

**DSLRL**

# FRIDAY UPDATE

February 25, 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](#) or contact us at [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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- **March 11** – PHEP 20th Anniversary Workforce Recognition Submissions
- **March 21** – PHEP BP4 Funding Applications



## PHEP ORR Friday Feature: Completing the COVID-19 Incident Response Form

On February 22, CDC released the updated PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) guidance to the 62 PHEP recipients.

This week's PHEP ORR Friday Feature focuses on the Pandemic COVID-19 Incident Response (RSP) form, which is one of two new forms for reporting COVID-19 response activities in Budget Period 3 (BP3).

Submission and successful review of the Vaccination for Critical Workforce Groups and Disproportionately Impacted Populations (VAC) and RSP forms will fulfill PHEP five-year program requirements for pandemic influenza functional and full-scale exercises and the joint functional exercise with emergency management and health care coalitions.

The RSP measures capability functions, resource elements, and tasks as described in CDC's [Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities: National Standards for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Public Health](#). Jurisdictions will primarily submit information about the role of the PHEP program across various components of the response. A **lead role** indicates the PHEP program had the primary responsibility for providing staffing, funding, and partnership coordination for planning or response activities; a **support role** indicates that the PHEP program had some responsibility for either funding, staffing, or partnership coordination. In some cases, **no role** will indicate the PHEP program had no direct involvement or funding for a particular element. Supporting evidence must be submitted and substantiate selected roles. In the instance of no role or involvement, evidence should clearly identify how the element was managed, which may include the responsible agency, stakeholder, partner, or other entity. This approach helps explain the jurisdictional resources public health emergency management programs have or have access to in support of the 15 capability standards.

**PHEP ORR**  
FRIDAY FEATURE



In addition to defining how PHEP programs supported the response, CDC incorporated Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) ratings for each element. PHEP recipients will be required to determine how well the element was performed using the HSEEP rating definitions:

- Performed without Challenges (P): The targets and critical tasks were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. This element could easily be included as a domain strength.
- Performed with Some Challenges (S): The targets and critical tasks were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities; however, opportunities to enhance effectiveness and/or efficiency were identified. These elements could potentially be identified as domain strengths or areas of improvement.
- Performed with Major Challenges (M): The targets and critical tasks were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s), but some or all of the following were observed: demonstrated performance had a negative impact on the performance of other activities; contributed to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers; and/or was not conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws. Any such elements could be reported as an area for improvement.
- Unable to Be Performed (U): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were not performed in a manner that achieved the objective(s).

Within each of RSP form's six domain sections, recipients must also provide brief narrative responses describing strengths, area(s) for improvement that are within their ability to improve, and the root cause analysis conducted to determine the appropriate corrective action(s) needed to address the area(s) of improvement.

Recipients must self-report ORR data **by June 30, 2022**, which includes completing forms that self-assess program performance using the HSEEP ratings described above. Recipients are also encouraged to upload as much supporting evidence as possible by **June 30, 2022**, to substantiate the responses entered in the forms. By **October 31, 2022**, recipients must upload any additional supporting evidence necessary to substantiate their final responses.

**Local Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) planning jurisdictions are NOT required to complete the ORR in Budget Period 3 (BP3)**; only the 62 PHEP recipients are required to submit ORR data. CDC is still considering several possible options for evaluating local planning jurisdictions in Budget Period 4 (BP4). Meanwhile, CDC encourages local jurisdictions to participate in PHEP ORR training opportunities such as the special series of PHEP Connects webinars. PHEP recipients and local jurisdictions should also review all the capability planning elements in the PHEP ORR guidance and begin developing or updating current planning documents based on ORR guidance and any gaps identified during the COVID-19 response and other responses.

The next Special PHEP Connects webinar will be held on **Wednesday, March 16** and will cover the VAC form with a subsequent ORR Friday Feature to follow. Resources such as the [February 2 Special PHEP Connects Webinar](#), [February 23 Special PHEP Connects Webinar](#), [BP3 One-Pager](#), and [PORTS Application form](#) can be found on the [DSLRL Website](#). Any questions on these items or the RSP requirements should be directed to [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).



