

**DSLRL**

# FRIDAY UPDATE

February 18, 2022



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).

## In This Issue

### Upcoming Deadlines

- **February 18** – Public Health Associate Program Host Site Applications
- **March 11** – PHEP 20th Anniversary Workforce Recognition Submissions **New Date**
- **March 21** – PHEP BP4 Funding Applications

### PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

- CDC Hosts February 23 Special PHEP Connects Webinar on PHEP ORR Requirements
- PORTS Training Scheduled for March 2022
- CDC Extends PHEP 20th Anniversary Workforce Recognition Submission Deadline to March 11

### COVID-19 Response Activities

- CDC COVID-19 All-STLT Update Calls to be Held Biweekly
- Updated Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance Now Available
- February 24 COCA Call to Provide Updated Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccines

### What's on the Calendar

- **February 23** – Special PHEP Connects Webinar: PHEP ORR Guidance Orientation
- **February 28** – CDC COVID-19 All-STLT Update Call
- **March 9** – PHEP Connects Webinar

- **March 16** – Special PHEP Connects Webinar: PHEP ORR Guidance Orientation

### Preparedness and Response Resources

- FEMA Offers Assistance Through National Exercise Program
- NACCHO Accepting Applications for Medical Reserve Corps COVID-19 RISE Awards

### Online Resources

- CDC MMWR Reports
- COVID-19 Guidance and Resources



- **February 18** – Public Health Associate Program Host Site Applications
- **March 11** – PHEP 20th Anniversary Workforce Recognition Submissions **New Date**
- **March 21** – PHEP BP4 Funding Applications



### CDC Hosts February 23 Special PHEP Connects Webinar on PHEP ORR Requirements



CDC will host a special PHEP Connects webinar from **1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. EST on Wednesday, February 23**, on new PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) requirements. This special webinar is the second in a series of training sessions designed to orient PHEP recipients on various aspects of CDC’s PHEP ORR guidance requirements for Budget Period 3 (BP3). During this session, “ORR Reporting: Using the COVID-19 Response to Meet PHEP Pandemic Exercise Requirements,” CDC presenter Chris Reinold will provide an overview of the new Pandemic COVID-19 Incident Response (RSP) ORR form. The RSP is one of two new forms developed to evaluate the PHEP COVID-19 response in BP3. The forms are intended 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](#).

The third webinar in this special PHEP Connects series will be held from **1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 16**, and will provide an overview of the second new COVID-19 evaluation form, Critical Vaccination for Workforce Groups and Disproportionately Impacted Populations (VAC). As a reminder, both PHEP recipients and local jurisdictions are invited to attend these orientation webinars. However, the sessions are specifically designed to prepare the 62 PHEP recipients to submit required programmatic data. CDC has waived the PHEP ORR requirement for local jurisdictions in BP3.

CDC will post the meeting materials for all three webinars. The slides from the February 2 webinar, which highlighted PHEP BP3 programmatic requirements, are available on the [Online Technical Resources and Assistance Center \(On-TRAC\)](#) platform. An updated overview of BP3 programmatic requirements is available on the CDC website at [PHEP Budget Period 3 Reporting Requirements and ORR Implementation – February 2022 Update](#).

## Special PHEP Connects Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 161 241 1865

Passcode: 569595

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

## **PORTS Training Scheduled for March 2022**

CDC plans to conduct four PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) trainings in March. Each three-hour training is identical and provides an orientation to PORTS and how PHEP recipients enter data, upload evidence, and use the submit function within the ORR module. Specific training details will be available in March. Ahead of this training it is recommended that PHEP recipients complete their [PORTS application forms](#) for access to the system. As a reminder when completing the application form recipients will need to select one of the five listed user roles. The functions of these roles are:

1. **Data Entry:** Add new forms and input data into the ORR module in PORTS and submit completed forms to the “submit for review” user for internal jurisdictional review. A data entry user cannot submit forms directly to CDC unless also assigned the “submit for review” role.
2. **Submit for Review:** Ensure data accuracy prior to submission to CDC. This role is intended for PHEP directors or their approved proxies.
3. **State Reviewer:** Review, adjudicate, and acknowledge forms submitted by users at the local level.
4. **Read Only:** View and print forms that have been acknowledged. These users cannot perform other actions in the ORR tool.
5. **Manage Users:** Assign and modify jurisdictional PORTS user roles. This role is intended for PHEP directors, who can add proxies and defer this role to other staff. This role was initially labeled as “user manager” but has been updated on the PORTS online application form.

For more information on how to become a PORTS user, recipients should contact their PHEP project officers or [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

## **CDC Extends PHEP 20th Anniversary Workforce Recognition Submission Deadline to March 11**

CDC will observe the PHEP 20th anniversary this year by recognizing and celebrating the state, local, and territorial public health preparedness workforce and highlighting their contributions to the PHEP program over the past two decades. PHEP directors are invited to submit representatives from their jurisdictions in the following three categories:

1. **PHEP Trailblazers:** Public health preparedness directors and other staff who have made lasting contributions to the field of public health emergency preparedness over the past 20 years. **CDC requests that PHEP directors each submit one state and one local PHEP Trailblazer.**
2. **PHEP Pathfinders:** Public health preparedness professionals early in their preparedness careers who demonstrate effective leadership, innovation, and a willingness to contribute to the broader preparedness community. **CDC requests that PHEP directors each submit one state and one local PHEP Pathfinder.**
3. **PHEP Champions:** Staff who have been with the PHEP program in their jurisdictions in some capacity for at least 10 years. Champions may also be community health workers or other volunteers. CDC requests that PHEP directors submit PHEP Champions that fit the criteria. **There is no specific number of submissions associated with this category.**

CDC will recognize PHEP Trailblazers, PHEP Pathfinders, and PHEP Champions in the DSLR Friday Update, on the CDC website, and during the 2022 Preparedness Summit.

