

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

September 24, 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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- **October 30** – PHEP BP2 (Q5) and BP3 (Q1) Quarterly Spend Plan Reports **New Date**

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PHEP BP2 Federal Financial Report to be Submitted in PMS

PHEP Budget Period 2 (BP2) Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) **must be loaded in the Payment Management System (PMS) by September 30**. Recipient information submitted in the PMS will automatically populate into GrantSolutions. Recipients should contact their project officer for additional information.

CDC Introduces PHEP ORR Friday Feature Series

This month CDC introduces the “PHEP ORR Friday Feature” series. This new bimonthly series will highlight relevant aspects of the PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) interim guidance and the planned implementation during the second half of Budget Period 3 (BP3). These short features are designed to help prepare PHEP recipients for upcoming submission requirements in anticipation of the launch of the ORR online data collection system in early 2022. Every second and fourth Friday of the month, the Friday Feature will focus on either an aspect of the interim guidance or the implementation process, such as the IT data collection system launch and user training.

The PHEP ORR will assess all-hazards readiness across all 15 public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities. CDC released PHEP ORR interim guidance in March, which provides comprehensive information regarding the expanded ORR. The PHEP ORR Friday Features will offer insight on the guidance, the reporting requirements, and evaluation criteria in three distinct sections: descriptive and demographic, planning, and operations. Each section provides information about specific elements of recipient-submitted information that reviewers will evaluate.

However, **CDC has adapted its PHEP ORR implementation approach and reporting requirements for BP3 to focus on capturing COVID-19 pandemic response data. Specifically, recipients should be aware**

that the Pandemic Influenza FSE (PAN) is being renamed the Pandemic COVID-19 Incident Response (RSP) to better reflect the intent of the measure. The Pandemic Influenza FSE (PAN), as presented in the ORR interim guidance, will not be due in BP3 or BP4. Further information on these modifications will be provided in future features.

Please also note that DSLR's Program Implementation and Evaluation and Analysis branches are currently attending bi-weekly workshops designed to build consensus and ensure consistency among DSLR reviewers on each section of the PHEP ORR interim guidance. The consensus-building activities by DSLR reviewers along with these bi-weekly ORR Friday Features have been implemented in an effort to keep recipients informed and prepared for the expanded ORR evaluation process.

For more information on the PHEP ORR Friday Feature series or the PHEP ORR, contact preparedness@cdc.gov.



CDC to Invest \$2.1 Billion to Protect Patients and Healthcare Workers from COVID-19 and Future Infectious Diseases

On September 17, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a \$2.1 billion investment to improve infection prevention and control activities across the U.S. public health and healthcare sectors. Working through the CDC, the Biden-Harris Administration, is investing American Rescue Plan funding to strengthen and equip state, local, and territorial public health departments and other partner organizations with the resources needed to better fight infections in U.S. healthcare facilities, including COVID-19 and other known and emerging infectious diseases. Improvements in infection prevention will span the healthcare continuum, including 6,000 hospitals, 15,400 nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, 7,900 dialysis clinics, and 4,700 ambulatory surgery centers, and will extend to other outpatient settings.

Over the next 3 years, CDC will issue \$1.25 billion of the total to 64 state, local, and territorial health departments to support this work. In addition to amounts provided to health departments, \$880 million will be used over several years to support healthcare partners, academic institutions, and other nonprofit partners to develop new prevention interventions and capacities for infection prevention and control training, data collection, and technical assistance.

Read the full media statement [here](#).

CDC Provides Updated Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot

On September 23, CDC's independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [recommended a booster dose](#) of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine at least six months after the completion of their Pfizer vaccine primary series. CDC Director, Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH further recommended a [COVID-19 booster shot](#) for those in high risk occupational and institutional settings.

CDC recommends:

- Persons 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- Persons aged 50 to 64 with [certain underlying medical conditions](#) **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- Persons 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to [certain underlying medical conditions](#) **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks; and
- Persons aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19

vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Executive Order Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for Federal Employees

President Biden signed two executive orders on September 9 [requiring COVID-19 vaccination for federal employees](#) and [ensuring adequate COVID-19 safety protocols for federal contractors](#). The government-wide vaccination requirement will go into effect on November 22. All federal employees should be fully vaccinated by this date, other than in limited circumstances where the law requires an exception. An individual is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose of a two-dose series or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine. Contractor staff should contact their employer for guidance on whether they need to be fully vaccinated and any needed reporting requirements.

CDC Provides New and Updated COVID-19 Resources

CDC recently released new SARS-CoV-2 variant classifications and definitions and updated information on defining close contacts.

