

# Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

May 7, 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](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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**DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE** 

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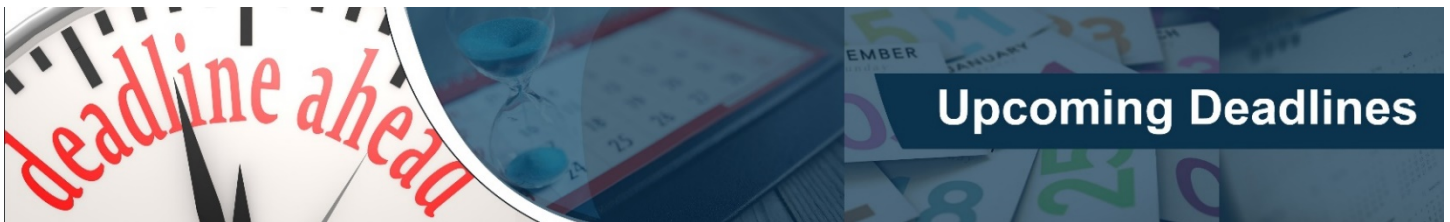
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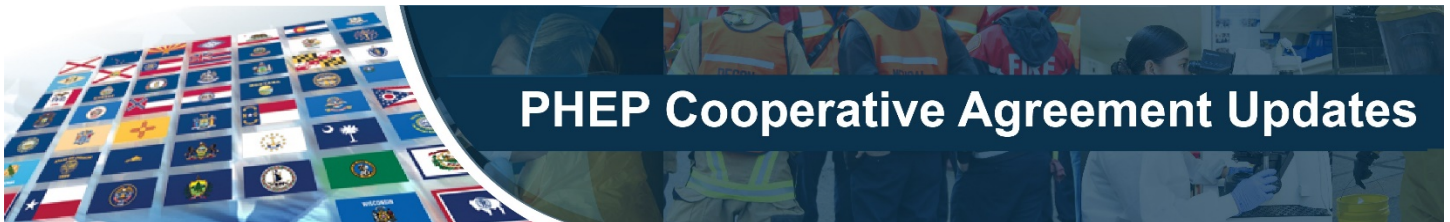
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- **May 15** – COVID-19 April Fiscal Reports Due



### CDC's May PHEP Connects Webinar Features Preparedness Partnerships in Tennessee

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar is scheduled for **1 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 12**. This webinar will provide an overview of a local partnership between government and community members to strengthen preparedness for vulnerable populations in Tennessee. Speakers Jennifer Johnson, CDC's senior Preparedness Field Assignee (PFA) for Tennessee; Christina Obierika, CDC public health associate at the Tennessee Department of Health in the emergency preparedness program; and John Walsh, research assistant professor from Vanderbilt University, will share their experiences in partnering with agencies and community-based organizations to form the EARS (Emergency Awareness and Readiness Services) Consortium and nonprofit organization. EARS provides appropriate early alert and warning equipment and coordinates emergency preparedness training and emergency services for the benefit of persons who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing. Following is the participant information for the webinar.



#### Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 1611002147

Passcode: 63665230

Web Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1611002147?pwd=QjZseVBOckdpbTJjbnNRkNMV1NVZz09>

### CDC Updates PHEP Recipient Meeting Schedule for May

CDC has canceled the monthly PHEP recipient meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 19, as the Center for Preparedness and Response will be meeting with its Board of Scientific Counselors at that time.

CDC and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) have scheduled its joint HPP-PHEP recipient business meeting for **Wednesday, May 26**. The virtual meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held **from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. EDT**. CDC and ASPR will release more details, including agenda topics, as soon as they are finalized. PHEP directors can submit agenda topics or questions regarding the meeting to [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).



### Subscription Options Now Available for CDC's COVID-19 Science Update and Weekly Review

CDC is working to ensure jurisdictions have access to the latest information on the pandemic, the virus and its variants, and COVID-19's impact on the United States. Two CDC resources provide up-to-date information on the COVID-19 situation. Preparedness staff can now subscribe to either or both resources to receive weekly email updates.

- [CDC's COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#) highlights key information from the COVID Data Tracker, home for CDC's COVID-19 data, and summarizes important trends in the pandemic. Click [here](#) to receive the weekly review.
- [CDC's COVID-19 Science Update](#) links to new COVID-19-related studies and provides summaries of key findings, methods, and implications from these peer-reviewed and preprint articles. Click [here](#) to receive the COVID-19 Science Updates.

