

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

February 19, 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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DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE 

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- **March 5** – PFA Host Site Letters of Intent Deadline
- **March 16** – PHEP BP3 Application Deadline



CDC Releases 2021 PHEP Recipient Conference Call Schedule

CDC has posted the 2021 PHEP recipient conference call schedule in CDC's [Online Technical Resource and Assistance Center \(On-TRAC\)](#) portal. CDC will host PHEP recipient calls on the third Wednesday of the month. Joint HPP-PHEP recipient calls will be held quarterly, with the next joint call scheduled for **Wednesday, May 19**.



New MMWR Highlights First Month of COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Monitoring

CDC released today, February 19, an MMWR on the [First month of COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring — United States, December 14, 2020–January 13, 2021](#). Data from the first month of COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring provides reassurance about the safety of COVID-19 vaccines currently being used in the United States, as well as helpful information regarding what to expect following vaccination.

The report provides data from two vaccine safety monitoring systems: Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) and v-safe. [V-safe](#) is a new smartphone-based, after-vaccination health checker for people who receive COVID-19 vaccines. [VAERS](#) is a passive reporting system, meaning it relies on individuals to send in reports of their experiences to CDC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The initial post-authorization safety profiles of the two COVID-19 vaccines in current use did not find evidence of unexpected reporting patterns or safety concerns. During this time, more than 13.5 million doses were administered. Since the vaccines were authorized in December 2020, safety monitoring for these vaccines has been the most intense and comprehensive in U.S. history.

CDC encourages jurisdictions to continue promoting the [v-safe after vaccination health checker](#) and to ask their vaccination providers to distribute the [v-safe information sheet](#) to vaccine recipients and to encourage vaccine recipients to [register for v-safe](#).

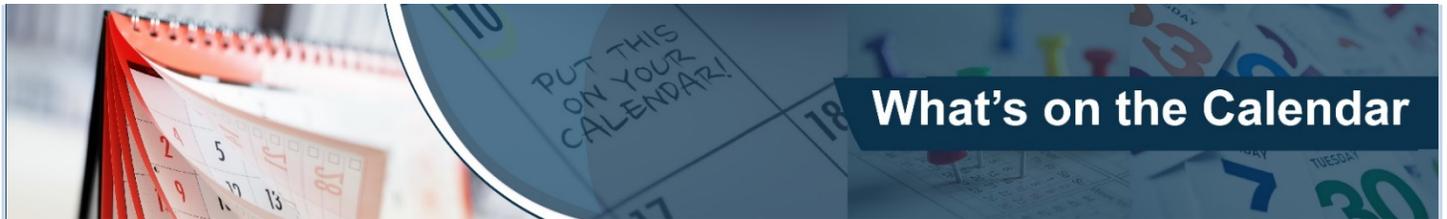
COVID-19 vaccine safety questions can be directed to COVID19VaxSafety@cdc.gov.

GSA Provides COVID-19 Response Support Resources

The General Services Administration (GSA) has completed a COVID-19 response support package that will enable state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments to enter into contracts with vendors who can support surge staffing and other needs in their jurisdictions. Working with CDC over the last several months, GSA has developed a “Best Practices Ordering Guide” and templates to support the acquisition process, including cost estimate worksheets and requests for quotes. GSA has a designated team of support staff who are available to help walk through the acquisition process with health department staff. More than 120 vendors responded to [GSA’s market research](#) which covers all regions of the country, territories, and freely associated states. Jurisdictions can also receive copies of the documents, or request assistance, by emailing CRSSHelp@gsa.gov. The scope of services include medical and other personnel, equipment, wrap-around services, contact tracing, and logistical support. [GSA’s Acquisition Gateway](#) includes a section on its front page for COVID-19 resources.

New CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Now Available Online

CDC released a new [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools](#) to incorporate the best available evidence at this time. The indicators and thresholds in the operational strategy replace the core indicators in the Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making. A comparison of the former and new indicators and thresholds is available [here](#).



What’s on the Calendar

- **February 22-24** – National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine
- **March 15** – RealOpt© Training



Tools and Resources

Updates to CDC Vaccine Communication Product Inventory Now Available

The CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force maintains a Communication and Education Product Inventory on the Immunization Services Division Awardee SharePoint portal in the “COVID-19 > Communication Content” folder. The product inventory is an index of key content compiled to support jurisdictional needs, organized by product category and by stakeholder. CDC updates this inventory at least weekly. Recent updates to the Communication and Education Product Inventory include:

- Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership Program for COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs
- COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Specific Groups
- Myths and Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines
- Vaccination Considerations for Persons with Disabilities
- National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine

New COVID-19 Resources Available Online

Several new COVID-19 resources are now available online, including immunization schedule recommendations, a COVID-19 data tracker weekly review, and new COVID-19 outbreak and vaccine allocation information.

