operational data elements focused on the COVID-19 response.

To evaluate the PHEP COVID-19 response in BP3, CDC added two new PHEP ORR forms to collect data about each jurisdiction's ability to respond to an actual pandemic in each of the domains described in CDC's preparedness and response capability standards. The new operational measures include:

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

All 62 PHEP recipients must submit their COVID-19 pandemic response data in BP3, even if they have 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 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.

Following is the current timeline for the release of the final BP3 PHEP ORR guidance, the launch of PORTS, and all related training. Recipients should note that these dates are subject to change.

- PORTS is scheduled to open in March 2022 but cannot open until CDC provides final approval of the system.
 - Onboarding of system users is targeted to begin in January.
 - PORTS and ORR tool training for external users is planned to begin in late February or early March.
- Final PHEP ORR guidance is scheduled for release in late January or February 2022, pending CDC clearance.
 - Guidance orientation sessions are scheduled to begin in January 2022.
- Data regarding BP3 programmatic requirements, including the VAC and RSP measures and supporting evidence, must be submitted by June 30, 2022.

PHEP recipients will use the new PORTS to complete their PHEP ORRs. Only the 62 PHEP recipients will have access to PORTS initially, as CDC has temporarily suspended CRI evaluations. This means CRI jurisdictions will not submit ORR data in BP3. CDC is finalizing the local evaluation strategy and details regarding local access to PORTS. CDC will invite both PHEP recipients and local jurisdictions to the guidance orientation and PORTS training sessions. However, these sessions will be specifically designed for PHEP recipients, as they will be the sole users of PORTS in BP3 to submit required programmatic data.

Please note that due to the holidays, the next PHEP ORR Friday Feature will be published on January 14. For more information about BP3 PHEP ORR reporting requirements or PORTS trainings, recipients should contact their PHEP project officers or preparedness@cdc.gov.

PHEP Critical Contact Sheet Data Due December 31

December 31 is the deadline for PHEP recipients to submit critical contact sheet (CCS) data. PHEP recipients are required to review CCS data and submit updates twice a year. 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 their CCS data to review and update 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.



Crisis response cooperative agreement recipients that require additional time to complete activities supported by the fiscal year 2020 COVID-19 supplemental funding can now request no-cost extensions. The initial period of performance closed in March 2021; however, CDC granted no-cost extensions to about 90% of the 65 recipients. Recipients that need more time to complete their approved activities can request up to an additional 12 months to do so. Jurisdictions may request a time frame that is appropriate for their situation.

Recipients should submit no-cost extension requests as soon as possible but **no later than February 1** via the Grants Management Module (GMM) in GrantSolutions using the no-cost extension amendment type. The recipient’s authorized organizational representative (AOR), identified as the administrative official (ADO) role in GMM, should submit the no-cost extension requests. Requests submitted in GMM by principal investigators, project directors, or financial officials must include request letters on official letterhead signed by the AOR. The following table provides guidance on the requirements for submitting no-cost extension requests in GMM.

Prior Approval Amendment Type	GMM Application Kit Requirements	Supporting Documentation for CDC Review
No-Cost Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Upload SF-424A Budget Information Non-Construction Performance Period Revision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request details with AOR authorization Timeline and expected activities Budget Justification that includes CDC Budget Preparation Guidance information

More information is available at [CDC Prior Approvals for Non-research Awards](#). Recipients can also direct questions to their DSLR project officers or to DSLRCrisisCoAg@cdc.gov.

CDC Endorses ACIP’s Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

On December 16, CDC endorsed updated recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for the prevention of COVID-19, expressing a clinical preference for individuals to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine over Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine. ACIP’s unanimous recommendation followed a robust discussion of the latest evidence on vaccine effectiveness, vaccine safety and rare adverse events, and consideration of the U.S. vaccine supply. The U.S. supply of mRNA vaccines is abundant with nearly 100 million doses in the field for immediate use. This updated CDC recommendation follows similar recommendations from other countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom. Given the current state of the pandemic both here and around the world, the ACIP reaffirmed that receiving any vaccine is better than being unvaccinated. Individuals who are unable or unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine will continue to have access to Johnson & Johnson’s COVID-19 vaccine.

