

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

February 26, 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](https://www.cdc.gov/state-local-readiness/) 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 Due
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PFA Host Site Letters of Intent Due March 5

CDC is seeking a limited number of PHEP jurisdictions to host DSLR preparedness field assignees (PFAs) to continue their public health emergency preparedness developmental experience. **CDC will fund the salaries** of entry-level public health PFAs for a three-year training program to develop skills and additional field experience in state and local emergency preparedness and response. The program provides PFAs with hands-on field training, thus increasing the overall program competency of DSLR staff. Additional information on the PFA placement opportunity and the process for requesting a field assignee is available [online](#). Interested jurisdictions must submit letters of intent (LOIs) to dslrpfa@cdc.gov by close of business on **Friday, March 5**. For questions regarding the LOI submission, contact Scott Tulloch at sdt2@cdc.gov.



Updated CDC COVID-19 Resources Available Online

Several additional COVID-19 resources are now available on the CDC COVID-19 website. The resources include information on the COVID-19 Data Tracker redesign, a series of COVID-19 science updates, and National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) vital statistics data.

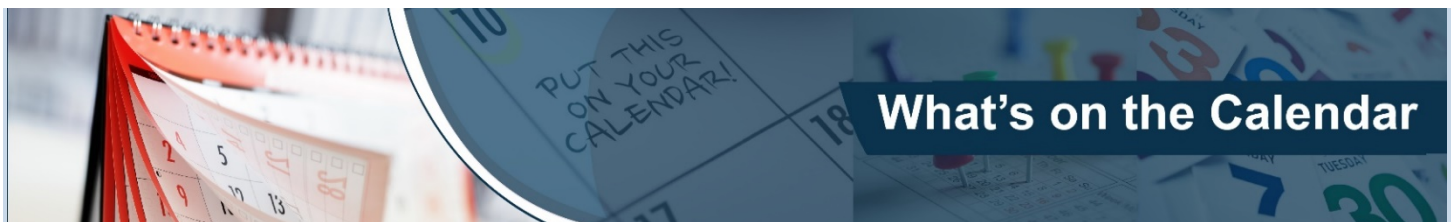
- CDC has launched a redesign of the [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#) page on the [COVID Data Tracker](#). The redesigned webpage showcases vaccine data in two ways: dose-based measures and people-based measures at both the federal and jurisdictional levels.
- CDC's [COVID-19 Science Update](#) series is designed to help inform CDC's COVID-19 response. This weekly series provides brief summaries of new COVID-19-related studies on many topics, including epidemiology, clinical treatment and management, laboratory science, and modeling publicly available.
- CDC's National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) published [life expectancy estimates based on provisional vital statistics data](#). These estimates are considered provisional because death certificate

information may later be revised, and additional death certificates may still be received. NCHS is publishing these provisional estimates to make the data available sooner than the final data allow. The report presents life expectancy estimates based on provisional death counts from January to June 2020. These data are presented by sex, and for the total, Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, and non-Hispanic black populations.

New COVID-19 Early Release Morbidity and Mortality Reports Available

CDC recently released three new early release Morbidity and Mortality Reports (MMWR) regarding COVID-19 infection among elementary school teachers and students in a specific school district, as well as COVID-19 outbreaks at various fitness facilities.

- A new CDC study of COVID-19 clusters in Georgia elementary schools found that initial infections in educators played an important role in the spread of COVID-19. Additional information can be found in the Early Release MMWR at [Clusters of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Elementary School Educators and Students in One School District – Georgia, December 2020-2021](#).
- Two new studies on fitness center outbreaks indicate that to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission in gyms and fitness facilities, attendees should wear a well-fitting mask, including during high-intensity activities, and keep at least six feet apart. In addition, facilities should implement measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This includes enforcing physical distancing, improving ventilation, encouraging attendees to isolate after symptom onset or receiving a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result, and to quarantine after a potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2 and while awaiting test results. Exercising outdoors or virtually could further reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission risk. Additional information can be found in the Early Release MMWRs at [COVID-19 Outbreak Among Attendees of an Exercise Facility — Chicago, Illinois, August–September 2020](#) and [Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at Three Fitness Facilities — Hawaii, June–July 2020](#).



