

**DSLRL**

# FRIDAY UPDATE

**December 8, 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](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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**DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE**



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## Upcoming Deadlines

- **December 29** – Critical Contact Sheet Updates



## PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

### December PHEP Connects Webinar to Discuss Laboratory Strategies to Advance Preparedness and Response

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar, scheduled for **1 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 13**, will present an overview of



CDC's Laboratory Response Network (LRN) including its purpose, recent accomplishments, and how PHEP recipients and the LRN can work together to advance preparedness and response capabilities. CDC presenters Rupesh Naik from DSLR and Tricia Blevins and Amy Watson Hardnett from the LRN program offices will also discuss how public health laboratories can align their strategies, activities, and resources to actively support public health preparedness and response. 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 Scheduled for December 20

The next monthly PHEP recipient conference call will be held from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 20**. Agenda topics include updates on closeout requirements for the current PHEP period of performance and the status of the 2024-2028 PHEP notice of funding opportunity. Following is the participant information.

#### Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 160 752 4717

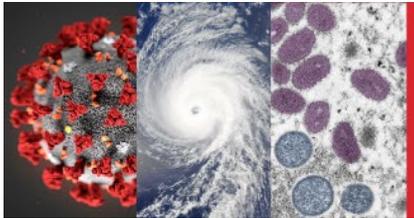
Passcode: 07271150

Access Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1607524717?pwd=czhra1pScTQrS3ptR3pjMVVSRzEwZz09>

## CDC Provides Update on PHEP Business Meeting

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) [2024 Preparedness Summit](#) will be held March 25-28 in Cleveland, Ohio. The longest running national conference on emergency preparedness provides an opportunity to revisit pressing issues in preparedness and share resources, shape policies, and build skills to mitigate a variety of threats.

Recipients may use their PHEP funds to cover preparedness summit travel expenses of PHEP staff since attendance at the annual preparedness summit is a required PHEP cooperative agreement activity. CDC advises PHEP recipients that CDC does not plan to conduct a PHEP business meeting during the 2024 Preparedness Summit. As in recent years, CDC plans to conduct a recipient business meeting virtually at a later date.



## Emergency Response Activities

### CDC Issues Health Advisory on Human-to-Human Transmission of Monkeypox Virus with Geographic Spread in Democratic Republic of the Congo

On December 7, CDC recently issued a [health advisory](#) to notify clinicians and health departments about the occurrence, geographic spread, and sexually associated human-to-human transmission of Clade I Monkeypox virus (MPXV) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). MPXV has two distinct genetic clades (subtypes), and cases of Clade I MPXV have not been reported in the United States at this time. A clade is a broad grouping of viruses that has evolved over decades and is a genetic and clinically distinct group. However, clinicians should be aware of the possibility of Clade I MPXV in travelers who have been in DRC. Clinicians should notify their [state health department](#) if they have a patient with [mpox-like symptoms](#), which may include a diffuse rash and lymphadenopathy, and recent travel to DRC. Clinicians should also submit lesion specimens for clade-specific testing for these patients.



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## Preparedness and Response Resources

### HHS Seeks Public Comment on Initiative to Enhance National All-Hazards Hospital Situational Awareness

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), CDC, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) are seeking broad public input from entities across the health care readiness community on a national, all-hazards standardized set of essential elements of information and vendor-neutral data collection mechanisms for

hospital data that drive action for emergency preparedness and response. This input will inform efforts to provide recommendations for a standardized lens into the readiness of, stress on, and resources available in hospitals before, during, and after emergencies. The public comment period ends on **Monday, December 18**. View the [Request for Information \(RFI\): HHS Initiative To Enhance National All-Hazards Hospital Situational Awareness](#) for more detail and submission of public comments.

