

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

March 8, 2024

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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Upcoming Deadlines

- **March 29** – Quarterly COVID-19 Progress and Fiscal Reports in REDCap (2020 Response Funding)



PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

CDC Completes Ready CAMP Onboarding for Recipient Users

CDC has completed the onboarding process to grant more than 525 PHEP recipient users with access to the new Ready CAMP (Cooperative Agreement Management Platform) system. CDC is granting Ready CAMP access based on verifications from PHEP directors to their project officers regarding recipient users who already have access to PERFORMS, PORTS, On-TRAC, or REDCap. If PHEP recipients need to request access for new staff or those who currently do not have access to those existing systems, they should ask their project officers for a Ready CAMP application form to request access for those staff.

In separate emails, CDC provided recipient users with instructions on how to access the Ready CAMP system. That email also included application instructions for preparing PHEP funding applications in Ready CAMP. These application instructions complement the [fiscal year \(FY\) 2024-2028 PHEP notice of funding opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) published February 23, 2024, but they are not intended to duplicate the NOFO. The NOFO is the definitive guide on application content, submission, and deadlines and supersedes all information provided in this document.

CDC to Modify Three PHEP NOFO Templates

On March 1, CDC released several supplemental resources designed to aid PHEP recipients in completing their 2024 PHEP funding applications. Among the resources are five work plan templates:

- Administrative and Federal Requirements
- Capacity Indicators
- Planned Exercises.

- Public Health Capabilities
- Strategies and Activities

CDC is making minor modifications to three of the five templates to ensure they are consistent with the [PHEP notice of funding opportunity \(NOFO\)](#). These minor modifications include changes in the strategies and activities, planned exercises, and the administrative and federal requirements templates. The strategies and activities template updates include revisions to the required milestones. The planned exercises template revision will note that the critical contacts drill requirement does not apply to Cities Readiness Initiative jurisdictions.

The administrative and federal requirements template and the corresponding fields in Ready CAMP are being modified so they capture all project narrative requirements listed in these PHEP NOFO sections:

- Maintaining state funding
- Partnerships and coordination
- Preparedness plans

CDC plans to email updated templates to recipients no later than Monday, March 11, via the preparedness@cdc.gov mailbox. The Ready CAMP modifications are expected to be completed by Friday, March 15.

March 13 PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights Emerging Technologies and AI in Public Health

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar, "Unveiling the Future: Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Public Health," is scheduled for **1 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 13**. Presenters will discuss modern information technology while addressing crucial AI security concerns in a public health setting.



Experts will share their insights on the positive and negative aspects of these technologies and the efforts undertaken by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Participants will learn about HHS efforts to develop resources and policies to promote the safe, responsible adoption and use of AI in public health while mitigating associated risks. Presenters will discuss AI in public health, covering diverse data analysis approaches, innovative modeling techniques, chat box integrations, bias prevention strategies, and the transformative capabilities of AI. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (669) 254-5252 (Audio only)
 Meeting ID: 161 241 1865
 Passcode: 569595
 Access Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612411865>

CDC PHEP Recipient Call Rescheduled for March 13

CDC has moved its March PHEP recipient conference call from March 20 to **3 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 13** to continue discussions regarding the 2024 PHEP notice of funding opportunity (NOFO). Following is the participant information. A replay will be held at **8 p.m. on Thursday, March 14**, with the same participant information.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666 (Audio only)
 Meeting ID: 160 752 4717
 Passcode: 07271150
 Access Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1607524717?pwd=czhra1pScTQrS3ptR3pjMVVSRzEwZz09>

CDC Schedules PHEP NOFO Office Hours

CDC plans to conduct two office hour sessions with PHEP recipients regarding the PHEP NOFO. The sessions will be held from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, March 19**, and **Wednesday, March 20**. Following is the participant information.

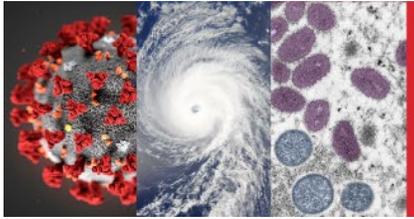
Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 160 812 8635

Passcode: 44852251

Access Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1608128635?pwd=eEIXbVplMnhCN1F2ZStlSFloMEdFdz09>



Emergency Response Activities

CDC Updates and Simplifies Respiratory Virus Recommendations

On March 1, CDC released [updated recommendations](#) for how people can protect themselves and their communities from respiratory viruses, including COVID-19. The new guidance brings a unified approach to addressing risks from a range of common respiratory viral illnesses, such as COVID-19, flu, and Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which can cause significant health impacts and strain on hospitals and health care workers. As part of the guidance, CDC provides active recommendations on [core prevention steps](#) and strategies and [additional considerations](#) for people who are at higher risk of severe illness from respiratory viruses, including older adults, young children, people with compromised immune systems, people with disabilities, and pregnant people.

