

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

May 20, 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](#) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.



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June 8 PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights Rural Preparedness Considerations

CDC’s next PHEP Connects webinar, “The Rural Context and Public Health Emergencies,” is scheduled from **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on**

Wednesday, June 8. Diane Hall, CDC’s rural health lead, and Alana Knudson, director of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis, will discuss rural considerations in emergency planning and preparedness. This webinar will also include an overview of CDC’s work in rural health, COVID-19 resources that benefit state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments, and a discussion of a rural preparedness toolkit currently in development. CDC will provide participant information in the May 27 issue of the DSLR Friday Update.



Does your health department have an example of a public health emergency preparedness achievement or innovative activity, resource, or tool you’d like to share with our public health community? Contact dslrtraining@cdc.gov to submit your idea for our PHEP Connects webinar series. These monthly webinars provide STLTs with valuable public health emergency preparedness information to improve preparedness capabilities and community response efforts.

ORR Friday Feature: Upcoming PORTS Office Hours

CDC continues to offer office hours to assist PHEP recipients in entering PHEP Budget Period 3 (BP3) data using the PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS). These office hours serve as an open forum where PHEP recipients can ask technical questions on using the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) Module and how to submit data properly. CDC encourages recipients to email questions in advance to dslrtraining@cdc.gov. Each PORTS office hours session will be facilitated by the PORTS



instructor team and ORR evaluation staff.

Upcoming [PORTS Office Hours](#) will be held from:

- 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT on Friday, May 27
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, June 1
- 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Thursday, June 9

Additional office hour sessions will be scheduled and announced on an as-needed basis. CDC will also compile a frequently asked questions document to provide as a resource for recipients. PHEP recipients can also reference the PORTS User Guide available in [On-TRAC](#) which provides an orientation to PORTS and the ORR module, describes user roles, and includes instructions for completing various PORTS actions. Additional resources from the PORTS trainings in March are also available in On-TRAC. Instructions on how to register for On-TRAC access can be found on the [CDC Website](#).

Recipients should direct questions on the PORTS office hours to dsrtraining@cdc.gov.



CDC Updates Public Health Science Agenda for COVID-19

CDC recently updated the [Public Health Science Agenda for COVID-19](#). CDC developed 15 priority public health science questions around eight thematic topic areas for the science agenda. They include 1) Health equity; 2) Vaccines; 3) Variants; 4) Prevention strategies; 5) Testing; 6) Treatment; 7) Natural history, transmission, breakthrough infections, and reinfection; and 8) Post-COVID conditions and other health impacts. Two priority questions were added in March 2022 to address research gaps in evaluating equitable access to treatments for COVID-19 and the effectiveness of COVID-19 treatments in improving outcomes from COVID-19, post-COVID conditions, and other conditions unrelated to COVID-19. These questions relate to the broad scope of CDC's scientific work, both in the United States and globally. They are also related to the ongoing work in the broader scientific community, such as other government agencies, academics, the private sector.

CDC Strengthens Recommendations and Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots

Following the May 19 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), CDC announced it is expanding eligibility of COVID-19 vaccine booster doses to everyone 5 years of age and older. CDC now recommends that children ages 5 through 11 years should receive a booster shot five months after their initial Pfizer-BioNTech vaccination series. Since the pandemic began, more than 4.8 million children ages 5 through 11 have been diagnosed with COVID-19, 15,000 have been hospitalized and, tragically, more than 180 have died. As cases increase across the country, a booster dose will safely help restore and enhance protection against severe disease.

CDC has also updated the [Pediatric Operational Planning Guide](#), which can also be located on the [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children](#) webpage.

The full media statement can be accessed at [CDC Strengthens Recommendations and Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots](#).

ASTHO Offers New Contact Tracing and Case Investigation Resources

On May 17, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) launched [ASTHO Learning: Essentials of Leadership & Management: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracing Program Supervisors](#). This new training prepares new and existing supervisors for their roles within public health agencies building on core management and leadership competencies. ASTHO also has two new briefs available to enhance skills for case investigators and contact tracers:

- [Tailoring Messages for Cross-Cultural Communication: Recommendations for COVID-19 Case Investigators and Contact Tracers](#)
- [Communicating Public Health Guidance to Cases and Contacts: Recommendations for COVID-19 Case Investigators and Contact Tracers](#)

New and Updated COVID-19 Resources Now Available

- On May 17, the White House [announced](#) U.S. households can order an additional eight free at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests at [COVIDTests.gov](#). For more information, visit [COVID.gov Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- CDC recently updated the COVID Data Tracker's [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#) tab to include a count of the people in the United States who have received a second COVID-19 vaccine booster dose.
- COVID Data Tracker's [Vaccine Effectiveness](#) webpage was recently updated to highlight the most current relevant studies and findings, allowing for easier interpretation. The webpage includes a summary table of CDC-authored vaccine effectiveness studies published in the previous month, as well as key findings by age group.