- **March 2** – COCA Call
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NGA Releases New Publications on Workforce Support and on Michigan Health Disparities Case Study

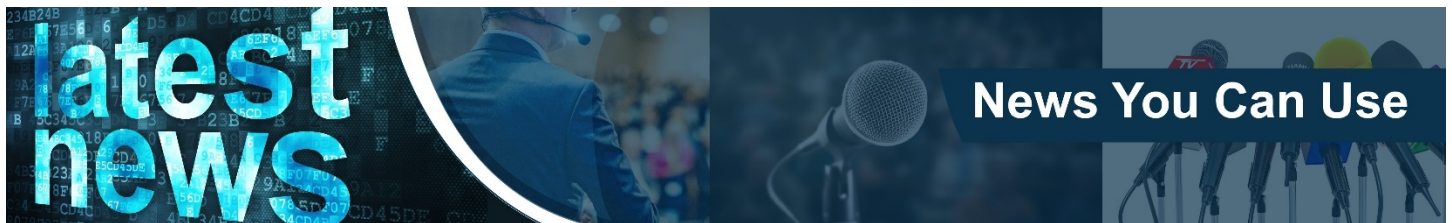
The National Governors Association (NGA) in collaboration with other partnering agencies recently released two new publications on supporting direct care workforce in facility settings during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and a resource document providing information on Michigan's COVID-19 equity task force.

- The NGA's Center for Best Practices released [Supporting a Trained Direct Care Workforce in Facility Settings During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges in recruiting and retaining direct care workers. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued several waivers to address staffing challenges across the continuum of care during the public health emergency, including a waiver to temporarily reduce certain training requirements. Some states have taken complementary action creating new flexibilities to train and deploy a qualified workforce.

- NGA and the Duke Margolis Center for Health Policy, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, released [A Case Study of the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities](#). This resource provides information on Michigan's COVID-19 equity task force, which has paved the way to address COVID-19-related health inequities in the state, resulting in the reduction of COVID-19-related cases and mortality among Black residents. The resource also includes best practices for other states in fighting COVID-19 related health disparities.

FEMA Develops Community Vaccination Centers Playbook and Civil Rights Checklist

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published a [Community Vaccination Centers Playbook](#) that establishes guidance for providing federal support to state, tribal and territorial Community Vaccination Centers. This playbook includes information on interagency coordination, resource support, facility setup and other requirements for consideration. FEMA also developed a [Civil Rights Checklist](#) to assist state, local, tribal, and territorial partners in understanding and fulfilling their obligations to provide access to vaccine-related programs, activities and services in a nondiscriminatory manner. FEMA is coordinating translation and interpretation services.



March 2 COCA Call Focuses on What Clinicians Need to Know About Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine

CDC's next Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call will be held at **2 p.m. EST on Tuesday, March 2**. During this COCA call, CDC subject matter experts will provide clinicians with an overview of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Clinicians will learn about vaccine characteristics and administration, vaccinating special populations, and contraindications. Speakers will also answer clinical questions CDC has received about this new vaccine. Following is the participant information. Additional information can be accessed at https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_030221.asp.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666

Webinar ID: 1603748312

Passcode: 893944

Web Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603748312?pwd=anImUURkSEtmdzBLSmNOV0pJSzZUQT09>

CDC Offers RealOpt© Training on March 15

The next CDC virtual instructor-led RealOpt© training session on vaccination and point-of-dispensing (POD) sites will be held at **1 p.m. EST on Monday, March 15**. 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 a monthly training session. Registration for the RealOpt© training session is required through [CDC TRAIN](#). Registration deadline is **seven days** prior to the course delivery date. Additional training sessions will be held on the following dates.

- Thursday, April 22
- Monday, May 10
- Thursday, June 10
- Thursday, July 8



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 26](#)
- [Clusters of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Elementary School Educators and Students in One School District – Georgia, December 2020-2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Outbreak Among Attendees of an Exercise Facility — Chicago, Illinois, August–September 2020](#)
- [Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at Three Fitness Facilities — Hawaii, June–July 2020](#)
- [Reduction in COVID-19 Patients Requiring Mechanical Ventilation Following Implementation of a National COVID-19 Vaccination Program — Israel, December 2020–February 2021](#)
- [Suspected Recurrent SARS-CoV-2 Infections Among Residents of a Skilled Nursing Facility During a Second COVID-19 Outbreak — Kentucky, July–November 2020](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATED** [Resources Page](#)
- **UPDATED** [What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Source Investigation](#)
- **UPDATED** [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- **UPDATED** [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Preparation Infographic](#)
- **UPDATED** [Guidance for Vaccinating Older Adults and People with Disabilities at Vaccination Clinics](#)

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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