Updated Guidance Available on Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines

CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently approved an additional dose of 2023-2024 Formula COVID-19 vaccine for people ages 65 years and older. CDC's updated guidance for COVID-19 vaccination now recommends that all people ages 65 years and older receive one additional dose of any updated (2023-2024 formula) COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., Moderna, Novavax, Pfizer-BioNTech). For detailed guidance, see [Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#). The guidance also includes updated information for reporting adverse events to VAERS following administration of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Learn more at [ACIP Vaccine Recommendations and Schedules](#). To view all updates, visit [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States](#).

New CDC Report Highlights Effectiveness of Updated 2023–2024 COVID-19 Vaccines

A new CDC [report](#) finds that the updated 2023-2024 Formula COVID-19 vaccines cut the risk in half for visiting the emergency department, urgent care center, or being hospitalized with COVID-19 for most people. Everyone six months and older should get an updated COVID-19 vaccine, especially those ages 65 years or older and people with medical conditions that make them more likely to get very sick with COVID-19, such as weakened immune systems. Learn more about how to [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines](#).



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Preparedness and Response Resources

NACCHO to Host Webinar on Local Public Health Preparedness Landscape

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will host a webinar on the “Local Public Health Preparedness Landscape: Findings from the 2022 Preparedness Profile” at **3 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, March 12**. Local health department preparedness professionals will also share perspectives on the study’s relevance and application in their communities. The [Preparedness Profile](#) is a national study of local health departments to gather information about preparedness trends and emerging issues. The 2022 assessment provides one of the most comprehensive pictures of local public health preparedness capacity to inform priorities at the local, state, and national levels. Register [here](#) to attend the webinar.

SNS to Hold March Office Hours Session on SNS Field Staff Program

The next Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) monthly office hours session will be held from **4 p.m. to 5 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, March 20**, and will focus on the new SNS field staff program. During this session, the SNS Office of State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Preparedness will provide an overview of the program and answer participant questions. To ensure maximum benefit from this session, participants are strongly encouraged to submit questions in advance by **Tuesday, March 12** to sns-slth@hhs.gov with the subject line “Office Hours- SNS Field Staff Program.” Participants should register [here](#) for the March SNS office hours. Within 72 hours of registering, please look for a message from no-reply@zoomgov.com. This message will contain an invite that participants can easily add to their calendars. For questions, email sns-slth@hhs.gov.

Health Sector Coordinating Council Publishes Health Industry Cybersecurity Strategic Plan

The Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) [Sector Coordinating Council \(HSCC\) Cybersecurity Working Group \(CWG\)](#) recently published the [2024-2029 Health Industry Cybersecurity Strategic Plan](#). This plan serves as a call to action for health care organizations to implement foundational cybersecurity programs that address the operational, technological, and governance challenges posed by significant health care industry trends over the next five years.



News You Can Use

ASTHO Issues Statement in Response to U.S. Measles Outbreak

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Chief Medical Officer Marcus Plescia, MD, MPH, issued a statement in response to several measles outbreaks currently occurring in the United States. The statement urges individuals who have not received the measles vaccine to get vaccinated, especially if living in a community experiencing an outbreak.

Read the full ASTHO release at [State Health Officials Alarmed by U.S. Measles Outbreaks, Stress the Importance of Adhering to Established Public Health Practices and Vaccinating the Unvaccinated](#).



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, March 8](#)
- [Prevalence of Self-Reported Hypertension and Antihypertensive Medication Use Among Adults — United States, 2017–2021](#)
- [Years of Potential Life Lost and Mean Age of Adults Experiencing Nontraumatic, Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrests — Chicago, 2014–2021](#)
- [Racial and Ethnic Differences in Social Determinants of Health and Health- Related Social Needs Among Adults — Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, United States, 2022](#)
- [Early Estimate of Nirsevimab Effectiveness for Prevention of Respiratory Syncytial Virus–Associated Hospitalization Among Infants Entering Their First Respiratory Syncytial Virus Season — New Vaccine Surveillance Network, October 2023–February 2024](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Emergency Department Visits for Unsupervised Pediatric Melatonin Ingestion — United States, 2019–2022](#)
- [Interim Estimates of 2023–24 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness — United States](#)
- [Interim Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Against Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza — California, October 2023–January 2024](#)
- [Interim Effectiveness of Updated 2023–2024 \(Monovalent XBB.1.5\) COVID-19 Vaccines Against COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department and Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalization Among Immunocompetent Adults Aged ≥18 Years — VISION and IVY Networks, September 2023–January 2024](#)

CDC Online Resources

- **UPDATED** [COVID Data Tracker](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC Respiratory Virus Updates](#)
- **UPDATED** [Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report](#)
- **UPDATED** [Flu Vaccination Coverage Update](#)
- **UPDATED** [RSV VaxView](#)

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