- **NEW** On September 21, the U.S. Government SARS-CoV-2 Interagency Group (SIG) added a new SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions designated [Variants Being Monitored](#) (VBM). VBM may include variants previously designated as a [Variant of Interest](#) (VOI) or [Variant of Concern](#) (VOC) that are no longer detected or are circulating at very low levels in the United States. Additional information can be accessed at: [SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions](#).
- **UPDATED** CDC has updated the [definition for close contacts](#). The K-12 exception to the close contact definition was updated to include “structured outdoor settings.” Additionally, the “Public Health Recommendations” section was updated to summarize recommendations for close contacts based on vaccination status or history of prior infection, and to include new guidance for people with prior infection in the past 90 days. Updates to guidance for persons with prior infection in the past 90 days is reflected in the [Isolation and Quarantine](#) web page.



What's on the Calendar

- **October 13** – PHEP Connects Webinar
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Preparedness and Response Resources

NCCHE Hosts September 28 Webinar on New Beta Version of the DSS-WISE Web System

The National Center for Computational Hydroscience and Engineering (NCCHE) at the University of Mississippi, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Dam Safety Program, and the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams, will host a webinar from **1 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, September 28** on the recently released the new beta version 3.0 of the DSS-WISE Web system. During this webinar, attendees will be provided with the new beta version 3.0 of the DSS-WISE Web system, including a hands-on exercise to allow each attendee to submit their own simulation. Following the

presentation, attendees will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions to the development team.

The updated beta system will replace the current version 2.0 system, which will close at the end of October 2021, builds upon the previous version with a host of powerful new features and a redesigned user interface to assist dam safety professionals, dam safety regulators, community officials, and emergency managers with dam break and flood hazard inundation mapping. Below is the participant information.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (571) 317-3122 (Audio only)

Passcode: 836423509

Access Link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/836423509>

Individuals wishing to participate in the hands-on exercise will need to sign up for an account on the beta version 3.0 system [here](#).



CDC Announces Two New Funding Opportunities for Community Health Workers

CDC's new [Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities \(CCR\)](#) initiative consists of two funding opportunities intended to place more trained Community Health Workers (CHWs) in communities that have been hit hardest by COVID-19 and among populations at high risk for COVID-19 exposure, infection, and illness. These initiatives provide financial support and technical assistance to 69 states, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, and health service providers to tribes.

- [Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities \(CCR\) \(CDC-RFA-DP21-2109\)](#) – A three-year grant that supports the training and deployment of CHWs to COVID-19 response efforts to build and strengthen community resilience to fight COVID-19 by addressing health disparities.
- [Community Health Workers for COVID Response and Resilient Communities–Evaluation and Technical Assistance \(CCR-ETA\) \(CDC-RFA-DP21-2110\)](#) – A four-year cooperative agreement that supports training, technical assistance, and a national evaluation to strengthen capacity of grant recipients and their funded projects.



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, September 24](#)
- [Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine in Persons Aged ≥16 Years: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, September 2021](#)
- [Comparative Effectiveness of Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and Janssen \(Johnson & Johnson\) Vaccines in Preventing COVID-19 Hospitalizations Among Adults Without Immunocompromising Conditions — United States, March–August 2021](#)

- [Outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant Infections Among Incarcerated Persons in a Federal Prison — Texas, July–August 2021](#)
- [Short Sleep Duration Among Infants, Children, and Adolescents Aged 4 Months–17 Years — United States, 2016–2018](#)
- [Increasing Access to HIV Testing Through Direct-to-Consumer HIV Self-Test Distribution — United States, March 1, 2020–March 30, 2021](#)
- [Nonvoluntary or Forced Sex Among Women, by Sexual Identity, Attraction, and Behavior — National Survey of Family Growth, United States, 2011–2017](#)
- [Decreased Incidence of Infections Caused by Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food During the COVID-19 Pandemic — Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, 10 U.S. Sites, 2017–2020](#)
- [Erratum: Vol. 70, No. 36](#)
- [Erratum: Vol. 70, No. 37](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Residential Care Communities Engaged in Selected End-of-Life and Bereavement Care Practices — National Study of Long-Term Care Providers, United States, 2018](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [CDC Statement on ACIP Booster Recommendations](#)
- **NEW** [Variants Being Monitored](#)
- **UPDATED** [SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions](#)
- **UPDATED** [Close Contact Definition](#)
- **UPDATED** [Customizable Contact Tracing Notification Letters](#)
- **UPDATED** [Isolation and Quarantine](#)

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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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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