

**DSLRL**

# FRIDAY UPDATE

**December 15, 2023**

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](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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**DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE**



## In This Issue

### Upcoming Deadlines

- **December 29** – Critical Contact Sheet Updates
- **January 16** – Quarterly COVID-19 Progress and Fiscal Reports in REDCap (2020 Response Funding)
- **January 21** – Semiannual COVID-19 Workforce Progress and Fiscal Reports in REDCap (2021 Response Funding)

### PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

- CDC PHEP Recipient Call Scheduled for December 20

### Emergency Response Activities

- CDC Provides Updates to Clinical Testing Guidance Algorithms
- CDC Urges Health Care Providers to Recommend Vaccinations to Patients

### What's on the Calendar

- **December 20** – [CDC PHEP Recipient Call](#) (2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST)

### Preparedness and Response Resources

- ASPR Confirms Availability of Stockpiled Tamiflu Should Supply Shortages Occur

## News You Can Use

- New CDC Study Finds Strong Vaccine Effectiveness Against Severe Flu Outcomes
- CDC Issues Health Advisory on Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever among People with Recent Travel to Mexico

## Online Resources

- CDC MMWR Reports
- CDC Online Resources



## Upcoming Deadlines

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- **January 16** – Quarterly COVID-19 Progress and Fiscal Reports in REDCap (2020 Response Funding)
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## PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

### CDC PHEP Recipient Call Scheduled for December 20

The next monthly PHEP recipient conference call will be held from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 20**. Agenda topics include updates on no-cost extensions and closeout requirements for the current PHEP period of performance and the status of the 2024-2028 PHEP notice of funding opportunity. Following is the participant information.

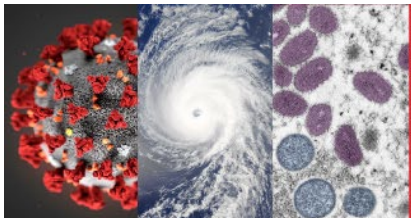
#### Participant Information

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666 (Audio only)

Meeting ID: 160 752 4717

Passcode: 07271150

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



## Emergency Response Activities

### CDC Provides Updates to Clinical Testing Guidance Algorithms

CDC has updated testing guidance information for patients with acute respiratory illness. Updates are now available for [hospitalized patients](#) and [patients not being hospitalized](#). Updated guidance is also available for [hospitalized and non-hospitalized patients](#) when SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and influenza viruses are co-circulating. Clinicians can use these updated resources to inform clinical decision making.

## CDC Urges Health Care Providers to Recommend Vaccinations to Patients

On December 14, CDC issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) [health advisory](#) to ensure health care providers are aware of the current low vaccination rates for influenza (flu), COVID-19, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). Low vaccination rates, coupled with ongoing increased national and international respiratory disease activity caused by multiple pathogens, including flu viruses, SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), and RSV, could lead to more severe disease and increased health care capacity strain in the coming weeks. CDC encourages health care providers to strongly recommend immunizations to patients now, as well as treatment, testing, and other preventive measures to protect patients against respiratory diseases before holidays, social gatherings, or travel this winter.



## What's on the Calendar

- **December 20** – [CDC PHEP Recipient Call](#) (2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST)



## Preparedness and Response Resources

### ASPR Confirms Availability of Stockpiled Tamiflu Should Supply Shortages Occur

During the 2022-2023 influenza (flu) season, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) made available additional supply of Tamiflu to respond to increased flu activity and demand for antiviral drugs as well as reports of commercial spot shortages for generic oseltamivir. While HHS expects that oseltamivir manufacturers can support demand during the current flu season, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response confirms that Tamiflu previously reserved for pandemic flu and held in state, territorial, and federal stockpiles is again available for use should similar commercial spot shortages of flu antiviral drugs arise this season.

If spot shortages are reported this year, jurisdictions may dispense certain lots of Tamiflu 30mg, 45mg, and 75mg that were procured for pandemic preparedness under the HHS Antiviral Subsidy Vendor Contract between 2006 and 2009 and remain in jurisdictional stockpiles. Tamiflu 75mg stockpiled in the Strategic National Stockpile may be available for jurisdictions that have exhausted their own supplies. Public health officials should work with their [ASPR Regional Teams](#) to identify needs and receive assistance if supply is a concern.

More information, including Tamiflu expiration extensions, can be found [here](#).



## News You Can Use

**New CDC Study Finds Strong Vaccine Effectiveness Against Severe Flu Outcomes**

On December 5, a new [CDC-co-authored study](#) published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* found that influenza vaccination last season substantially reduced the risk of serious flu outcomes. The study looked at how well flu vaccination protected against flu-related hospitalization, organ failure and death among adults. The study findings underscore the importance of flu vaccination this fall and winter respiratory virus season. CDC recommends everyone ages 6 months and older get an annual flu vaccine.

Learn more at [New CDC Study Finds Strong Vaccine Effectiveness Against Severe Flu Outcomes](#).

### **CDC Issues Health Advisory on Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever among People with Recent Travel to Mexico**

On December 8, CDC issued a HAN [health advisory](#) to notify healthcare providers and the public about an outbreak of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) among people in the United States with recent travel to or residence in the city of Tecate, state of Baja California, Mexico. RMSF is a severe, rapidly progressive, and often deadly disease transmitted by the bite of infected ticks, although many patients do not recall being bitten by a tick. Doxycycline is the treatment of choice for patients of all ages. As of December 8, five patients have been diagnosed with confirmed RMSF since late July 2023; all had travel to or residence in Tecate within two weeks of illness onset. RMSF is endemic in multiple border states in northern Mexico, including but not exclusive to Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Nuevo León. Healthcare providers should consider RMSF in their differential diagnoses of patients who have reported recent travel to Tecate, Mexico, or other areas of northern Mexico and subsequently develop signs or symptoms of an unexplained severe febrile illness. Consider initiating doxycycline based on presumptive clinical and epidemiologic findings, and do not delay treatment pending the result of a confirmatory laboratory test.



## **Online Resources**

### **CDC MMWR Reports**

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, December 15](#)
- [Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths Among Children and Adolescents Aged 0–17 Years — National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003–2021](#)
- [Suicide Rates by Industry and Occupation — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Transmission of Mpox to Nonsexual Close Contacts — Two U.S. Jurisdictions, May 1–July 31, 2022](#)
- [Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Pandemic-Related Changes in Blood Lead Screening — Chicago, Illinois, 2017–2022](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Women Who Smoked Cigarettes During Pregnancy, by Race and Hispanic Origin — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2016 and 2022](#)

### **CDC Online Resources**

- **UPDATED** [CDC Respiratory Virus Updates](#)

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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