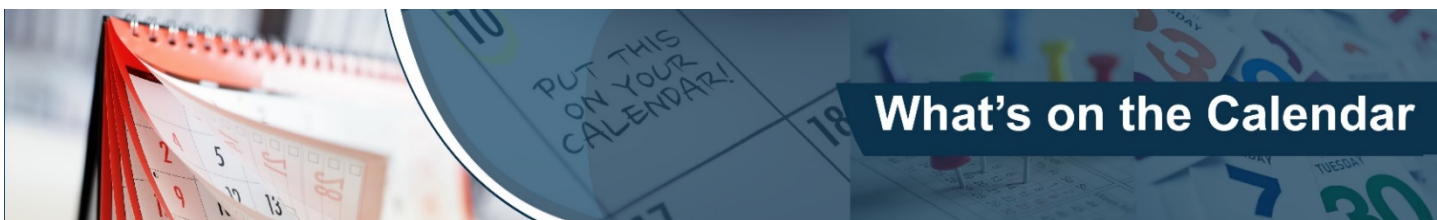
### HHS Shares Information on COVID-19 Outpatient Treatment

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is working to ensure individuals are aware of available COVID-19 outpatient treatments, including monoclonal antibody treatment. This therapy is authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for emergency use for those with mild to moderate cases of COVID-19 who are at high risk of becoming seriously ill. Monoclonal antibody therapy augments the immune system's attack on the virus and may block the virus that causes COVID-19 from attaching to human cells, making it more difficult for the virus to reproduce and cause harm.

More than 5,000 sites across the country are available to provide treatment for eligible individuals at little to no cost. It's imperative that eligible patients seek treatment early – within 10 days of the first indication of their COVID-19 symptoms. A full list of eligibility requirements can be found [here](#) along with other [frequently asked questions](#). CDC encourages public health agencies to share this information with their communities.

### HHS Announces Rural COVID-19 Response Vaccination Efforts

On May 4, 2021, HHS [announced](#) the availability of nearly \$1 billion to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts and increase vaccinations in rural communities. The [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) will increase the number of vaccines sent to rural communities, expand testing and other COVID-19 prevention services, and work to increase vaccine confidence by empowering trusted local voices with additional funding for outreach efforts in underserved communities.



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### **New Federally Supported Website Provides Local Vaccination Information**

[Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) is a [federally supported website](#) that was recently launched to make it easier for individuals to access COVID-19 vaccines. Available in English and Spanish, Vaccines.gov is designed to help connect Americans with locations offering vaccines near them. This site is meant to complement the number of state and pharmacy websites that have been successfully connecting many Americans with vaccinations by providing a unified federal resource for Americans to use no matter where they are. In addition to the website, persons living in the United States are now able to use a text messaging service, available in both English and Spanish. Individuals can text their ZIP code to 438829 (GETVAX) and 822862 (VACUNA) to find three locations nearby that have vaccines available. The National COVID-19 Vaccination Assistance Hotline, 1-800-232-0233, is another resource available to assist those who prefer to get vaccine information by phone.

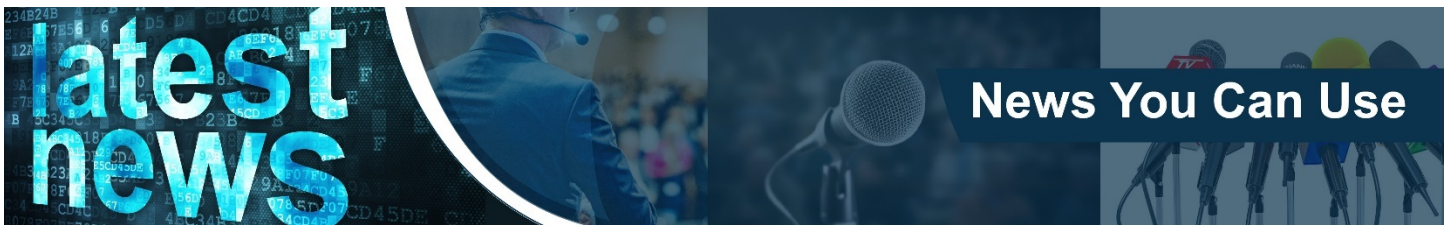
### **CDC Issues Guidance for Phases 2B and 3 of Conditional Sailing Order**

CDC released on May 5 new [guidance](#) for cruise ships to undertake simulated voyages with volunteer passengers as part of its COVID-19 Conditional Sailing Order (CSO) framework. With the issuance of these documents, cruise ship operators now have all the necessary requirements and recommendations they need to start simulated voyages before resuming restricted passenger voyages. In addition, this release includes the COVID-19 Conditional Sailing Certificate application, which is the final step before restricted passenger voyages.