**CDC to Host Special Session of COVID-19 All-STLT Update Call on February 25**

CDC is scheduled to host a special session of the **COVID-19 All-State, Tribal, Local, Territorial (STLT) Update Call** from **4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. EST on Friday, February 25.**

#### Participant Information

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666 (Audio only)

Meeting ID: 160 923 2368

Passcode: 87244094

Web Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1609232368?pwd=SHhqL0REeXRXRzJsUWpNRy95QzJXdz09>

#### **New CDC Studies Indicate COVID-19 Boosters Remain Safe and Continue to Offer High Levels of Protection**

On February 11, CDC released a [media statement](#) about two new CDC reports that indicate COVID-19 boosters remain safe and continue to offer high levels of protection against severe disease over time and during omicron and delta waves. CDC continues to recommend everyone ages 5 years and older remain up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccinations to ensure optimal protection against hospitalizations and severe outcomes from COVID-19.

#### **CDC Updates Interim Guidance on Management of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities**

On February 15, CDC updated its [Guidance on Prevention and Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Correctional and Detention Facilities](#), which provides guidance specific for correctional and detention facilities regarding COVID-19 and consolidates previous CDC corrections-specific guidance documents. The updated guidance reduces the duration of quarantine during routine operations from 14 days to 10 days and provides considerations for isolation and quarantine during crisis-level operations.

#### **New COVID-19 Video Provides Recommendations on COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy**

CDC and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recently developed a new COVID-19 patient education video, [Get Your Recommended COVID-19 Vaccine During Pregnancy](#). The brief video discusses taking precautions against COVID-19 while pregnant. Learn more about [COVID-19, pregnancy, and vaccines](#).



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## Preparedness and Response Resources

#### **Funding Available to Increase Rural, Frontier Local Workforce Response Capacity**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is now offering funding through a [request for application process](#) to approximately 35 rural and frontier health departments to help build their workforce capacity to respond to COVID-19. Applicants may apply for funding awards of \$35,000 to support COVID-19 response and recovery activities related to administrative preparedness, emergency preparedness and response, communications, workforce mental health and well-being, health equity, and emerging issues. The application **deadline is 11:59 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 16.** To assist with this application

process, NACCHO will host an [informational webinar](#) at 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, March 2. Questions about the RFA and application process can be directed to the project team at [CovidWorkforce@naccho.org](mailto:CovidWorkforce@naccho.org).

### **ASPR TRACIE Provides Rehabilitation and Disaster Preparedness Resources**

The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) has compiled [resources](#) specific to the inclusion of rehabilitation professionals in disaster preparedness and response efforts in the United States.



### **CDC Announces Administrative Law Online Training Series**

CDC's Public Health Law Academy offers a new, three-part series on creating, implementing, and enforcing public health laws. Part I: "[What Legal Powers Do Health Departments Have?](#)" is now available online. The remaining training sessions will be released in early 2022.

### **CDC Publishes Article on Public Health Strategies: A Pathway for Public Health Practice to Leverage Law in Advancing Equity**

*The Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* recently published an article written by CDC Public Health Law Program staff on advancing health equity. The article outlines a pathway for public health departments and practitioners to incorporate law into their efforts to advance equity in health outcomes. Topics discussed include how examining and applying law can accelerate public health efforts to mitigate structural and systemic inequities, including racism. Read the full article at: [Public Health Strategies: A Pathway for Public Health Practice to Leverage Law in Advancing Equity](#).



### **CDC MMWR Reports**

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 25](#)
- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older — United States, 2022](#)
- [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger — United States, 2022](#)
- [Multistate Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 \(Omicron\) Variant Infections Among Persons in a Social Network Attending a Convention — New York City, November 18–December 20, 2021](#)
- [Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Associated With a Large Indoor Convention — New York City, November–December 2021](#)
- [Safety Monitoring of COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses Among Adults — United States, September 22, 2021–February 6, 2022](#)
- [Waning 2-Dose and 3-Dose Effectiveness of mRNA Vaccines Against COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department and Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Adults During Periods of Delta and Omicron Variant Predominance — VISION Network, 10 States, August 2021–January 2022](#)
- [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](#)

- [Hospitalizations of Children and Adolescents with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 — COVID-NET, 14 States, July 2021–January 2022](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 \(Omicron\) Variant Transmission Within Households — Four U.S. Jurisdictions, November 2021–February 2022](#)

## COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [MMWR Weekly COVID-19 Briefing](#)
- **NEW** [Steps for Determining Close Contact and Quarantine in K–12 Schools](#)
- **NEW** [Isolation and Quarantine in Early Care and Education \(ECE\) Programs](#)
- **NEW** [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- **UPDATED** [Staffing Resources and Guidance](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#)

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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](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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