DSLR FRIDAY UPDATE

October 1, 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 (DSLR) 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.

In This Issue

Upcoming Deadlines
- **October 15** – PHEP BP2 Performance Measure Data
- **October 15 –** COVID-19 Quarterly Fiscal Spending Report (2020 Response Funding)
- **October 30** – PHEP BP2 (Q5) and BP3 (Q1) Quarterly Spend Plan Reports

PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates
- SAS License Renewal Begins October 4
- October 13 PHEP Connects Webinar Focuses on Healthy People 2030 Initiative

COVID-19 Response Activities
- CDC Releases Key COVID-19 Vaccine Inventory Update
- CDC Releases New COVIDVaxView Web Pages
- Information on Updated Pfizer-BioNTech Standing Orders Now Available
- CDC Offers School Deployer Training for Public Health Community
- Updated Guidelines Available for COVID-19 Antibody Testing
- CDC Publications Highlight COVID-19 School Safety Prevention Strategies

What's on the Calendar
- **October 13** – PHEP Connects Webinar
- **October 20** – HPP-PHEP Recipient Call

Preparedness and Response Resources
- CDC Seeks Usability Testing Volunteers for New POD Modeling Tool
- American Red Cross Offers Training Programs for Community Caregivers

News You Can Use
- CDC Releases Health Advisory on COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People

Online Resources
- CDC MMWR Reports
- COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

Upcoming Deadlines

- **October 15** – PHEP BP2 Performance Measure Data
- **October 15 –** COVID-19 Quarterly Fiscal Spending Report (2020 Response Funding)
- **October 30** – PHEP BP2 (Q5) and BP3 (Q1) Quarterly Spend Plan Reports

PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

SAS License Renewal Begins October 4
The fiscal year 2022 (FY 2022) Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) renewal and request process begins Monday, October 4. PHEP project officers will send recipients an email notification sharing last year's renewal information and the required submission form. If recipients do not currently have a SAS license but would like to request one, they should contact their project officers. SAS licenses are funded via direct assistance, and CDC will withhold the costs of these licenses from recipients' Budget Period 4 awards. Recipients must sign and return the SAS forms to their project officers by **Friday, October 15**. Recipients will need access to Adobe Acrobat to sign the form electronically. Otherwise, they can sign, scan, and email the form to their project officers. Current SAS license and server activity will end on December 30; however, a user grace period has been extended through February 28, 2022. CDC will distribute FY 2022 licenses and servers during the first two months of 2022.

October 13 PHEP Connects Webinar Focuses on Healthy People 2030 Initiative

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar is scheduled for **1 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 13**, and will focus on the Healthy People 2030 (HP2030) initiative. This webinar will provide an overview of the HP2030 data and targets, including the process and methods for setting targets; highlights from the HP2030 preparedness topic area; and a demonstration of the HP2030 website. CDC speakers will share HP2030 resources for state and local health departments and considerations for setting targets at the subnational level.

CDC Releases Key COVID-19 Vaccine Inventory Update

After 41 weeks of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, enrolled providers have vaccine inventory that may expire soon, including many lots of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) vaccine. CDC encourages all providers to check their inventory, dispose of expired vaccine, update vaccine inventory records, and submit vaccine wastage reports.

Check Inventory
- Determining when a vaccine or diluent expires is a critical step in proper storage and handling. Expired vaccines and diluents must be removed immediately from storage units to avoid inadvertently administering them.
- Any vial of J&J that has a date prior to September 23, 2021, has now expired. There will be no more extensions.
  - J&J has an expiration date look-up website.
- Moderna also has an expiration date look-up website.
  - This product line may announce shelf life extensions by October 1. Do not dispose of expired Moderna until there is decision made about extension. CDC recommends checking the Moderna website at the beginning of October.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine Lot Number report, available via CDC's Vaccine Code Set Management Service, can help identify expired inventory. The report is updated daily with COVID-19 vaccine lot numbers and expiration dates provided to CDC by vaccine manufacturers.
  - To register to receive this report, visit CDC's Vaccine Lot Number and Expiration Date web page and complete the registration form to request access.

Update Vaccine Inventory Records
- Update your inventory in Vaccinefinder/Vaccines.gov.

