

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

February 3, 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](#) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE



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Upcoming Deadlines

- **March 6** – Updated Budget Narratives and Work Plans (Mpox Funding Recipients)



PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

February 8 PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights Legal Preparedness

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar "PHEP Connects Legal Preparedness Series, Part I: the Past, Present, and Future of Legal and Administrative Preparedness," is scheduled for **1 p.m. EST on Wednesday, February 8.**

Presenters will provide an overview of legal and administrative preparedness principles for public health emergencies and explore the tools and training resources currently available to health departments. Speakers will also discuss how recent emergencies and developments in the legal landscape may change how preparedness planners address these challenges in future responses. In preparation for an administrative preparedness town hall session at the 2023 NACCHO Preparedness Summit, the presenters will invite webinar participants to share innovative strategies they have deployed to overcome legal and administrative barriers to response over the past three years.



Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 161 241 1865

Passcode: 569595

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

PORTS Office Hours Scheduled for February 9

DSLRL will conduct a PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) office-hour session from **10 a.m. to 11 a.m. EST on Thursday, February 9.** This session will serve as an open forum where PHEP recipients can ask technical questions on using the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) module or ORR guidance questions related to entering and submitting data. The PORTS session will be facilitated by the PORTS training team and DSLRL evaluation staff. CDC encourages recipients to email questions in advance to dslrtraining@cdc.gov. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (888) 994-4478 (Audio only)

Meeting ID: 294 893 446 419

Phone Conference ID: 738 718 487

Access Link: [PORTS Office Hours](#)

PHEP Connects Webinar Recordings on BP4 Requirements Now Available

CDC recently hosted two PHEP Connects webinars on December 14 and January 18 regarding PHEP Budget Period 4 (BP4) program requirements. Following are the links to the recorded webinars.

- [December 14 PHEP Connects webinar](#)
- [January 18 PHEP Connects webinar](#)

PFA Host Site Applications Now Available

CDC is seeking to expand the current Preparedness Field Assignee (PFA) program to meet the growing preparedness and response needs of PHEP jurisdictions. DSLR encourages PHEP jurisdictions that currently **do not** host a PFA to consider hosting PFAs to increase their public health emergency preparedness and response capacity. CDC will fund the salaries of PFAs to develop skills and field experience in state and local emergency preparedness and response.

CDC emailed application information to preparedness directors the week of January 30. Interested jurisdictions must submit PFA host site applications to dslrpfa@cdc.gov by **11:59 p.m. EST on Friday, February 24**. For questions regarding the application submission, contact Scott Tulloch at sdt2@cdc.gov.



CDC Launches Website to Help Consumers Find Free COVID-19 Testing Sites

On January 24 CDC launched the [COVID-19 Testing Locator website](#) to help users search for free COVID-19 testing sites. The locator is part of the CDC Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) program, which provides access to COVID-19 testing, focusing on communities at a greater risk of being impacted by the pandemic, people who do not have health insurance, and surge testing in state and local jurisdictions.

Tests offered may include laboratory-based [nucleic acid amplification tests \(NAATs\)](#), including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, and rapid antigen [point-of-care \(POC\) testing](#). Results are typically provided within 24 hours to 48 hours. Testing is available at pharmacies, commercial laboratory sites, community sites, and retail locations.

COVID-19 testing is available at no-cost at ICATT sites to people with or without health insurance who are experiencing [symptoms](#) or [have been exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19. The tests are billed to third-party payers, such as Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurers. People without health insurance do not have to pay for COVID-19 testing at ICATT locations. Consumers can access the Testing Locator at testinglocator.cdc.gov.



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Preparedness and Response Resources

Host Site Applications Available for CDC's Public Health Law Fellowship

CDC's Public Health Law Program and [ChangeLab Solutions](#) launched the [Public Health Law Fellowship](#) in January 2023. The program is seeking host sites for the next cohort of the program for summer 2023. The fellowship aims to strengthen the public health law workforce by increasing diversity within the field and preparing the next generation of public health law professionals to respond to critical issues. The program is designed for current graduate students or law students, as well as recent graduates within the past four years interested in careers in public health law or policy.

Selected fellows will be matched with host sites at state, tribal, local, or territorial health departments, CDC, or other public health law organizations that support work in the public health law and policy fields. The host sites offer fellows on-the-job training to prepare them for careers in public health law or policy. Interested host sites must submit a completed [application](#) by **11:59 p.m. EST on February 6**, to host a public health law or policy fellow. Applications to serve as a host site received after February 6 will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

AMCHP Graduate Student Epidemiology Program Host Sites Application Available

The [Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs](#) (AMCHP) is currently accepting applications from interested host sites for the [Graduate Student Epidemiology Program](#) (GSEP). AMCHP is seeking host sites that can provide meaningful internship experiences for graduate students and share AMCHP's values of leadership, collaboration, health equity and social justice, inclusion, integrity, excellence, and stewardship.

Interested host sites must submit a completed application by **11:59 p.m. EST on February 22**. For questions regarding the GSEP host site application and experience, contact Candice Simon at csimon@amchp.org.



News You Can Use

New Study Highlight US Public Health Workers Feeling Threatened during COVID-19 Pandemic

A [new study](#) in the [American Journal of Preventive Medicine](#) documents the record levels of nonphysical violence directed at public health workers on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response and the impact of the public anger and aggression on these workers' mental health. While the pandemic's effects on healthcare and other frontline workers are well documented, this study is one of the first to explore its impact on the public health workforce, an occupation that has not historically been at risk for workplace violence.

Study findings show that nearly one in three of these essential public health workers experienced at least one form of workplace violence -- including receiving job threats or being bullied, harassed, or stigmatized -- in the course of their work to inform and protect the public. The study also found that workplace violence was associated with a 21% greater risk of reporting depression or anxiety, a 31% greater risk of reporting post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and a 26% greater risk of reporting suicidal thoughts, even after controlling for illness including COVID-19, losing a family member to COVID-19, and other stress-producing factors during this crisis. The more workplace violence they experienced, the greater the impact on their mental health, which is detrimental to both the individuals and the communities they serve.

Several work factors were associated with increasing workplace violence, such as increasing hours worked per week and increasing interaction with the public.



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 3](#)
- [COVID-19 Mortality and Progress Toward Vaccinating Older Adults — World Health Organization, Worldwide, 2020–2022](#)
- [Early Estimates of Bivalent mRNA Booster Dose Vaccine Effectiveness in Preventing Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection Attributable to Omicron BA.5- and XBB/XBB.1.5-Related Sublineages Among Immunocompetent Adults — Increasing Community Access to Testing Program, United States, December 2022–January 2023](#)
- [Spike Gene Target Amplification in a Diagnostic Assay as a Marker for Public Health Monitoring of Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variants — United States, November 2021–January 2023](#)
- [Information for Persons Who Are Immunocompromised Regarding Prevention and Treatment of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in the Context of Currently Circulating Omicron Sublineages — United States, January 2023](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Persons Who Used Telemedicine Within the Previous 12 Months, by Age Group — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2021](#)

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