

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

*** This week's DSLR Friday Update is being published early due to the Thanksgiving holiday. ***

November 22, 2023



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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DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE



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Upcoming Deadlines

- **November 30** – PHEP Action Plans



PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

PORTS Action Plan (AP) Module Training Video and Updated User Guide Now Available

In October 2023, CDC conducted virtual trainings to provide an orientation to the new Action Plan (AP) Module within the PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS). This module enables PHEP recipients to develop action plans and to address and monitor identified preparedness gaps. For detailed instructions on completing actions within the AP Module, reference the AP Module section of the updated PORTS user guide. The recorded training and user guide are available under the related files section of the [PORTS webpage](#) on the CDC website.



Emergency Response Activities

CDC Response All-STLT Update Call to Be Held November 27

CDC will convene a CDC Response All-State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) Update call from **2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. EST on Monday, November 27**. CDC presenters will provide updates on CDC's Respiratory Virus Response on the three major fall and winter respiratory diseases: influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19. CDC will provide updates on vaccine recommendations and present new and existing resources. The webinar will include a question-and-answer session. A replay of the webinar will be offered at **3 p.m. EST on Tuesday, December 5**. The connection details for this call and the replay are the same. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 161 016 7208

Passcode: 46217352

Access Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1610167208?pwd=Y1h2QWp5SFJDZlhnU2NoeDZrT21JUT09>

Free COVID-19 Test Kits Available Again to U.S. Households

U.S. households can once again order four free COVID-19 rapid tests through COVIDTests.gov. These tests will detect the [currently circulating COVID-19 variants](#). Individuals are encouraged to use the free tests immediately to prepare for travel and gatherings with friends and family throughout the 2023 holiday season. Households that ordered tests earlier this fall can order four more tests, and those that have not ordered this fall can submit two orders for a total of eight tests. Visit the [Food and Drug Administration website](#) to check the expiration dates of COVID-19 tests.

CDC Provides Respiratory Virus Guidance Updates

To help ensure the public is getting accurate and timely information about respiratory virus vaccination, CDC created a new [Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#) and a [Weekly RSV Vaccination Dashboard](#). These dashboards complement the existing [CDC Weekly Flu Vaccination Dashboard](#). The three dashboards are available under a new [RespVaxView](#) webpage and allow visitors to monitor vaccination trends more easily.



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Preparedness and Response Resources

ASTHO Releases Healthcare Capacity Discussion Guide for 2023 Fall and Winter Respiratory Illness Season

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) recently released the [Healthcare Capacity Discussion Guide](#). This guide was developed for public health leaders to use when meeting with leaders of healthcare systems and assessing healthcare capacity. It aims to assist public health leaders in discussing short- and long-term strategies to prevent and manage potential surge challenges to healthcare capacity during the 2023 fall and winter respiratory illness season.



News You Can Use

EPA Announces Rural Environmental Public Health Needs Competition

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and partners announced the [Small Communities, Big Challenges Competition](#) for local governments in the United States to demonstrate innovative and inclusive strategies for engaging with rural communities. Local governments, while ideally positioned to engage with these rural and remote communities, often have expansive responsibilities, limited resources, and geographic barriers that make it difficult to directly engage with these communities to collaboratively identify priority environmental public health issues. This opportunity also encourages collaboration to understand issues that could benefit from future scientific research. Applying innovative and inclusive approaches or strategies could help local governments connect with rural communities to identify environmental and public health issues impacting their citizens, pets, agriculture, education systems, and critical infrastructure. The deadline for applications is **11:59 p.m. EST on Wednesday, January 31**.

EPA will host an informational webinar on this opportunity from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, November 29**. Register [here](#) for the informational webinar.



Online Resources

CDC Online Resources

- **UPDATED** [CDC Respiratory Virus Updates](#)

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