- The [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#) was recently added to [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#) and can be found on the left side of the navigation page.

- The 2021 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommended Immunization Schedules were released in two MMWRs: [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Children and Adolescents Aged 18 Years or Younger — United States, 2021](#) and [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older — United States, 2021](#).
- The National Governors Association (NGA) developed the [COVID-19 Outbreaks: State Reporting By Setting](#) resource to identify states that have defined and are reporting setting-specific outbreaks as of November 2020 and highlights promising examples that others can look to as they consider adapting and expanding COVID-19 reporting. This resource also includes a summary of the status of related reporting on contact tracing and discussion of the impact of increasing levels of community spread on states' abilities to collect and report outbreak data. The [Phased Allocation Of COVID-19 Vaccines: State and Territorial Approaches](#) table provides information on state and territorial plans for phased allocation of COVID-19 vaccines.



ASTHO to Host Virtual Health Equity Leadership Summit

ASTHO will host a four-part webinar series [Leading Equity: Changing the Narrative Through Public Health Leadership](#), bringing together leaders to share perspectives on the national, organizational, and policy-level shifts needed to transform public health and advance health equity. Every Friday in March, these webinars will feature keynote presentations from nationally recognized thought leaders, followed by breakout discussions led by state health equity and minority health leaders. The speaker lineup and registration information for the webinar series can be found [online](#).



Hispanic and Latino Organizations to Host COVID-19 Webinars on February 26 and March 2

The following two webinars will provide Hispanic and Latino communities with information on the COVID-19 virus and vaccines. Co-hosted with the Partnership Center at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and featuring CDC subject matter experts, the following webinars will be presented in Spanish.

- The [National Hispanic Pastors Alliance](#) and the [Pastor's Wives of America](#) will host a webinar from **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST on Friday, February 26** on “What Families Need to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines.” This webinar will provide an overview on what families need to know about the COVID-19 virus and the vaccines that will help to slow the spread and save lives. Register [here](#) to attend the webinar and receive the recording.
- The [National Latino Evangelical Coalition \(NaLEC\)](#) will host a webinar from noon to **1 p.m. EST on Tuesday, March 2**, to discuss what communities need to know about the COVID-19 virus and the vaccines that will help to slow the spread and save lives. Register [here](#) to attend or receive the recording.



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 19](#)
- [Maximizing Fit for Cloth and Medical Procedure Masks to Improve Performance and Reduce SARS-CoV-2 Transmission and Exposure, 2021](#)

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Intent, Perceptions, and Reasons for Not Vaccinating Among Groups Prioritized for Early Vaccination - United States, September and December 2020](#)
- [Detection of B.1.351 SARS-CoV-2 Variant Strain — Zambia, December 2020](#)
- [First Identified Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Variant B.1.1.7 in Minnesota — December 2020–January 2021](#)
- [Decline in Receipt of Vaccines by Medicare Beneficiaries During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, 2020](#)
- [First month of COVID-19 vaccine safety monitoring — United States, December 14, 2020–January 13, 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATES** [Cases in the U.S.](#)
- **UPDATES** [Overall US COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Update as of February 17](#)
- **UPDATES** [How COVID-19 Vaccines Get to You](#)
- **UPDATES** [Vaccination Considerations for Persons with Disabilities](#)
- **UPDATES** [Understanding Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- **UPDATES** [COVID-19 Vaccination for People Experiencing Homelessness: Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- **UPDATES** [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- **UPDATES** [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- **UPDATES** [COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases](#)
- **UPDATES** [COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths](#)
- **UPDATES** [COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations](#)
- **UPDATES** [Crew Disembarkations through Commercial Travel](#)
- **UPDATES** [Protect Yourself When Using Transportation](#)
- **UPDATES** [Responder Stories](#)
- **UPDATES** [Correctional and Detention Facilities](#)
- **UPDATES** [Older Adults](#)
- **UPDATES** [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATES** [Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers](#)
- **UPDATES** [COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness Research](#)
- **UPDATES** [Immunization and Vaccines for Children Program COVID Cycle 3 Supplemental Funding FAQs](#)
- **UPDATES** [How CDC is Responding to SARS-CoV-2 Variants Globally](#)
- **UPDATES** [Selected Adverse Events Reported after COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- **UPDATES** [Percent of Delivered First Vaccine Doses Administered by U.S. States and Territories](#)

Christine Kosmos, RN, BSN, MS

Director, Division of State and Local Readiness
 Center for Preparedness and Response
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Rd Atlanta, GA 30329 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: 888-232-6348

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