

FRIDAY UPDATE

July 22, 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](https://www.cdc.gov/stateandlocalreadiness/) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.



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Upcoming Deadlines

- **August 15** – Responses to PHEP BP4 Conditions of Award



PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

CDC PHEP Grants Management Call to Be Held July 28

DSLIR and CDC's Office of Grants Services (OGS) will conduct the next PHEP grants management conference call from **3 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT on Thursday, July 28**. During the call, CDC will discuss grants management issues related to the PHEP and the Public Health Crisis Response cooperative agreements. CDC encourages PHEP directors to share this call date and time with their business officials. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 243 351 660 056

Phone Conference ID: 728 031 204

Access Link: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

BP3 PORTS Survey Opens June 25

On **Monday, July 25**, CDC plans to release a short survey to collect feedback from PHEP recipients on their experience with the PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) and the Budget Period 3 Operational Readiness Review (ORR) module. All external PORTS users will receive a link to the survey and are encouraged to complete the survey; multiple survey submission per jurisdiction are allowed.

In addition to questions regarding the technical aspects of using PORTS, the survey offers an opportunity for recipients to provide input on ORR and PORTS training, guidance, and support. Other survey questions focus on the usefulness of the ORR process and the effort required to collect and report required data. CDC will use the feedback to continue to improve the ORR process.

The survey closes at **11:59 p.m. EDT on Friday, August 26**. Questions regarding the survey can be directed to EAB@cdc.gov.

CDC Updates Return Date for BP3 ORR Forms

Now that PHEP recipients have successfully submitted the Budget Period 3 (BP3) data that were due June 30, they will have until **October 31, 2022**, to upload additional supporting evidence necessary to substantiate their

BP3 responses. Recipients will regain access to their BP3 forms after they are reviewed by their PHEP project officers and returned to recipients in PORTS. Initially, CDC had planned to return ORR forms by August 1. CDC has extended that date, with recipients regaining access beginning **August 15**. The new date will ensure project officers have sufficient time to review recipient documents. Recipients should direct any questions to their PHEP project officers.



CDC Releases No-cost Extension Guidance for COVID-19 Workforce Development Funding

CDC's Crisis Response COVID-19 Workforce Development Cooperative Agreement is scheduled to close June 30, 2023. However, recipients who need additional time to complete activities may request no-cost extensions of up to 12 months. Recipients must submit requests as a no-cost extension (NCE) amendment in GrantSolutions by **March 2, 2023**.

NCE requests must be supported with adequate justification; CDC will review and approve requests on a case-by-case basis. The following documents must be submitted as part of the NCE request.

- SF-424A Budget Information – Non-Construction
- Performance Period Revision - Proposed end date
- Cover letter with
 - justification for extension noting which activities will continue and why,
 - timeline for completing activities,
 - amount of funds remaining (or estimate of unobligated funds), and
 - why there is funding to continue to perform activities beyond the current performance period end date.

Recipients can view CDC's [No-cost Extension Request Guidance](#) for additional information. Recipients should submit questions to their assigned project officers and grants management specialists and copy dsllrcrisiscoag@cdc.gov.

Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine New Option for Adults

On July 20, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, endorsed the recommendation of the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) that Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine be used as another primary series option for adults ages 18 years and older. Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine, which will be available in the coming weeks, is an important tool in the pandemic and provides a more familiar type of COVID-19 vaccine technology for adults. Having multiple types of vaccines offers more options and flexibility for the public, jurisdictions, and vaccine providers.



CDC will conduct a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call at **2 p.m. EDT on Thursday, July 28**, to discuss CDC's new guidance on the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine for adults ages 18 years and older.

A recording of the call will be available for viewing on the [COCA Call webpage](#) a few hours after the live event ends. The slide set will be available on the day of the call on the [COCA Call webpage](#) under Call Materials. Free [Continuing Education \(CE\)](#) will be offered for this COCA Call. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

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

Webinar ID: 161 272 8470

Passcode: 663869

Access Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612728470>

Sonic Healthcare USA Now Offers Monkeypox Testing

On July 18, Sonic Healthcare USA (Sonic) began testing for monkeypox using CDC's orthopoxvirus test, which detects most non-smallpox related orthopoxviruses, including monkeypox. Sonic will offer this testing at Sonic Reference Laboratory in Austin, Texas, and can accept specimens through its network of clinical laboratories located across the United States. Sonic will continue to expand test capacity as needed while collaborating with the CDC's [Laboratory Response Network \(LRN\)](#).

On June 22, [HHS announced](#) that five commercial laboratory companies would soon begin offering monkeypox testing. Since then, CDC has shipped the tests to the laboratories and their employees have been trained on their administration, among other steps. All commercial labs are now online, and combined with the CDC's LRN, have increased testing capacity from 6,000 initially to up to 80,000 specimens per week.

Health care providers nationwide can order the orthopoxvirus test from Sonic just as they normally would order other tests. Sonic will use electronic laboratory reporting to report results to jurisdictions as outlined in the [CDC reporting guidance](#).

Health care providers can access information on Sonic's test at www.sonichealthcareusa.com. The latest CDC information on monkeypox is available at www.cdc.gov/monkeypox.

View the full CDC Press Release at [Sonic Healthcare USA to Begin Monkeypox Testing Today, Increasing Nationwide Testing Capacity](#).



