

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

September 11, 2020



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.

Remembering 9/11

Today marks the 19th anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11 and the subsequent anthrax attacks, which were pivotal moments for state and local public health. At that time, emergency preparedness was a very unfamiliar role for state and local public health. Most states and local public health jurisdictions did not plan for emergencies nor did they have the necessary trained staff.

To address this need, in 2002 Congress appropriated nearly \$1 billion in funding to support public health preparedness and emergency response nationwide. CDC awarded the funding to 62 state, local, and territorial jurisdictions using a population-based formula, marking the beginning of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement program. Over the past 18 years, the PHEP program has grown from its initial bioterrorism focus, now employing a capabilities-based framework to address all threats whether caused by natural, accidental, or intentional means.

Since 2002, CDC's PHEP program has provided not only funding but also comprehensive hands-on expertise and resources to health departments across the nation to prepare for, respond to, and recover from potentially devastating public health emergencies and threats. The PHEP program has saved lives by building and maintaining a nationwide public health emergency management system that enables communities to rapidly respond to public health threats.

CDC salutes its state, local, territorial, and tribal public health preparedness partners who have been on the front lines of countless public health emergencies since the start of the PHEP program and those who are working tirelessly today to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for all you do to protect the health of your communities.

In This Issue

Upcoming Deadlines

PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

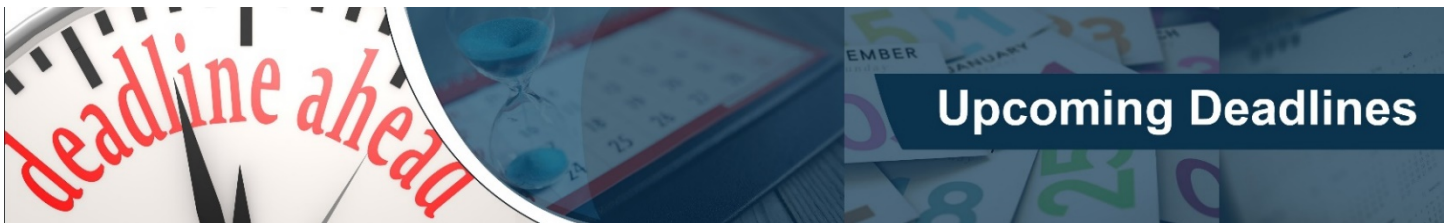
- PHEP Recipient Conference Call Scheduled for September 16

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- CDC Announces New CEFO Assignments
- Registration Available for Upcoming CDC RealOpt® Training on Vaccination Planning and POD Sites
- MedFinder and VaccineFinder Tools Available for Upcoming Flu Season

Online Resources



- **September 15** – Monthly COVID-19 Fiscal Reports Due



PHEP Recipient Conference Call Scheduled for September 16

The next monthly PHEP recipient conference call will be held from **3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EDT** on **Wednesday, September 16**. The Zoom call will be shortened to 30 minutes due to the weekly COVID-19 vaccine planning webinar scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. EDT that day. Participant information is provided below.

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1600881275?pwd=NWIFL0IXRVIQSGwyMTJBny9od0dBdz09>

Meeting ID: 160 088 1275

Passcode: yhg2XYL#

One tap mobile

+16692545252,1600881275#,,,,,0#,,76814031# US (San Jose)

+16468287666,1600881275#,,,,,0#,,76814031# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose)

+1 646 828 7666 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 160 088 1275

Passcode: 76814031



What's on the Calendar

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- **September 14** – RealOpt© Training on Vaccination Planning and POD Sites
 - **September 16** – PHEP Recipient Conference Call



Tools and Resources

CDC Announces New CEFO Assignments

CDC's Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) Program assigns mid-level to senior epidemiologists to state, territorial, and local health departments to support enhancement of preparedness capabilities and epidemiologic capacity. Currently, all CEFOs are actively involved in supporting the nationwide COVID-19 response efforts of their assigned jurisdictions and CDC. CEFOs have logged a total of 48,961 hours on COVID-19 response activities in CDC's response tracking system. As of September 2020, CDC has 34 CEFOs supporting 31 jurisdictions. Three new CEFOs have joined the CEFO Program since June 2020.

Debora "Deby" Weiss, DVM, MPH, MS, is a veterinary epidemiologist who recently began her CEFO assignment with the Wyoming Department of Health following the retirement of Dan O'Leary. Weiss will work to build and sustain public health emergency preparedness and response capabilities and capacity throughout the state including with the Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho, and other tribes. She will also employ her immunization-related experience to help with COVID-19 vaccination planning and implementation efforts. Dr. Weiss completed her Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) field assignment in Wisconsin in 2017 and most recently worked with CDC's Global Immunization Division's Strategic Information and Workforce Development Branch.

