

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

October 22, 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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PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

Friday Feature: Focus on PHEP ORR Exemptions

The PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) evaluation has expanded significantly to cover all 15 preparedness and response capabilities. The PHEP ORR interim guidance introduces several new concepts and terms, and the PHEP ORR Friday Feature biweekly series helps orient recipients to these new concepts. This week's focus is on the accreditation exemptions in the PHEP ORR interim guidance.

PHEP ORR
FRIDAY FEATURE

The PHEP ORR Friday Feature biweekly series helps orient recipients to these new concepts. This week's focus is on the accreditation exemptions in the PHEP ORR interim guidance.

PHEP recipients with current Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation or Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) recognition are exempted from completing certain ORR capability planning elements. The ORR is not intended to replace other review processes, either at the state or the local level. CDC elected to offer credit for PHAB accreditation and PPHR recognition based on jurisdictional input and to reduce recipient burden.

PHAB accreditation focuses on public health surveillance and epidemiological investigation and its requirements align with the PHEP ORR elements for Capability 13: Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation. As a result, recipients with current PHAB accreditation are exempt from Capability 13 planning measures. States will have the option to exempt local planning jurisdictions with current PHAB accreditation from Capability 13 review when local reviews are initiated.

PPHR is a criteria-based training and recognition program created by CDC and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to help local health departments (LHDs) develop core public health preparedness competencies. This intensive 18-month program provides LHDs with the structure to build training and preparedness capacity using a continuous quality improvement model. States can designate local exemptions from Section 2: Evaluation of Plans (capability planning elements) for local jurisdictions under their authority with current PPHR recognition. PPHR exemptions will not be available until local ORRs are initiated.

CDC created an [Accreditation and Preparedness Crosswalk](#) to assist health departments with identifying examples of preparedness activities that fulfill accreditation objectives. CDC will also provide trainings regarding the PHEP ORR accreditation exemptions during the latter half of Budget Period 3 (BP3). These trainings will be announced in a future PHEP ORR Friday Feature.

Another resource that jurisdictions may find useful is a [PHEP ORR Frequently Asked Questions](#) document CDC developed regarding the PHEP ORR implementation. For more information about the PHEP ORR interim guidance, including PHAB and PPHR exemptions, contact preparedness@cdc.gov.



CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots

On Thursday, October 21, CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of COVID-19 vaccines in certain populations. The [Food and Drug Administration's \(FDA\) authorization](#) and CDC's recommendation for use are important steps forward in efforts to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe.

For individuals who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at six months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older;
- Ages 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#);
- Ages 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#); and
- Ages 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#).

For the nearly 15 million people who got the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are age 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.

CDC Asks Recipients to Clarify COVID-19 Workforce Development Funding Information

A CDC review of recipient budget information submitted for the COVID-19 workforce development funding indicates more detail is needed regarding state support of school health programs and local health departments. Crisis response workforce development cooperative agreement guidance requires recipients to allocate 25% of their funding to school health programs and 40% of remaining funds to support local and community-based hiring.

For most budget line items, CDC asked recipients to identify if the expenses were to support activities at the recipient level, the local level, or the community organization level. CDC requests that recipients, particularly centralized states, review how they have identified costs in their REDCap budgets supporting school health and local or community-based hiring. In cases where states do not directly contract with or subaward funds to local entities, they should indicate which costs are intended to support local activities by selecting the appropriate item from the dropdown list in the REDCap budget form.

In addition, CDC has added a question in the budget narrative summary tab about the amount of funding recipients have targeted to school health and local jurisdictions. Recipients confirmed that they met the required allocation percentages, but CDC is now requesting that recipients add the actual dollar amounts to this information.

CDC requests that recipients review and update this information no later than by close of business on **Friday, November 5**. Recipients should contact their project officers or dslrcrisiscoag@cdc.gov if they have questions regarding these clarifications.

COVID Data Tracker Animated Video Now Live

CDC released a [new video](#) on the [COVID Data Tracker](#), is CDC's home for COVID-19 data, including cases and deaths, hospitalizations, variants, vaccination progress, and more. COVID Data Tracker combines county, state, national, and global data from across the COVID-19 response in a series of interactive dashboards in one easy-to-use location. The COVID Data Tracker can be used to follow COVID-19 pandemic trends and to access community data on COVID-19. To get the latest COVID-19 data, [sign up](#) to receive the COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review.

ASPR Outlines Request Process for Locating Scarce Resources

Jurisdictions in need of federal assistance to locate scarce resources for their COVID-19 response efforts should first contact their [regional emergency coordinators](#) (REC) to initiate a request to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the HHS Secretary's Operations Center (SOC). Once the REC submits a request on behalf of the jurisdiction, the HHS SOC will evaluate supply chain availability, determine need, and coordinate with federal and commercial distributors. The HHS SOC then will inform the REC of product availability and options for federal assistance. These options may include providing vendor contact information for the jurisdictions to directly procure from commercial sources, offering FDA-approved acceptable substitutes for the requested product, or deploying supplies from a federal source like the Federal Emergency Management Agency or ASPR's Strategic National Stockpile.

As a reminder, the request process for responding to a category A threat like anthrax or smallpox has not changed. For these types of incidents that will require rapid deployment of medical countermeasures, jurisdictions should immediately contact the CDC Emergency Operations Center at (770) 488-7100 or the HHS SOC at (202) 619-7800. Both of these operations centers are staffed 24/7. Jurisdictions with questions on the request process for federal supplies in a public health emergency should contact sns.ops@cdc.gov.