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Preparedness and Response Resources

CDC Hosts Applied Epidemiology and Environmental Health Virtual Workshop in August

CDC's Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice (DEHSP) will host a virtual two-day workshop on applied epidemiology and environmental health from **11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT on August 2 and August 3**. This virtual workshop will bring together environmental epidemiologists from state and local health departments, academia, and CDC to discuss applied and innovative epidemiologic methods and how they can be used in environmental health research and practice.

The workshop is designed for epidemiologists, statisticians, and other environmental health professionals at state and local health departments and environmental health organizations. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from experts regarding topics such as survey methodologies for disaster responses, cluster investigations, ecologic studies, and analytic methods to account for geospatial correlation.

[Register](#) online to attend the free virtual workshop. For additional information contact envepiworkshop@cdc.gov.

CDC EPIC Webinar Addresses Health Equity Concepts and Language

CDC will host a webinar entitled “[Becoming Comfortable with Health Equity Concepts and Language](#)” from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT on Monday, August 8**. The webinar will address the role of health communications in removing social obstacles that lead to poor health outcomes and health disparities. Webinar presenters will discuss CDC’s commitment to health equity and provide information on a variety of topics to help inform an inclusive approach to public health communications.



Through CDC’s [Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#), attendees will learn about the importance of ensuring communication products and strategies adapt to the specific cultural, linguistic, environmental, and historical situation of each population or audience of focus. Closed captioning and an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter will be available. Continuing education also will be available.

[Register](#) to attend the webinar.

NACCHO Releases 2019 National Profile Study

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) conducts the National Profile of Local Health Departments, commonly referred to as the "Profile study," every three years as a census of local health departments (LHDs). In January 2019, NACCHO invited 2,459 LHDs to participate in the Profile study, with 61% of those invited participating in the study.

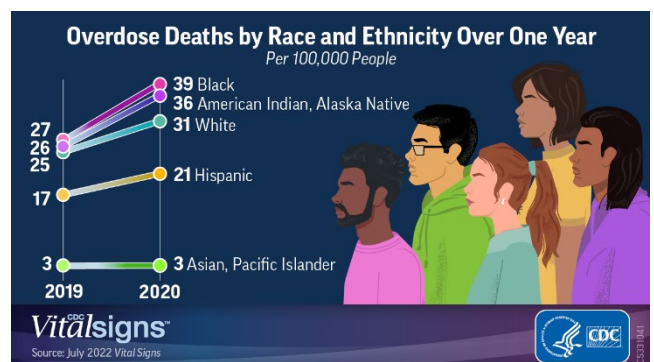
The Profile study represents the largest, most reliable data source on LHDs. This study describes the funding, staffing, governance, and activities of LHDs across the United States, providing a comprehensive and accurate description of LHD infrastructure and practice.

View the NACCHO [2019 National Profile of Local Health Departments](#).



CDC’s Vital Signs Report Addresses 2020 Overdose Death Rates

In 2020, overdose death rates, the number of drug overdose deaths per 100,000 people, increased significantly compared with 2019, according to a new CDC [Vital Signs report](#). The new report provides drug overdose data from 25 states and the District of Columbia. According to the report, overdose death rates increased 44 percent for Black people and 39 percent for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people. Overdose death rates in other groups, specifically White people, for whom the increase was 24 percent, are also at historic highs.



Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, disruption in access to prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support services has likely contributed to this growth in overdose deaths. Recent increases in deaths were largely driven by illicitly manufactured fentanyl and fentanyl analogs (IMFs).

Related CDC resources include

- [Overdose Data to Action \(OD2A\)](#)
- [Polysubstance Use Facts](#) (the use of more than one drug)
- [Stigma Reduction](#)

988: New Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Now Live

On July 16, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline transitioned to 988 an easy-to-remember, three-digit dialing code that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, seven days a week, across the United States. The lifeline comprises a national network of more than 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, July 22](#)
- [Vital Signs: Drug Overdose Deaths, by Selected Sociodemographic and Social Determinants of Health Characteristics — 25 States and the District of Columbia, 2019–2020](#)
- [Effectiveness of 2, 3, and 4 COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Doses Among Immunocompetent Adults During Periods when SARS-CoV-2 Omicron BA.1 and BA.2/BA.2.12.1 Sublineages Predominated — VISION Network, 10 States, December 2021–June 2022](#)
- [Influenza Activity and Composition of the 2022–23 Influenza Vaccine — United States, 2021–22 Season](#)
- [Workplace Perceptions and Experiences Related to COVID-19 Response Efforts Among Public Health Workers — Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey, United States, September 2021–January 2022](#)
- [Symptoms of Mental Health Conditions and Suicidal Ideation Among State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Workers — United States, March 14–25, 2022](#)
- [QuickStats: Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rates Among Workers Aged 16–64 Years in Usual Occupation Groups with the Highest Drug Overdose Death Rates — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2020](#)

Monkeypox Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Obtaining and Using TPOXX \(Tecovirimat\)](#)
- **NEW** [FACT SHEET: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Response to the Monkeypox Outbreak](#)
- **UPDATED** [Guidance for Social Gatherings and Safer Sex](#)
- **UPDATED** [Preventing Monkeypox in Congregate Settings](#)
- **UPDATED** [Monkeypox FAQs](#)

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