### **ASTHO Hosts Webinar to Launch New Readiness Website on January 16**

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) will virtually host the launch of the new “INSPIRE: Readiness” website from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST on Tuesday, January 16**. This new platform features inspiring stories, practical resources, and proven strategies for addressing persistent issues across four key areas: workforce, training and resources, equity, and data systems and management. Directors of public health preparedness, preparedness staff, and public health professionals are all encouraged to use INSPIRE: Readiness as an effective planning and evaluation resource. Register [here](#) to attend the webinar.

### **ASPR Spotlights Risk Identification and Site Criticality Toolkit 2.0**

The ASPR [Risk Identification and Site Criticality \(RISC\) Toolkit](#) is an objective, data-driven all-hazards risk assessment that can be used by public and private organizations within the healthcare and public health sector to inform emergency preparedness planning, risk management activities, and resource investments. The RISC Toolkit provides nationally recognized, standards-based evaluation criteria in an easy-to-follow, guided format.

View the [RISC Toolkit Fact Sheet](#) for additional information.

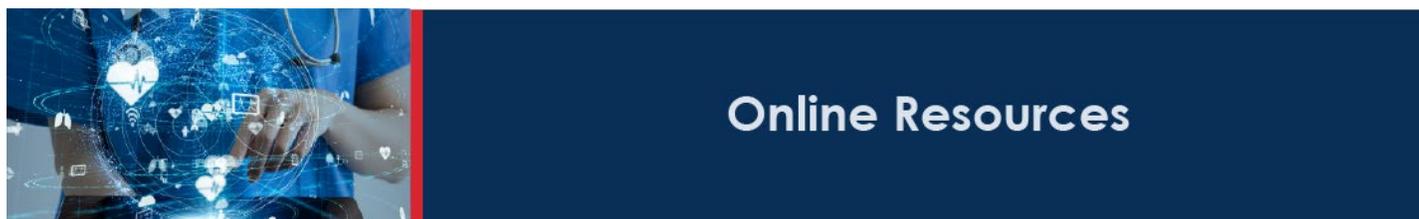


### **Fireside Chat on Fall and Winter Respiratory Virus Season Scheduled for December 12**

The American Medical Association (AMA) will host a [fireside chat](#) at **1:45 p.m. EST on Tuesday, December 12**, to discuss vaccinations and other tools that can keep everyone safer against influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) this respiratory virus season. Participants include CDC Director Mandy Cohen. Register at [Fireside Chat about the fall and winter respiratory virus season](#).

### **Biden-Harris Administration Announces Partnership to Distribute Free COVID-19 Tests to Schools**

ASPR and the U.S. Department of Education announced a partnership to distribute free COVID-19 tests to schools across the country. School districts are being encouraged to order tests directly from the federal government to be made available to students, parents, staff, and school communities. View the full ASPR press release [here](#).



### **CDC MMWR Reports**

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 8](#)
- [Large Community Outbreak of Legionnaires Disease Potentially Associated with a Cooling Tower — Napa County, California, 2022](#)
- [Progress in Immunization Safety Monitoring — Worldwide, 2020–2022](#)
- [Use of Inactivated Polio Vaccine Among U.S. Adults: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023](#)

- [Notes from the Field: Undiagnosed Tuberculosis During Pregnancy Resulting in a Neonatal Death — United States, 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Responding to the Wartime Spread of Antimicrobial-Resistant Organisms — Ukraine, 2022](#)
- [Erratum: Vol. 72, No. 42](#)
- [QuickStats: Average Number of Stroke Deaths per Day, by Month and Sex — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2021](#)

#### CDC Online Resources

- **NEW** [COVID-19 Vaccine You Tube Video](#)
- **NEW** [Using Wastewater Data to Inform Public Health Action](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC Respiratory Virus Updates](#)
- **UPDATED** [Weekly Viral Respiratory Illness Snapshot](#)
- **UPDATED** [Respiratory Virus Activity Levels](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Wastewater Data – National Trend](#)
- **UPDATED** [Protect yourself and others from COVID-19, Flu, and RSV](#)

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