LCDR Michelle Holshue, RN, MPH, is the first CEFO to be assigned to the Washington State Department of Health where she recently completed her EIS field assignment. Prior to joining CDC in 2018, LCDR Holshue worked at the National Institutes of Health. More recently, LCDR Holshue helped investigate multiple outbreaks in Washington including the first case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) identified in the United States. She also has participated in investigation and control efforts among migratory agricultural workers who have experienced higher rates of infection and illness.

Wayne Duffus, MD, PhD, began a long-term detail with the CEFO Program in September to provide interim support to the Illinois Department of Health as acting state epidemiologist. Originally deployed by the CDC COVID-19 response to Illinois, his work will continue to be focused on COVID-19. Upcoming activities include implementing interventions to address disparities in COVID-19 infection and strengthening infection control practices statewide in congregate settings. Dr. Duffus started his CDC career as an EIS officer in South Carolina and has worked many years supporting HIV/AIDS programs.

For more information on the CEFO program, see the latest [CEFO annual report](#).

Registration Available for Upcoming CDC RealOpt® Training on Vaccination Planning and POD Sites

Registration is now available for CDC's three remaining virtual instructor-led RealOpt® training sessions in 2020 on vaccination and point-of-dispensing (POD) sites. Registration for the RealOpt® training is completed through [CDC TRAIN](#). The training registration deadline is seven days prior to the course date. Training sessions will be held on:

- Thursday, October 15
- Monday, November 16
- Thursday, December 10

During the sessions, participants will learn the basic components of RealOpt®, a computer modeling program that determines POD or vaccination site staff requirements and examines process efficiencies based on site-specific configurations. With this tool, participants will learn to manipulate existing POD and vaccine flow models and how to run and interpret the performance reports. By the end of the session, participants will have learned how to build or modify their own models to identify where staff should be allocated and how to eliminate bottlenecks and optimize processing times.

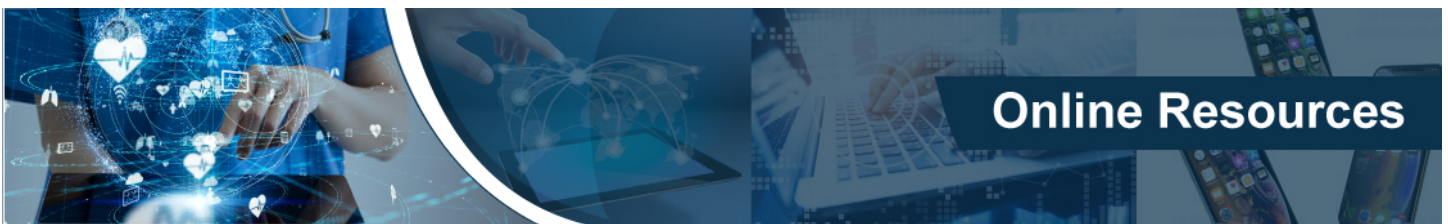
CDC encourages POD and vaccination managers, local and state medical countermeasure planners, and other preparedness planners to register for one of the upcoming monthly training sessions.

MedFinder and VaccineFinder Tools Available for Upcoming Flu Season

Flu season is fast approaching, and with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, when, how, and where patients get immunized may look a little different this year. Boston Children's Hospital, in partnership with CDC, has developed two tools to help patients find flu vaccine and influenza antiviral drugs. VaccineFinder and MedFinder work with partners such as clinics, pharmacies, government agencies, and health departments to offer accurate and up-to-date information about vaccination services and the availability of nearby medication.

[VaccineFinder](#) is a user-friendly website where users can search for locations that offer seasonal flu vaccine and other adult immunizations. Just in time for flu season, the website has been upgraded. Participating providers can now update supply estimates for more accurate reporting. For questions or more information, contact vaccine@healthmap.org.

[MedFinder](#) is an easy-to-use website that helps providers and patients save time and resources by helping them find nearby pharmacies with available influenza antiviral drugs. Pharmacies can use the website to enroll and report supply estimates for the medications they carry at each participating location. MedFinder includes locations in all 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The website also includes instructions for pharmacies to register their location.



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), September 11
- [Delay or Avoidance of Medical Care Because of COVID-19–Related Concerns — United States, June 2020](#), September 11
- [Community and Close Contact Exposures Associated with COVID-19 Among Symptomatic Adults ≥18 Years in 11 Outpatient Health Care Facilities — United States, July 2020](#), September 11

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATED** [Cases in the U.S.](#)
- **UPDATED** [Testing Data in the U.S.](#)
- **UPDATED** [Cases & Deaths by County](#)

- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#)
- **UPDATED** [Additional Tools and Resources](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Information Metrics for Response Leadership's Decision Making](#)
- **UPDATED** [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) for Triage of Suspected COVID-19 Patients in non-US Healthcare Settings: Early Identification and Prevention of Transmission during Triage \[Slides\]](#)
- **UPDATED** [Social Media Toolkit](#)

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