

**DSLRL**

# FRIDAY UPDATE

May 6, 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](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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In honor of Public Service Recognition Week 2022, CDC thanks state, tribal, local, and territorial preparedness professionals for their invaluable contributions to their communities.

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- U.S. Downgrades COVID-19 Variant

## What's on the Calendar

- **May 9** – CDC COVID-19 STLT Update Call
- **May 10-11** – [ASTHO 2022 Public Health TechXpo](#)
- **May 11** – CDC PHEP Connects Webinar
- **May 18** – PHEP Recipient Call

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- **June 15** – COVID-19 Annual FFRs (2020 Response Funding)



## May 11 PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights National Syndromic Surveillance Program

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar, "National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP): Integrated Surveillance for Response," is scheduled for **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 11**. Presenter Karl Soetebier, acting program lead for CDC's National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP), will share key aspects of the program's support for enabling local, state, and federal surveillance of automated near real-time data from emergency departments and other key data sources. He will also discuss NSSP's BioSense Platform, its data sources, and examples of its use. Following is the participant information.



### Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 161 241 1865

Passcode: 569595

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

*CDC is seeking state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) examples of public health emergency preparedness achievements and innovative activities, resources, or tools to share with the broader STLT public health preparedness community. Contact [dslrtraining@cdc.gov](mailto:dslrtraining@cdc.gov) to submit ideas for CDC's PHEP Connects webinar series. These monthly webinars provide STLT jurisdictions with valuable public health emergency preparedness information to improve preparedness capabilities and community response efforts.*

## **PHEP ORR Friday Feature: Locating Documents in PORTS**

As PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) users gain access to the system, they are also gaining access to several resources and modules. One important resource is the document library, which is the focus of today's ORR Friday Feature.



The document library is a jurisdictional repository for all uploaded evidence files and is accessible and visible to all users within their individual jurisdictions. To locate the document library, users should select the ORR icon on the PORTS navigation bar to access the ORR Dashboard. Users can then select the document library icon on the ORR Dashboard navigation bar to go to their jurisdiction-specific document library.

The document library displays each file's document title, the location within the ORR module where the file is uploaded, file size, upload date, and the name of the user who uploaded the file. To help users sort through their submitted evidence in the document library, CDC provides the following tips.

- Avoid uploading multiple versions of the same document.
- Collaborate with jurisdictional colleagues to develop and use standard naming conventions for documents to better locate them.
- Upload evidence files once and reference the files as evidence in multiple locations or forms.
- Be cautious when deleting evidence in the ORR module as that will also delete those files from the document library.

CDC has uploaded existing evidence from the former ORR DCIPHER system into the PORTS document library. Recipients can download and review their previously submitted DCIPHER files as needed to respond to Budget Period 3 ORR questions.

More detailed information on the document library is available on pages 49 and 50 of the PORTS User Guide which is located in [CDC's Online Technical Resource and Assistance Center \(On-TRAC\)](#). Recipients with questions on how to use the document library or how to access their previously submitted forms should contact their PHEP project officers or [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov). Those with question on PORTS technical issues should contact [dsrlritsupport@cdc.gov](mailto:dsrlritsupport@cdc.gov).

### **CDC Hosts PORTS Office Hours**

CDC will conduct PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) office hours as an open forum for PHEP recipients to ask PORTS technical questions or ORR guidance questions related to entering data into PORTS. Recipients can also email questions in advance of the session to [dslrtraining@cdc.gov](mailto:dslrtraining@cdc.gov). Following is the schedule for the PORTS office hour sessions, which will be facilitated by the PORTS instructor team and ORR evaluation staff. Additional office hour sessions will be scheduled and announced on an as-needed basis.

- **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Thursday, May 12**
- **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 18**
- **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT on Friday, May 27**

Click [here](#) to access the office hour sessions on the scheduled dates and times.



### **CDC Finalizes 2022 Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement ABU Roster**

CDC has finalized the 2022 approved but unfunded (ABU) roster of eligible recipients for the [Public Health Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement](#), CDC-RFA-TP22-2201. The new ABU list will remain in effect until January 31, 2027. CDC notified the 88 recipients in late April that their applications had been approved and that they would be eligible to potentially receive supplemental funding for future public health emergencies.

CDC will make funding available once it has been determined a public health emergency exists or is considered imminent and will be contingent upon the availability and stipulations of appropriations or other funding. Not every jurisdiction will be funded for every public health emergency; the size and scope of the emergency will inform funding decisions.

The 88 jurisdictions on the 2022 roster include the 50 states, eight territories and freely associated states, and 30 localities. CDC expanded the crisis response cooperative agreement eligibility criteria for local governments, resulting in 24 additional local recipients. No tribal organizations submitted applications.