CDC Provides Updated Guidance for Holiday Celebrations Amid COVID-19

CDC has released updated resources for holiday celebrations and gatherings amid COVID-19. [Holiday Celebrations](#) provides guidance on safer ways to celebrate holidays. More information can also be found on the [Small and Large Gatherings](#) web page.

Updated COVID-19 Vaccination Resources Available

CDC has updated the following COVID-19 vaccination resources.

- [Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Operational Planning Guide](#) outlines key aspects of a COVID-19 vaccination program for children younger than 12 years old. This document was designed to inform jurisdictional planning under the assumption of FDA authorization and CDC recommendations of at least one COVID-19 vaccine product for children of this age. More information can be found in this [White House Fact Sheet](#).
- CDC's [Using the COVID-Vac Tool to Assess Your COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Staffing and Operations Needs](#) is a spreadsheet-based tool designed to help managers set up and run their COVID-19 vaccination clinics to maximize patient flow. COVID-Vac helps vaccination clinic managers plan for staffing needs and run their clinics to maximize the number of patients who can be vaccinated during a 12-hour shift.
- The CDC [Science Brief: Evidence Used to Update the List of Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19](#) provides the updated list of underlying medical conditions that put adults of any age at higher risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19.



What's on the Calendar

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Preparedness and Response Resources

NACCHO Application Submission for Adaptive Leadership Academy Pilot Closes October 29

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), with the support of CDC and Health Resources and Services Administration, will host a pilot of the [Adaptive Leadership Academy](#), a seven-month virtual program that will be held from December 2021 through June 2022. The academy is geared toward helping leaders identify and deal with consequential change in uncertain times. The Adaptive Leadership Academy was designed in response to the unique needs of local governmental public health and health care leaders by combining several leadership theories in an action-oriented, cohort-based curriculum. The pilot is an open competitive opportunity offered at no cost to 21 participants.

The [application](#) submission period will close by **11:59 p.m. EDT on Friday, October 29**. For questions regarding the pilot, contact Deya Greer at dgreer@naccho.org.



News You Can Use

Maryland Preparedness Director Sherry Adams to Retire

Sherry Adams is retiring from Maryland's Office of Preparedness and Response, which she has led for the past 13 years. Her retirement is effective November 1. Since 2008, Sherry has led her team through countless public health responses and emergencies including the H1N1 pandemic, Ebola, Zika, the Baltimore Civil Unrest, the Derecho Storm and numerous other weather events, and currently the COVID-19 pandemic. She was also instrumental in helping the state health department earn its first accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board.



A registered nurse with more than 20 years of experience in emergency department and trauma nursing, Sherry previously served as assistant senior deputy director of health emergency preparedness and response for the District of Columbia Department of Health. In that role she worked to ensure an effective and coordinated system of emergency health and medical services for the district.

In the aftermath of 9/11 and the establishment of the PHEP program, Sherry was among the original cadre of preparedness directors who helped to build the discipline of public health emergency management. DSLR thanks Sherry for her numerous contributions to the field of public health preparedness and response.

Veronica Black, deputy director of Maryland's Office of Preparedness and Response, will serve as acting director following Sherry's retirement. Veronica can be reached at veronica.black@maryland.gov.

California's Long-time RSS Director Retires

Dana Grau has retired after nearly 17 years with the California Department of Public Health's Emergency Preparedness Office where he served as director of the state's receipt, stage, and store (RSS) warehouse program and lead pharmacist for numerous responses ranging from wildfires to COVID-19. In the past 18 months, under Dana's leadership, the state emptied and filled the RSS warehouse five times, fulfilling more than 4,800 resource requests ranging from personal protective equipment to COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

During Dana's tenure, California's medical countermeasure exercise program grew from small exercises with Kerby Lester pill-counting machines to SoCalREADI, the state's largest full-scale exercise held over five days and involving 13 local health jurisdictions and multiple state agencies. He also was instrumental in taking the state's CHEMPACK program from concept to reality.

Dana served on many DSLR recipient work groups to further expand MCM program knowledge and performance on a national level. CDC's Inventory Management and Tracking System (IMATS) and smallpox response planning have benefitted from his knowledge and experience. DSLR extends its thanks to Dana for his many contributions to the MCM enterprise over the years.

Please send information regarding preparedness staff achievements, retirements, and other transitions to preparedness@cdc.gov for publication in future issues of the DSLR Friday Update.



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, October 22](#)
- [HIV Infection and HIV-Associated Behaviors Among Persons Who Inject Drugs — 23 Metropolitan Statistical Areas, United States, 2018](#)
- [Self-Management Education Class Attendance and Health Care Provider Counseling for Physical Activity Among Adults with Arthritis — United States, 2019](#)
- [Mycobacterium porcinum Skin and Soft Tissue Infections After Vaccinations — Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, September 2018–February 2019](#)
- [Temporal Trends in Dietary Sodium Intake Among Adults Aged ≥19 Years — United States, 2003–2016](#)
- [Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA Vaccination Against COVID-19 Hospitalization Among Persons Aged 12–18 Years — United States, June–September 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Pediatric HIV Outbreak in Ratodero, Pakistan — April 2019–April 2020](#)
- [QuickStats: Age-Adjusted Rates of Firearm-Related Homicide, by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Sex — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2019](#)
- [Vaccination Coverage by Age 24 Months Among Children Born in 2017 and 2018 — National Immunization Survey-Child, United States, 2018–2020](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATED** [Holiday Celebrations](#)
- **UPDATED** [Small and Large Gatherings](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Contact Tracing](#)
- **UPDATED** [Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination Operational Planning Guide](#)
- **UPDATED** [Using the COVID-Vac Tool to Assess Your COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Staffing and Operations Needs](#)
- **UPDATED** [Science Brief: Evidence Used to Update the List of Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19](#)

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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