

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

March 4, 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.

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



CDC Provides Guidance on BP4 Application Submission

As the March 21 Budget Period 4 (BP4) application deadline is fast approaching, CDC offers recipients guidance on including Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) activities in their work plans and submitting their applications in GrantSolutions.

Application Submission

The application submission process is slightly different in BP4 compared with previous years. Recipients must **enter** BP4 application data in **PERFORMS** and **submit** all required application components in **GrantSolutions** no later than **11:59 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 21**. PERFORMS will remain open until May 30 to enable recipients to submit revised budgets and work plans after CDC releases final BP4 funding allocations.

To develop a complete application, recipients must:

- Complete all tabs within the BP4 application module in PERFORMS and include all required attachments.
- Attach appropriate PERFORMS reports to the application amendment in GrantSolutions.
- Complete the Performance Progress and Monitoring Report (PPMR) and attach it to the application amendment in GrantSolutions. For box #10, recipients can write, "See Domain Work Plan and Progress Update attachments."
- Complete the remaining required application components in GrantSolutions:
 - SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance Version 2;
 - SF-424A Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs and Budget Justification;
 - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement;
 - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL);
 - State Health Official Letter;
 - Local Health Department Concurrence Letter (if applicable);
 - Key Contact Form; and
 - Annual Report for Tangible Property SF-428-A.

CRI Activities

The PHEP NOFO requires all 62 PHEP recipients and the CRI local planning jurisdictions to participate in the PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) evaluation process. However, CDC waived the PHEP ORR requirement for CRI jurisdictions in Budget Period 3 (BP3). CDC is finalizing PHEP ORR requirements for BP4, including specific requirements for CRI jurisdictions.

To assist PHEP recipients in developing their BP4 applications, CDC recommends PHEP recipients consider including the following CRI activities in their BP4 countermeasures and mitigation domain work plans, either now or when they submit their work plan and budget revisions later this spring.

- Revise work plans that were paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic by integrating lessons learned, response experience, and any relevant promising practices identified and implemented.
- Identify programmatic gaps discovered during the COVID-19 response that can be prioritized and incorporated into current work plans.
- Review the updated PHEP ORR guidance released February 22 and align work plan activities with the sections related to medical countermeasure distribution and dispensing.

Full application instructions are available at [PHEP BP4 Application and Amendment Instructions Supplemental Document](#). Recipients should contact their PHEP project officers or grants management specialists with questions regarding the application submission process.

March 9 PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights Legal Tools for STLT COVID-19 Mitigation Measures

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar, "Legal Tools for STLT COVID-19 Mitigation Measures," is scheduled for **1 p.m. EST on Wednesday,**

March 9. This webinar will describe the evolution of state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) COVID-19 mitigation policies, their use and impact, and the ways some legal tools have been challenged in court.



CDC presenters Gregory Sunshine and Mara Howard-Williams will provide an overview of legal authorities for STLT public health agencies and describe the methodology and scope used to track mitigation policies such as business closures and vaccine mandates. Speakers will also discuss impact analyses of these policies and their implications for future public health emergency response. Participants will expand their knowledge of public health laws implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and their impact on STLT communities. Following is the participant information.

Participant Login Information

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

Meeting ID: 161 241 1865

Passcode: 569595

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

CDC to Host Special PHEP Connects ORR Webinar on March 16

CDC has **canceled** the March 16 PHEP recipient call in lieu of a special PHEP Connects webinar scheduled for **1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 16.** This special webinar is the third training session designed to orient PHEP recipients to the PHEP BP3 Operational Readiness Review (ORR) program requirements. CDC will provide the participant information in the March 11 issue of the DSLR Friday Update.

Save the Date for Upcoming PORTS Training

PHEP recipients should plan to attend one of the upcoming PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) technical trainings. This training provides a basic introduction to the system and is intended for the 62 PHEP recipients who will be entering and submitting Operational Readiness Review (ORR) data in PORTS. However, CDC also invites local jurisdictions to participate in this and other PHEP ORR training opportunities. The same content will be provided during each of the following training sessions. Registration information will be forthcoming.

PORTS Training Sessions

- **March 24** - Noon to 3 p.m. EDT

- **March 25** - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT
- **March 28** - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. EDT (USAPI Offering)
- **March 30** - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT



CDC Updates Guidance on Prioritizing Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for COVID-19

On February 28, CDC updated its guidance for [Prioritizing Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for COVID-19](#). The updated guidance ends the recommendation for universal case investigation and contact tracing and encourages health departments to prioritize specific settings and groups at increased risk. In particular, the updated guidance encourages health departments to prioritize investigation of COVID-19 cases, clusters and outbreaks involving:

- High-risk congregate settings such as [long-term care facilities](#), [correctional facilities](#), and [homeless shelters](#). Investigations should focus on cases with symptom onset or positive tests in the preceding five days. Cases in these settings should be prioritized to prevent large-scale transmission and severe health outcomes. Case investigation may complement other strategies such as broad-based notification of potential exposure and support [testing and vaccination](#).
- Unusual clusters of cases, especially if the transmission dynamics, disease course, and disease severity are concerning and not fully understood.
- SSTLT health department-led case investigation may also be warranted for novel or emerging [variants](#) that may pose significant risks for severe disease, hospitalization, or death.