CDC has extended the deadline for submissions to **Friday, March 11**. All submissions should be sent to [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).



## COVID-19 Response Activities

### **CDC COVID-19 All-STLT Update Calls to be Held Biweekly**

The CDC COVID-19 All-State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (STLT) Update Call series will be transitioning to a biweekly schedule, with the next call scheduled for **Monday, February 28**. This call series provides STLT partners with the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak and U.S. preparedness efforts. During the calls, experts from different parts of CDC's COVID-19 response provide updates on the latest scientific findings, guidance for operations, and information resources. Registration for the call series is [available at this link](#).

### **Updated Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance Now Available**

CDC has updated its guidance for COVID-19 vaccination for specific vaccinated populations. These changes are designed to eliminate confusion related to COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for these populations and ensure that people are better protected from the potential severe consequences of COVID-19.

- Those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised are recommended to receive an mRNA booster dose three months after their last dose from a completed primary mRNA vaccine series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna).
- Those who have received a single Johnson & Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine should receive one additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and one booster dose (preferably mRNA) for a total of three vaccine doses.
- Those who have completed their primary series of three mRNA doses should receive an mRNA vaccine booster dose, for a total of four doses.
- Those who previously received passive COVID-19 antibody products or passive COVID-19 antibody therapy may proceed with COVID-19 vaccination at their earliest opportunity. There is no vaccination deferral period.

CDC also continues to recommend those ages five years and older remain up to date with recommended [COVID-19 boosters](#) to ensure optimal protection against hospitalizations and severe outcomes. For most, that means getting a [booster dose](#) five months after receiving an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) or two months after receiving Johnson and Johnson's Janssen vaccine. CDC is continuing to closely monitor the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines to help inform public health efforts. More information can be found on the CDC [Interim Clinical Care Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) webpage.

### **February 24 COCA Call to Provide Updated Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccines**

CDC will host a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call at **2 p.m. EST on Thursday, February 24**, to present updated information on COVID-19 vaccines for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised. The discussion will also cover:

- Simplified recommendations for vaccination following receipt of passive antibody therapy and
- Summarized recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination by age group.

Registration is not required. More information is available at [Updated Guidance for Clinicians on COVID-19 Vaccines](#).



## What's on the Calendar

- **February 23** – Special PHEP Connects Webinar: PHEP ORR Guidance Orientation
- **February 28** – CDC COVID-19 All-STLT Update Call
- **March 9** – PHEP Connects Webinar
- **March 16** – Special PHEP Connects Webinar: PHEP ORR Guidance Orientation



## Preparedness and Response Resources

### FEMA Offers Assistance Through National Exercise Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is accepting requests for exercise support through [the National Exercise Program](#). To validate capabilities across all mission areas, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners can request no-cost assistance on the design, development, conduct, and evaluation of their exercises. FEMA is hosting [multiple webinars](#) throughout the spring on the exercise support process for all interested governmental and other community partners. The most next webinar will be held at **2 p.m. EST on Tuesday, February 22**. To submit a request for exercise support, download the [support request form](#) and email the completed form with supporting documentation to [NEP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:NEP@fema.dhs.gov). The deadline to submit requests for exercise assistance is **April 1**. FEMA will hold additional exercise support rounds in fall 2022 and spring 2023.

### NACCHO Accepting Applications for Medical Reserve Corps COVID-19 RISE Awards

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recently announced it is [accepting applications](#) for the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) COVID-19 Respond, Innovate, Sustain, and Equip (RISE) Awards. RISE awards are intended to provide resources that support COVID-19 response efforts by building capacity for response, sustaining staffing requirements, and equipping MRC units or state coordinators with the resources they need to support their mission. Approximately 350 total awards are available to MRC units and MRS state coordinators. The application deadline is **11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, March 4**. Questions can be directed to NACCHO by emailing [mrc@naccho.org](mailto:mrc@naccho.org).



## Online Resources

### CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 18](#)
- [Effectiveness of Maternal Vaccination with mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy Against COVID-19–Associated Hospitalization in Infants Aged <6 Months — 17 States, July 2021–January 2022](#)
- [Preventive Dental Care and Oral Health of Children and Adolescents With and Without Heart Conditions — United States, 2016–2019](#)

- [Progress Toward Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Control and Elimination — Worldwide, 2012–2020](#)
- [Identifying Higher-Volume Antibiotic Outpatient Prescribers Using Publicly Available Medicare Part D Data — United States, 2019](#)
- [Genomic Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 Variants: Predominance of the Delta \(B.1.617.2\) and Omicron \(B.1.1.529\) Variants — United States, June 2021–January 2022](#)

## COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [MMWR Weekly COVID-19 Briefing](#)
- **NEW** [Using Strategic Messaging and Framing to Motivate Others to Support Public Health](#)
- **NEW** [Improving Ventilation in Healthcare Settings to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19](#)
- **NEW** [Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)
- **NEW** [Get Your Recommended COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy](#)
- **UPDATED** [Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of Wed, 16 Feb 2022 06:00:00 EST](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- **UPDATED** [Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#)

---

## 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](mailto: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

[Questions or Problems](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)