CDC Provides Updated COVID-19 Information

CDC provides updated information on the Omicron variant and where it has been detected in the United States on its [Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#) webpage. In addition, CDC’s updated [travel](#) webpage provides information on what passengers need to know before international, domestic and cruise ship travel.

Multiple Options for COVID-19 Testing Available to Jurisdictions

As new COVID-19 variants emerge, states, local jurisdictions, and laboratories are encouraged to use all COVID-19 testing resources available. Options include tests available through the Federal Supply Schedule (FSS), the commercial market, by working with manufacturers to diversify testing platforms, and allowing flexibility and sustainability when supplies are limited. The following resources are available to further assist with testing.

- **Operation Expanded Testing (OpET)** provides no-cost COVID-19 screening community testing. Schools, childcare centers, historically black colleges and universities, homeless shelters, women’s shelters, and other congregate settings are eligible to participate through July 1, 2022. Direct requests to eocevent589@cdc.gov.
- **Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT)** provides no-cost testing in communities disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Direct requests to ICATT@hhs.gov.

- **CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Reopening Schools Award**
The CDC-funded [ELC Reopening Schools Award](#) increases resources for COVID-19 screening testing to help schools provide safe, in-person learning. All K-12 schools in current ELC jurisdictions are eligible to participate through July 2022. Direct requests to elc@cdc.gov.
- **COVID-19 Self-testing Guidance** updates are available [on the CDC website](#). The updated guidance recommends that individuals consider using a [self-test before gathering](#) with friends and family ahead of the holiday season. Direct any self-testing questions to CDC's Expansion of Screening and Diagnostics Task Force at eocevent588@cdc.gov.



What's on the Calendar

- **January 3** – All-STLT Update Call: [Register at this link](#) for the 2022 call series
- **January 12** – PHEP Connects Webinar
- **January 19** – HPP-PHEP Recipient Call



Preparedness and Response Resources

Strategic National Stockpile Formulary Update Webcast Now Available Online

A recording of the “Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Formulary Update” webcast is now available on TRAIN.org. The formulary update provides public health partners and stakeholders with an overview of the nation’s repository of emergency medical countermeasures (MCMs), including pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, equipment, and devices for lifesaving care currently available in the SNS as of December 2021. This informational webinar will help participants better understand the increasing number of SNS-held products by threat and product type and how these products can supplement MCMs needed by states, tribal nations, territories, and the largest metropolitan areas during public health emergencies.

The webinar is for all federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public health and emergency response partners that represent public health and emergency response stakeholders. The webinar is provisionally available for 45 days as a password-protected course on TRAIN.org. To register for this webinar via [CDC TRAIN](#), interested participants must have a TRAIN account, which is available via <http://train.org>. To search and register for this webinar, enter the entire webinar title, “**Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Formulary**,” or the course ID number, **1101179**. Please use launch code Form22 to view the webinar.

Questions regarding TRAIN registration should be directed to dsnstrain@cdc.gov.



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 17](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 \(Omicron\) Variant — United States, December 1–8, 2021](#)
- [Booster and Additional Primary Dose COVID-19 Vaccinations Among Adults Aged ≥65 Years — United States, August 13, 2021–November 19, 2021](#)
- [Comparative Effectiveness and Antibody Responses to Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines among Hospitalized Veterans — Five Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, United States, February 1–September 30, 2021](#)
- [Community-Based Testing Sites for SARS-CoV-2 — United States, March 2020–November 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [MMWR Weekly COVID-19 Briefing](#)
- **NEW** [CDC Expands COVID-19 Booster Recommendations to 16-and-17-year-olds](#)
- **NEW** [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)
- **UPDATED** [Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#)
- **UPDATED** [Steps for Determining Close Contact and Quarantine in K–12 Schools Infographic](#)
- **UPDATED** [Resources to Promote the COVID-19 Vaccine for Children & Teens](#)

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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