CDC plans to reopen its 2022 Public Health Crisis Response notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) through Grants.gov between June 15 and July 14. The agency will also reopen the announcement annually during the NOFO's five-year performance period to accommodate population changes and to ensure CDC maintains a current roster of eligible jurisdictions for public health emergency response funding. Recipients should direct questions regarding the Public Health Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement to their DSLR project officers or to [dsllrcrisiscoag@cdc.gov](mailto:dsllrcrisiscoag@cdc.gov).

### **CDC Publishes Study on Public Health Impact of Coronavirus Disease Vaccines in U.S.**

A recent CDC study, [Public Health Impact of Coronavirus Disease Vaccines in the United States](#), evaluated the impact of vaccine scale-up on population-level mortality and incidence in the United States. In this observational study of nearly 300 million persons in 80% of U.S. counties, higher vaccination coverage was associated with lower rates of population-level COVID-19 mortality and incidence. Compared with largely unvaccinated counties, highly vaccinated counties had reduced mortality and cases.

For information on how to increase vaccination in jurisdictions and communities, visit these CDC resources:

- [Ways Health Departments Can Help Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)
- [12 COVID-19 Vaccination Strategies for Your Community](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Planning and Partnerships](#)

In addition, view the editorial, [The Benefits of Large Scale COVID-19 Vaccination](#), from Oxford University.

### **FDA Issues Warning on Counterfeit At-Home COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests**

On May 5, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a [warning](#) regarding the distribution of counterfeit at-home over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 diagnostic tests in the United States. These counterfeit COVID-19 tests are not authorized, cleared, or approved by the FDA and should not be distributed or used. The FDA will update its [website](#) to list counterfeit at-home OTC COVID-19 diagnostic tests to alert the public and provide information on how to identify counterfeit tests.

### **FDA Approves First COVID-19 Treatment for Young Children**

On April 25, the FDA expanded the approval of the COVID-19 treatment [Veklury \(remdesivir\)](#), marking the first treatment available for children less than 12 years of age. The expanded approval includes pediatric patients 28 days of age and older weighing at least 3 kilograms (about 7 pounds) with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing, who are:

- Hospitalized or
- Not hospitalized and have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

Before now, Veklury was only approved to treat certain adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kilograms, which is about 88 pounds) with COVID-19.

### **U.S. Downgrades COVID-19 Delta Variant**

On April 14, the U.S. government SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group (SIG) downgraded the COVID-19 Delta variant from a [Variant of Concern](#) to a [Variant Being Monitored](#). For more information, visit CDC's [SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions](#) webpage.



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## Preparedness and Response Resources

### ASTHO To Host Upcoming Learning Sessions

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) are offering two upcoming learning opportunities. Recipients can register to attend these 45-minute learning opportunities, which include a brief overview and an informal conversation between subject matter experts and participants. Following are the session topics and registration links.

- [Inclusive Communication](#) – Noon to 1 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, May 17
- [Rebuilding Trust](#) – Noon to 1 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 18



## News You Can Use

### CDC Announces Launch of Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics

CDC recently announced the launch of the [Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics](#) (CFA), which will strengthen the nation's ability to use data, models, and analytics to enable timely, effective decision-making in response to public health threats. CFA's goals are to improve outbreak response using infectious disease modeling and analytics and to provide support to leaders at the federal, state, and local levels.

### CDC Participates in Cancer Moonshot Community Conversations

On May 4, CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) participated in a series of virtual roundtable discussions to inform and advance priorities of the [Cancer Moonshot](#).

The initiative has new goals to reduce the death rate from cancer by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years and improve the experience of patients and families living with and surviving cancer. This includes supporting development of innovative ways to prevent, detect, and treat cancer and ensuring more Americans have the tools needed to reduce and ultimately eliminate cancer.

Patrick Breysse, director of CDC's National Center for Environmental Health and ATSDR, moderated a Cancer Moonshot community conversation on cancer and the environment. Other federal agencies held similar community conversations that day, as well. For more information on the Cancer Moonshot effort visit [www.whitehouse.gov/cancermoonshot](http://www.whitehouse.gov/cancermoonshot).



## Online Resources

### CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 6](#)
- [Geographic Differences in Sex-Specific Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Mortality Rates Trends Among Adults Aged  \$\geq 25\$  Years — United States, 1999–2019](#)
- [Use of a Modified Preexposure Prophylaxis Vaccination Schedule to Prevent Human Rabies: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [West Nile Virus and Other Domestic Nationally Notifiable Arboviral Diseases — 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](#)
- [Acute Hepatitis and Adenovirus Infection Among Children — Alabama, October 2021–February 2022](#)
- [Erratum: Vol. 71, No. 13](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Adults Aged  \$\geq 18\$  Years Who Met the Federal Guideline for Muscle-Strengthening Physical Activity, by Age Group and Sex — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2020](#)

### COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Public Health Impact of Coronavirus Disease Vaccines in the United States](#) (article)
- **UPDATED** [Variant of Concern](#)
- **UPDATED** [Variant Being Monitored](#)
- **UPDATED** [SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions](#)

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