CDC released the [Conditional Sailing Order](#) in October 2020 to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 on cruise ships, from cruise ships into communities, and to protect public health and safety. The order introduced a [phased approach](#) for the resumption of passenger cruises to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19 onboard.

COVID-19 vaccines play a critical role in the safe resumption of passenger operations, but not all cruise ship operators have announced plans to mandate passenger vaccinations. As more people are fully vaccinated and more drug therapeutics are available, the phased approach allowed CDC to incorporate these advancements into planning for safe resumption of cruise ship travel. **CDC recommends that all port personnel and travelers (passengers and crew) get a COVID-19 vaccine when a vaccine is available to them.**

CDC will continue to update its guidance and recommendations to specify basic safety standards and public health interventions based on the best scientific evidence available. For more information about COVID-19 and cruise ships, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/cruise-ship/what-cdc-is-doing.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/cruise-ship/what-cdc-is-doing.html) and [www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise). For an infographic on CDC's phased approach, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/pdf/CSO-Phased-Approach-Infographic-p.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/pdf/CSO-Phased-Approach-Infographic-p.pdf).



### **CDC Announces End of Ebola Outbreak in the DRC**

On May 3, CDC and the global health community [announced](#) the end of the Ebola outbreak in North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The DRC Ministry of Health (MOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) made the declaration after reaching 42 days with no new cases following the last survivor

testing negative and being discharged from an Ebola treatment unit. This Ebola outbreak, DRC's 12th, was announced on February 7. Recent Ebola outbreaks, including this one, have demonstrated the ability of persistent infections in survivors to start new outbreaks or spark new and ongoing transmission within an existing outbreak. To better understand these linkages between cases and across outbreaks, CDC assisted the DRC MOH in establishing a mobile genetic sequencing lab in Goma and will continue to provide technical assistance as more is learned about sexual transmission of the virus and relapse in survivors.

### **CSTE Conducts Assessment of Race/Ethnicity Data for COVID-19**

In collaboration with CDC, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) is conducting an online [assessment](#) to understand the factors and facilitators that impact the completeness and quality of COVID-19 race/ethnicity data across various surveillance domains. The domains include: 1) Case surveillance data, 2) Laboratory report data, 3) Vaccine administration data, and 4) Syndromic surveillance data.

CSTE intends for state epidemiologists to be the primary respondents to the assessment. However, since the questions assess multiple surveillance domains, responses may need to be coordinated among other agency staff. A PDF copy of the assessment questions can be found [here](#) for coordination and reference. The deadline for completing the assessment is **Thursday, May 13**.

CSTE will summarize the assessment results in a report that will compile factors and facilitators, identify successes, and target solutions for race/ethnicity data improvement at both jurisdictional and national levels. Having more meaningful race/ethnicity data will enable governmental public health agencies to better understand the health equity implications of COVID-19 and effectively use those data to inform public health actions.



### **CDC MMWR Reports**

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, May 7](#)
- [Rapid Emergence and Epidemiologic Characteristics of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.526 Variant — New York City, New York, January 1–April 5, 2021](#)
- [Identification of and Surveillance for the SARS-CoV-2 Variants B.1.427 and B.1.429 — Colorado, January–March 2021](#)
- [Modeling of Future COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, by Vaccination Rates and Nonpharmaceutical Intervention Scenarios — United States, April–September 2021](#)

### **COVID-19 Guidance and Resources**

- **UPDATED** [Cases in the U.S.](#)
- **UPDATED** [Staffing Resources](#)
- **UPDATED** [Rural Communities](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Country](#)
- **UPDATED** [Percent of Delivered First Vaccine Doses Administered by U.S. States and Territories](#)
- **UPDATED** [V-safe Print Resources](#)
- **UPDATED** [Returning to Work](#)
- **UPDATED** [El COVID-19 y Su Salud](#)

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### **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](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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**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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