In addition, CDC encourages health departments to expand public education efforts that encourage people with COVID-19 to isolate and to [notify their own close contacts](#) about their potential exposure, so close contacts can [quarantine](#), get [tested](#), [wear well-fitting masks](#), take [precautions when traveling](#), and consider [treatments](#) as appropriate. CDC guidance also recommends that health departments consult with schools, businesses, and organizations that provide essential services to help them implement appropriate COVID-19 prevention measures.

New COVID-19 Community Levels Tool Now Available

CDC's [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) is a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data and their local context and unique needs. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Community vaccination coverage and other local information, like early alerts from surveillance, such as through wastewater or the number of emergency department visits for COVID-19, when available, can also inform decision making for health officials and individuals.

As of March 3, more than 90% of the U.S. population is in a location with a low or medium COVID-19 Community Level. View the new COVID-19 community level data at [COVID-19 by County](#). This data, which will be updated on Thursdays, can help counties make informed decisions and take appropriate public health actions.

CDC Updates List of Certain Medical Conditions for COVID-19

CDC recently updated the [list of certain medical conditions](#) that put people at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 to include additional disabilities, primary immunodeficiency, and physical inactivity. To ensure that each medical condition belongs on this list, CDC [completed a review](#) based on recent data.

[Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines](#), including getting primary and booster doses, and following [preventive measures for COVID-19](#) are important, especially for those who are ages 65 or older, immunocompromised, have [severe health conditions](#) or more than one medical condition, or lives with someone at risk. Approved and authorized COVID-19 vaccines (primary series and boosters) are [safe and](#)

[effective](#), including for people with certain medical conditions. Some [immunocompromised people](#), or those with weakened immune systems, may be eligible for additional primary doses of COVID-19 vaccine. To learn more, visit [People with Certain Medical Conditions](#).



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Preparedness and Response Resources

CDC Health Equity Webpage Features New Resources

CDC's [Health Equity in Action](#) webpage has been updated to include additional health equity projects. Updates include highlights of effective case investigation and contact tracing among refugee, immigrant, and migrant (RIM) populations. During the COVID-19 response, CDC continues to focus its health equity efforts on populations placed at higher risk for COVID-19 and other severe outcomes. Learn more about CDC's work with funded partners to help reduce health disparities related to COVID-19. Visit the CDC [COVID-19 Response Health Equity Strategy](#) for additional information.



News You Can Use

ASTHO to Host March 30 Webinar on Toxic Stress

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) will host a one-hour webinar on "What We've Learned about Toxic Stress" at **4 p.m. EDT Wednesday, March 30**. The webinar will provide public health leaders with an advanced understanding of the pandemic's generational altering impact. Speakers will explore how to integrate this knowledge into best practices going forward to improve all public health initiatives. [Register](#) for the webinar.



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, March 4](#)
- [Geospatial Transmission Hotspots of Recent HIV Infection — Malawi, October 2019–March 2020](#)

- [Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Between Urban and Rural Counties — United States, December 14, 2020–January 31, 2022](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 \(Omicron\) Variant Transmission Within Households — Four U.S. Jurisdictions, November 2021–February 2022](#)
- [Safety Monitoring of COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses Among Persons Aged 12–17 Years — United States, December 9, 2021–February 20, 2022](#)
- [Effectiveness of COVID-19 Pfizer-BioNTech BNT162b2 mRNA Vaccination in Preventing COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department and Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Nonimmunocompromised Children and Adolescents Aged 5–17 Years — VISION Network, 10 States, April 2021–January 2022](#)
- [Notes from the Field: First Reports of Locally Transmitted Seoul Hantavirus Infection — District of Columbia, May 2018–December 2018](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Readiness for Use of Type 2 Novel Oral Poliovirus Vaccine in Response to a Type 2 Circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Outbreak — Tajikistan, 2020–2021](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Adults Aged ≥18 Years with Kidney Disease, by Age Group and Sex — National Health Interview Survey, United States, July–December 2020](#)
- [Antigen Test Positivity After COVID-19 Isolation — Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region, Alaska, January–February 2022](#)
- [Results from a Test-to-Release from Isolation Strategy Among Fully Vaccinated National Football League Players and Staff Members with COVID-19 — United States, December 14–19, 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources


- **NEW** [COVID-19 Community Levels](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID Data Tracker](#)
- **UPDATED** [Prioritizing Case Investigation and Contact Tracing for COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATED** [Use and Care of Masks](#)
- **UPDATED** [Health Equity in Action](#)

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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