

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

December 10, 2021



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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- **December 31** – Critical Contact Sheets



CDC to Upload Recipient Data in PHEP BP4 Application Module

CDC plans to release the PHEP Budget Period 4 (BP4) continuation guidance in mid-January, with applications due 60 days later in mid-March. Since the U.S. government is operating under a continuing resolution until February 18 or until a fiscal year 2022 appropriations bill is enacted, the BP4 continuation guidance will include recipients' current Budget Period 3 (BP3) funding allocations for planning purposes. CDC plans to populate the PERFORMS BP4 application module with recipients' current BP3 work plan and budget information to ease recipient burden. To make this process as efficient as possible, CDC encourages recipients to review their BP3 budget information. Jurisdictions should ensure that the increased funding they received in BP3 is fully allocated in PERFORMS before mid-January so it can be used to populate their BP4 applications.

Recipients will be able to review and make necessary edits to this data and can use the documentation to prepare and submit their BP4 funding applications via GrantSolutions by the March deadline. PHEP recipients will submit revised budgets and work plans after CDC releases final BP4 funding allocations. Recipients must inform their project officers by **Friday, January 7**, if they would like to opt out of this process and can contact their project officers for more information.

PHEP Recipient Conference Call Scheduled for December 15

The next monthly PHEP recipient conference call will be held from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 15**. CDC will provide updates regarding the PHEP BP4 application process, the PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) implementation in the second half of BP3, and the PHEP 20th anniversary. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 160 752 4717

Passcode: 07271150

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



COVID-19 Response Activities

CDC Expands COVID-19 Booster Recommendations to 16- and 17-Year-Olds

On December 9, CDC recommended and encouraged individuals 16 years and older to receive a booster shot. Although more research needs to be done on the Omicron variant, initial data suggests that COVID-19 boosters help broaden and strengthen the protection against Omicron and other variants. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, and CDC strongly encourages adolescents ages 16 and 17 to get their boosters at least six months after completing their primary Pfizer vaccination series.

At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for 16- and 17-year-olds. More information is available on CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#) webpage .

CDC Provides Information on Determining COVID-19 Travel Health Notices

CDC has updated its three-level notice system to a four-level system for COVID-19 and updated criteria used to determine [Travel Health Notices](#) (THN) levels. CDC modified the system to align with the same incidence rate or case count thresholds adopted by recognized public health organizations and shares a common four-level structure with the [U.S. Department of State's Travel Advisory](#) system. [How CDC Determines the Level for COVID-19 Travel Health Notices](#) details how CDC uses THNs to alert travelers and other audiences to health threats around the world and advise them on how to protect themselves.

HHS Offers Resources for COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children

Children ages 5 to 11 years are now eligible to receive Pfizer vaccines. A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) campaign, "We Can Do This," provides outreach resources in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) including FAQs, fact sheets, and tips for communicating with parents and children. There are also superhero-themed posters and signage that hospitals and pediatricians can use. CDC encourages jurisdictions to share these with pediatricians, community health workers, and other professionals working with children.

HHS Expands Testing Support Program and Provides Self-Testing Guidance

HHS is expected to expand the distribution of COVID-19 over-the-counter (OTC) self-tests in early 2022. This initiative is part of the HHS Continued Testing Support (CTS) Program, which HHS established in July 2021 to ensure COVID-19 tests are allocated to populations and settings most in need of testing and to improve access to tests, especially among persons at greatest risk from adverse outcomes related to COVID-19.

Distribution of OTC self-tests to community health centers (CHCs) and food banks are currently underway and will continue into 2022. HHS also expects to begin OTC self-test allocations to jurisdictions in 2022.

COVID-19 self-tests are a valuable tool for risk reduction and enable individuals to quickly assess if they may be positive and isolate or contact their health care providers for more information. CDC has updated its [self-testing guidance](#) and released several testing [resources for providers and patients](#), including an [infographic](#) on using self-tests for distribution at CHCs.



What's on the Calendar

- **December 15** – PHEP Recipient Call



Preparedness and Response Resources

U.S. Surgeon General Releases New Toolkit to Address Health Misinformation

The U.S. Surgeon General's [Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation](#) provides specific guidance and resources for health care providers, educators, librarians, faith leaders, and trusted community members to understand, identify, and stop the spread of health misinformation in their communities. View the toolkit for tips on talking to loved ones about misinformation, common tactics, and more.



News You Can Use

CDC Launches Two Global Networks, Awards \$22 Million to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance and Infectious Diseases

On December 7, CDC announced it has awarded \$22 million to 28 organizations around the world to combat antimicrobial resistance (AR) and other health care threats through the establishment of two new networks—the [Global Action in Healthcare Network](#) (GAIHN) and the [Global AR Laboratory and Response Network](#) (Global AR Lab & Response Network). These two new networks, paired with additional short-term research projects, will span more than 50 countries worldwide and build programs that focus on preventing infections in health care through proven infection control; build laboratory capacity to detect antimicrobial-resistant organisms in health care, the community, and environment; and develop new and innovative ways to more rapidly detect and respond to threats like AR and COVID-19. This work builds on successful U.S. efforts launched through CDC's AR Solutions Initiative since 2016 and will complement ongoing, effective global work underway by CDC and public health partners worldwide.

FEMA Releases 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released the [2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan](#). This plan outlines a bold vision and three goals designed to address key challenges the agency currently faces. These goals are designed to position FEMA to address the increasing range and complexity of disasters, support the diversity of communities it serves, and complement the nation's growing expectations of the emergency management community.



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 10](#)
- [Update on Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus Outbreaks — Worldwide, January 2020–June 2021](#)
- [Comparative Effectiveness and Antibody Responses to Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccines among Hospitalized Veterans — Five Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, United States, February 1–September 30, 2021](#)
- [Community-Based Testing Sites for SARS-CoV-2 — United States, March 2020–November 2021](#)
- [Influenza A\(H3N2\) Outbreak on a University Campus — Michigan, October–November 2021](#)

- [Notes from the Field: Deployment of an Electronic Self-Administered Survey to Assess Human Health Effects of an Industrial Chemical Facility Fire — Winnebago County, Illinois, June–July 2021](#)
- [Erratum: Vol. 69, No. SS-7](#)
- [Erratum: Vol. 70, No. 37](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Employed Adults Who Needed to Work Closer Than 6 Feet from Other Persons All or Most of the Time at Their Main Job, by Occupation — National Health Interview Survey, United States, July–December 2020](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Infographic: Using Your COVID-19 Self-Test Kit](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)
- **UPDATED** [Resources for Providers and Patients](#)
- **UPDATED** [Self-Testing](#)
- **UPDATED** [Travel Health Notices](#)
- **UPDATED** [How CDC Determines the Level for COVID-19 Travel Health Notices](#)

CDC Wants to Hear from PHEP Recipients

CDC wants to hear how PHEP jurisdictions are preparing for and responding to incidents, emergencies, and disasters, whether it's the COVID-19 pandemic, recent weather events, or other public health emergencies. Recipients can highlight their experiences in emergency preparedness, response, or recovery by emailing the State and Local Readiness mailbox at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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