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Preparedness and Response Resources

NACCHO Seeks Information for Developing Medical Countermeasure Resource Guide

Information sharing and medical countermeasure (MCM) dispensing and administration by local health departments (LHDs) played a critical role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) MCM work group would like to hear from those involved in information sharing and MCM dispensing and administration during the COVID-19 response. The goal is to collect lessons learned and best practices from LHDs to share broadly with NACCHO's membership.

Jurisdictions should submit lessons learned and best practices for both topic areas to gamani@naccho.org by **Tuesday, May 31**.

Findings from 2020 National Vector Control and Prevention Assessment Report Available Online

NACCHO, with support from CDC, released a new [report](#) detailing findings from a 2020 National Vector Control Assessment. The report reveals key insight into local mosquito and tick control capacity between 2017 and 2020. While most local vector programs reported marked improvement in mosquito control and surveillance capacity by 2020, only one in five programs that responded to the tick portion of the assessment were engaged in tick surveillance, with an even lower proportion of programs reporting tick control activities. The 2020 assessment provides the first comprehensive baseline measure of tick control and surveillance capacity at the local level.

View the [digital communications toolkit](#) for messages regarding the report's findings. For questions regarding the assessment, contact vectorcontrol@naccho.org.



CDC Provides Update on Children with Acute Hepatitis of Unknown Cause

CDC continues to work with health departments and clinicians nationwide to identify and investigate hepatitis of unknown cause impacting children. As of May 18, 36 states and territories have reported 180 pediatric [patients under investigation](#) over the past seven months, which is an increase of 71 from the 109 [publicly reported](#) on May 5.

While this may appear to be a large increase in patients under investigation over the last two weeks, it's important to understand that the vast majority of these are "retrospective" patients. Since CDC's investigation looks at reports submitted since October 2021, most of these numbers involve patients that are just now being reported, rather than new cases of hepatitis. Additionally, there have been no reported deaths since February 2022.

CDC continues to examine possible causes, including testing for and ruling out some of the viruses that commonly cause hepatitis (hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E). Adenovirus has been detected in nearly half of the children and continues to be a strong lead. Further laboratory tests are being conducted to look more closely at the virus genome and other potential pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2. In addition, CDC is communicating with key medical groups and continues to provide updated reporting and laboratory guidance for clinicians who may identify hepatitis of unknown cause in children. A Community Outreach and Clinician Activity (COCA) call on May 19, provided key updates and experts in treating hepatitis answered clinical questions.

Severe hepatitis in children remains rare. However, CDC encourages parents and caregivers to be aware of the symptoms of hepatitis – particularly jaundice, which is a yellowing of the skin or eyes – and to contact the child's health care provider with any concerns.

CDC will begin posting regular online updates specific to the number of [patients under investigation](#) on a weekly basis. CDC will share additional information as updates become available.

CDC and Health Partners Responding to U.S. Monkeypox Case

CDC, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is investigating a case of monkeypox in a Massachusetts resident who had recently traveled to Canada by private transportation. Testing in Massachusetts found orthopox virus infection on May 17, and CDC laboratories confirmed it as monkeypox on May 18.

CDC is also tracking multiple clusters of monkeypox that have been reported within the past two weeks in several countries that don't normally report monkeypox, including Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. It's not clear how people in those clusters were exposed to monkeypox, but cases include individuals who self-identify as men who have sex with men. CDC is urging U.S. health care providers to be alert for patients who have rash illnesses [consistent with monkeypox](#), regardless of whether they have traveled or specific risk factors for monkeypox.

Health care providers should consult their state health departments or CDC's monkeypox call center through the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 as soon as monkeypox is suspected.



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 20](#)
- [Surveillance Summaries: Surveillance for Violent Deaths — National Violent Death Reporting System, 42 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, 2019](#)
- [Factors Associated with Use of HIV Prevention and Health Care Among Transgender Women — Seven Urban Areas, 2019–2020](#)
- [Modifiable Risk Factors for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias Among Adults Aged ≥45 Years — United States, 2019](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Escherichia coli O157:H7 Outbreak in Children With Clostridioides difficile Colonization Associated With an Improperly Treated Swimming Pool — Pennsylvania, June 2021](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Adults Aged ≥18 Years Who Felt That Crime Makes It Unsafe to Walk, by Sex and Age Group — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2020](#)
- [Effectiveness of a COVID-19 Additional Primary or Booster Vaccine Dose in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents During Widespread Circulation of the Omicron Variant — United States, February 14–March 27, 2022](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATED** [CDC Public Health Agenda for COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATED** [Pediatric Operational Planning Guide](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)
- **UPDATED** COVID Data Tracker's [Vaccine Effectiveness](#)

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