Dispose of Expired Vaccines
- State environmental agencies set medical waste disposal requirements, which may vary from state to state. Each jurisdiction's immunization program or environmental agency can provide guidance to ensure vaccine disposal procedures comply with state and federal regulations.

Submit Vaccine Wastage Reports
- Report waste to jurisdictional contacts. Waste is expected in any vaccination program. As time passes and administration of vaccine doses increase, the reported levels of waste will also increase. The reporting of wastage does not reflect negatively on a program.
- Once expired vaccine has been identified, please dispose of these vials per local ordinances regarding disposal of biologic waste.
- In-depth guidance can be found in the Identification, Disposal, and Reporting of COVID-19 Vaccine Wastage operational summary.

CDC Releases New COVIDVax View Web Pages

CDC recently released the COVIDVaxView and COVIDVaxView Interactive web pages, the latest addition to the VaxView websites. COVIDVaxView provides weekly and monthly data on COVID-19 vaccination uptake and vaccine confidence. Interactive tables and graphs can be viewed by key demographic and socio-behavioral indicators at jurisdictional, regional, and national levels.

COVIDVaxView uses data from the National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module (NIS-ACM) to describe vaccination intent and behavioral profiles nationally each week and by jurisdiction each month. For more information about NIS-ACM, see About the National Immunization Surveys.

The new COVIDVaxView Interactive web page expands on what is available on the CDC COVID Data Tracker Vaccine Confidence dashboard page, with more behavioral indicators to explore and additional characteristics for stratification.

Information on Updated Pfizer-BioNTech Standing Orders Now Available
The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders have been updated to reflect the recent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendation to administer COVID-19 vaccine booster doses. Where authorized under state law, standing orders enable eligible nurses and other healthcare professionals, such as pharmacists, to assess and vaccinate persons who meet the eligibility criteria without the need for clinician examination or direct order from the attending provider at the time of the interaction. The new Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine standing orders can also be accessed at: Administration Overview for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

CDC Offers School Deployer Training for Public Health Community
CDC offers a free web-based training, "Working with Schools 101," designed to support the public health community in their discussions with school administration and staff regarding the safety and health of students. Recipients of CDC's COVID-19 public health workforce supplemental funding may find this training useful in meeting funding requirements to support school-based health programs.

The self-study training is divided into three sections:
- Section 1 - Federal, State, and Local Education Agency Roles and Responsibilities
- Section 2 - Preparing for Successful Discussions with Local School Administrators and Staff
- Section 3 - Applying Public Health Knowledge and Practice in School Settings

Register for the CDC web-based training at Working with Schools 101.

Updated Guidelines Available for COVID-19 Antibody Testing
CDC has released updated Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing. The recent update removes the recommendation that persons in low-risk situations with a positive antibody test within three months prior to a SARS-CoV-2 exposure or tested immediately after an exposure do not need to quarantine. Guidance for interpretation of antibody test results was also added in the form of a table.

CDC Publications Highlight COVID-19 School Safety Prevention Strategies
On September 24, CDC released three Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs) that highlight the importance of using layered prevention strategies including universal masking to stop the spread and minimize disruptions to school operations for safe in-person education. These studies found that school districts without a universal masking policy were more likely to have COVID-19 outbreaks. Nationwide, counties without masking requirements saw the number of pediatric COVID-19 cases increase nearly twice as quickly during this same period. Following are links to the three CDC publications.

- Association Between K–12 School Mask Policies and School-Associated COVID-19 Outbreaks — Maricopa and Pima Counties, Arizona, July–August 2021
- Pediatric COVID-19 Cases in Counties with and Without School Mask Requirements — United States, July 1–September 4, 2021
- COVID-19–Related School Closures and Learning Modality Changes — United States, August 1–September 17, 2021

What's on the Calendar

- **October 13** – PHEP Connects Webinar

- **October 20** – HPP-PHEP Recipient Call

Preparedness and Response Resources

CDC Seeks Usability Testing Volunteers for New POD Modeling Tool
CDC has developed a new modeling tool to help emergency planners design sites for vaccination or pill dispensing during emergencies, including bioterrorism attacks or pandemics. The Point of Dispensing Simulation Program for Leveraging and Evaluating Resources (POD SimPLER) tool can help planners better understand their current capacity levels, potential bottlenecks, and additional resource needs. POD SimPLER focuses on typical or anticipated activities that are needed to conduct medical countermeasure (MCM) dispensing and vaccine administration. These activities include but are not limited to providing basic first aid, medical screening, dispensing or administration of medicine, and patient registration. This tool aims to help planners assess their current capacity and plan for potential needs in a way that is simple to understand, quick to interpret, and can be presented to decision makers when requesting additional resources.

CDC will conduct usability assessment testing of POD SimPLER from **October 13 through October 27** to assess how easy it is to use the tool and ensure that the interface accomplishes the goals of the project. Ideal usability testers should be involved in MCM dispensing and vaccine administration planning and operations.

During the virtual user testing, CDC will walk volunteers through a demonstration of the tool and gather feedback on the intuitiveness of the interface and the processes within the tool. User testing sessions will last from 60 minutes to 90 minutes and will consist of groups of five to seven people.

Those interested in participating in the POD SimPLER usability testing should contact SIMPLER@cdc.gov by October 11 to schedule a user testing session.

American Red Cross Offers Training Programs for Community Caregivers
The American Red Cross is supporting communities during the current public health emergency by offering two free psychological first aid (PFA) training programs conducted by mental health professionals. The two-hour PFA training programs are designed to help caregivers cope with added stress, foster resiliency, and encourage peer support during a public health emergency.

- *Psychological First Aid: Helping Others in Times of Stress* provides a framework for understanding the factors that affect stress responses in disaster relief workers and the people they serve. The course introduces the principles of psychological first aid and guidelines for when to refer people to mental health workers or counselors to provide an extra level of support. Participants will learn how to support team members and others. This course is targeted to social service agencies, medical personnel, first responders, disaster relief organizations, educators, coroners, and other professional caregivers.

- *Coping in Today's World: Psychological First Aid and Resilience for Families, Friends and Neighbors* helps community members learn ways to increase their psychological resilience and become better able to cope with the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic. This course also teaches participants to provide psychological first aid for adults and children, with a toolkit of strategies for immediate support and resource and referral information for when someone may need extra help from counselors or other healthcare professionals. This course is targeted to community groups such as PTAs, churches, scouting troops, sports teams, and other civic organizations.

To request a virtual presentation of either of these trainings, complete and submit the American Red Cross Training Request Form. Visit the American Red Cross website for more information.

News You Can Use

CDC Releases Health Advisory on COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People
On September 29, CDC issued an urgent health advisory to increase COVID-19 vaccination among people who are pregnant; were recently pregnant, including those who are lactating; and those who are trying to become pregnant now or might become pregnant in the future to prevent serious illness, deaths, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

The CDC health advisory strongly recommends COVID-19 vaccination either before or during pregnancy because the benefits of vaccination for both pregnant persons and their fetuses or infants outweigh known or potential risks. Additionally, the advisory calls on health departments and clinicians to educate pregnant people on the benefits of vaccination and the safety of recommended vaccines.

The full HAN health advisory can be accessed at COVID-19 Vaccinations for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Death, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19.

Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, October 1
- Safety Monitoring of an Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, August 12–September 19, 2021
- Association Between K–12 School Mask Policies and School-Associated COVID-19 Outbreaks — Maricopa and Pima Counties, Arizona, July–August 2021
- Pediatric COVID-19 Cases in Counties with and Without School Mask Requirements — United States, July 1–September 4, 2021
- COVID-19–Related School Closures and Learning Modality Changes — United States, August 1–September 17, 2021
- Acute Gastroenteritis on Cruise Ships — Maritime Illness Database and Reporting System, United States, 2006–2019
- Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccination Status, Intent, and Perceived Access for Noninstitutionalized Adults, by Disability Status — National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module, United States, May 30–June 26, 2021
- Notes from the Field: Deaths Related to Hurricane Ida Reported by Media — Nine states, August 29–September 9, 2021
- Notes from the Field: E-Cigarette Use Among Middle and High School Students — National Youth Tobacco Survey, United States, 2021
- QuickStats: Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Female Breast Cancer, by State — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2019

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** COVIDVaxView
- **NEW** COVIDVaxView Interactive

- **NEW** Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Standing Orders
- **NEW** COVID-19 Vaccinations for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Death, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19.
- **UPDATED** Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing

---

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.

Christine Kosmos, RN, BSN, MS
Director, Division of State and Local Readiness
Center for Preparedness and Response
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention