

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

April 29, 2022



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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CDC Finalizes PHEP 20th Anniversary Toolkit

CDC is finalizing a toolkit that PHEP recipients can use to help commemorate the PHEP 20th anniversary. Toolkit contents include fact sheet, success story and email message templates, as well as talking points and social media messages recipients can use to highlight preparedness accomplishments in their jurisdictions over the past twenty years. CDC will post the toolkit in On-TRAC and provide recipients with a link to the toolkit in a separate email.

PORTS Training Resources and User Guide Now Available

CDC recently conducted virtual trainings to provide an orientation to the PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS). PORTS is an online data collection system used by PHEP recipients to submit program evaluation data to CDC. Recipients are encouraged to view the recorded training and presentation materials as a reference for entering data, uploading evidence, and submitting data to CDC for review. The PORTS user guide contains detailed descriptions of PORTS and the ORR module and includes instructions for completing actions performed by various user roles.

Upon viewing the training, learners will be able to:

- Navigate PORTS and the ORR module
- Describe the purpose of the ORR dashboard
- Enter data in descriptive and operational forms
- Describe the process to submit a form to a CDC Reviewer

Click [here](#) to access the PORTS training resources and user guide in On-TRAC. To request access to On-TRAC, follow these [instructions](#).

CDC Highlights PORTS Access Updates

CDC opened its new PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) on April 8 and encourages PHEP recipients to note the following PORTS updates and reminders.

- Registered users should have received emails from Sams-No-Reply (CDC), sams-no-reply@cdc.gov, or DSLR IT Support, DSLIRITSupport@cdc.gov, confirming their PORTS access.
- Recipients will only see the PORTS home page until their user roles are assigned. Once the user roles are assigned, the blue navigation bar on the left side of the home page will appear, indicating access to the ORR module.
- **Users must [click the link to the PORTS home page](#) in the email they received to verify their access.** This will alert DSLR's IT support team to assign the requested user roles. CDC will assign user roles on a rolling basis.
- To ensure proper functionality of the system, CDC recommends using the Google Chrome browser to access PORTS.

PERFORMS BP4 Application Submission Notice

The PERFORMS support team has been notified by recipients of an issue which reverts the green check marks back to their original state when submitting their BP4 PHEP applications in PERFORMS. This is a residual display on the summary page, and recipient data submissions are still stored and can be seen on the workplan report.



CDC Releases Statement on Masks in Public Transportation Settings

To protect CDC's public health authority beyond the ongoing assessment announced on April 18, CDC has asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to proceed with an appeal in *Health Freedom Defense Fund, Inc., et al., v. Biden, et al.* It is CDC's continuing assessment that at this time an order requiring masking in the indoor transportation corridor remains necessary for the public health. CDC continues to recommend that people wear masks in all indoor public transportation settings and will continue to monitor public health conditions to determine whether such an order remains necessary.

Read the full [CDC Statement on Masks in Public Transportation Settings](#).

MMWR Reports Highlight Racial and Ethnic Disparities Among COVID-19 Death Rates in U.S.

Two reports released in the [April 22 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#) used CDC's National Vital Statistics System to look at death rates in the United States and found that differences in death rates still remain between certain racial and ethnic minority groups.

The first [report](#) provides an overview of provisional U.S. mortality data for 2021, including a comparison of death rates for all causes of death and for deaths involving COVID-19. The study found that the overall age-adjusted death rate increased by almost 1% in 2021 from 2020. Overall death rates were highest among non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan Native and non-Hispanic Black or African American people. For the second year, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer.

The second [report](#) shows that from 2020 to 2021, differences in COVID-19 death rates decreased among most racial and ethnic groups. This report found disparities in the age-adjusted COVID-19 death rates decreased by 14%–40% for most racial and ethnic groups, including non-Hispanic White people, who accounted for 60%–65% of all people who died; and increased non-significantly (7.2%) for non-Hispanic

Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander persons (0.2%–0.3% of people who died) compared with non-Hispanic multiracial people.

The results of both studies highlight the need for greater effort to implement effective interventions to ensure equal treatment in all communities in proportion to their need for effective interventions that can prevent excess COVID-19 deaths.

CDC Provides New and Updated COVID-19 Resources

- CDC recently developed a [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) page](#) for the [Quarantine and Isolation Calculator](#). The FAQs address commonly asked questions about the calculator, including the features and limitations of the calculator and information about groups and settings that should **not** use the calculator to determine isolation and quarantine.
- On April 21, CDC held a telebriefing where experts from CDC discussed the MMWR, "[Vaccination Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten — United States, 2020–21 School Year](#)." For a replay of the telebriefing, click [here](#).
- CDC recently updated its [CDC Strategy for Global Response to COVID-19 \(2020-2023\)](#), refining global response priorities and setting focused targets. CDC's global COVID-19 strategy leverages decades-long partnerships with ministries of health and existing CDC global programmatic assets, including CDC experts working on the ground to mobilize technical assistance across the globe.



What's on the Calendar

- **May 5** – CDC COCA Call
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Preparedness and Response Resources

CDC COCA Call Scheduled for May 5

CDC's next Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call is scheduled for **2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT on Thursday May 5**. During the call, presenters will discuss post-COVID conditions (PCC), an umbrella term for the wide range of health consequences that are present four or more weeks after infection with SARS-CoV-2, which includes long COVID.

A recording of the call will be available for viewing on the [COCA Call web page](#) a few hours after the live event ends. The slide set will be available on the day of the call on the [COCA Call web page](#) under Call Materials. Free [Continuing Education \(CE\)](#) will be offered for this COCA Call. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

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

Webinar ID: 160 331 6732

Passcode: 828356

Access Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603316732?pwd=eS9vaURPVnNOYURhSWE4MIFzSGMvZz09>

NACCHO Releases 2020 Forces of Change Report

On April 28, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced the release of the [2020 Forces of Change report](#). More than half of America's local health departments (LHDs) report their leaders and staff were targets of harassment in response to COVID-19 protection measures during the first year of the pandemic, according to a new report from NACCHO. The 2020 Forces of Change survey reveals strained financial and staffing capacities hindered a robust response to COVID-19, forced suspensions of public health services, and exacerbated already existing health inequities. The survey was conducted between October 2020 and March 2021, and provides one of the only mid-pandemic pictures of the circumstances surrounding local public health response to COVID-19.

Read more in the NACCHO press release [National Survey: Local Public Health Capacity Stretched by COVID-19](#). Recipients are encouraged to share this report on your social media channels using this [digital communications toolkit](#).

2022 National Hurricane Preparedness Week May 1-7

The 2022 National Hurricane Preparedness Week is **May 1-7**. Daily themes for the week will emphasize different aspects of hurricane preparedness, along with public education graphics and videos. Visit the [Hurricane Preparedness Week](#) website, which contains useful infographics focused on the daily themes, which include:

- Determine Your Risk
- Develop an Evacuation Plan
- Assemble Disaster Supplies
- Get an Insurance Checkup
- Strengthen Your Home
- Help Your Neighbor
- Complete a Plan

The National Hurricane Center is conducting a webinar for 3rd-8th grade students at **10 a.m. EDT on Thursday, May 5** during the Hurricane Awareness Tour in New York City that will focus on the job of a meteorologist, the weather hazards that come with hurricanes, and how meteorologists get you the weather information you need before a storm. [Registration](#) is required for the webinar.



CDC Releases Health Advisory on Updated Information on Availability and Use of Treatments for Outpatients with Mild to Moderate COVID-19 At Increased Risk for Severe Outcomes of COVID-19

On April 25, CDC issued a health advisory to update healthcare providers, public health departments, and the public about the availability and use of recommended therapies for COVID-19 and to advise against using unproven treatments that have known or potential harms for outpatients with mild to moderate COVID-19. For patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are not hospitalized and who are at [increased risk](#) for severe COVID-19 outcomes, several [treatment options](#) are now widely available and accessible.



Systemic corticosteroids are [not recommended](#) to treat patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who do not require supplemental oxygen; patients who are receiving dexamethasone or another corticosteroid for other indications should continue therapy for their underlying conditions as directed by their healthcare providers. Antibacterial therapy is [not recommended](#) for the treatment of COVID-19 in the absence of another indication.

Staying [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccination is still the best way to prevent serious outcomes of COVID-19, including severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

The full HAN health advisory can be accessed at: [Updated Information on Availability and Use of Treatments for Outpatients with Mild to Moderate COVID-19 Who are at Increased Risk for Severe Outcomes of COVID-19](#).

HHS Updates State Antiviral Drug Stockpile Information on April 28

HHS updated its state antiviral drug stockpile [letter](#) on April 28 to address information from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about additional extended expiration dating of properly stockpiled Tamiflu and Relenza products. Many of the drug lots held in state stockpiles have passed the manufacturer's labeled expiration date or the extended expiration dates previously provided to states. The letter replaces the previous HHS update of February 2020.

First U.S. Case of Human Avian Influenza A(H5) Virus Reported

On April 28, an individual tested positive for avian influenza A(H5) virus (H5 bird flu) in the U.S., as reported by Colorado and confirmed by CDC. This case occurred in a person who had direct exposure to poultry and was involved in the culling (depopulating) of poultry with presumptive H5N1 bird flu. The patient reported fatigue for a few days as their only symptom and has since recovered. The patient is being isolated and treated with the influenza antiviral drug oseltamivir. While it is possible the detection of H5 bird flu in this specimen is a result of surface contamination, that can't be determined at this point and the positive test result meets the criteria for an H5 case. The appropriate public health response at this time is to assume this is an infection and take actions to contain and treat.

This case does not change the human risk assessment for the general public, which CDC considers to be low. However, people who have job-related or recreational exposures to infected birds are at higher risk of infection and should take appropriate precautions as outlined in CDC's [Prevention and Antiviral Treatment of Bird Flu Viruses in People](#) webpage.

CDC provides guidance for clinicians, public health practitioners, and people with potential bird exposures. People should avoid contact with poultry that appear ill or are dead and avoid contact with surfaces that appear to be contaminated with feces from wild or domestic birds, if possible. If you must handle wild birds or sick or dead poultry, minimize direct contact by wearing gloves and wash your hands with soap and water after touching birds. If available, wear respiratory protection such as a medical facemask and eye protection such as goggles. It is safe to eat properly handled and cooked poultry and poultry products in the U.S. The proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165°F kills bacteria and viruses, including H5N1 viruses. Additional information on [protective actions around birds](#), including [what to do if you find a dead bird](#), is available. CDC also has [guidance for specific groups of people](#) with exposure to poultry, including poultry workers and people responding to poultry outbreaks. CDC will continue to provide further updates to the situation and update guidance as needed.

Learn more at [U.S. Case of Human Avian Influenza A\(H5\) Virus Reported](#).



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, April 29](#)
- [Provisional Mortality Data — United States, 2021](#)
- [Provisional COVID-19 Age-Adjusted Death Rates, by Race and Ethnicity — United States, 2020–2021](#)
- [Vaccination Coverage with Selected Vaccines and Exemption Rates Among Children in Kindergarten — United States, 2020–21 School Year](#)
- [Seroprevalence of Infection-Induced SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies — United States, September 2021–February 2022](#)

- [Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy and Mortality at Delivery Hospitalization, United States, 2017–2019](#)
- [Public Health Actions to Control Measles Among Afghan Evacuees During Operation Allies Welcome — United States, September–November 2021](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Response to Measles Among Persons Evacuated from Afghanistan — Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, August–October 2021](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Currently Employed Adults Aged ≥18 Years Who Had Paid Sick Leave Benefits at Last Week’s Job or Business, by Region — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2019 and 2020](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) page](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters](#)
- **UPDATED** [Updated Information on Availability and Use of Treatments for Outpatients with Mild to Moderate COVID-19 Who are at Increased Risk for Severe Outcomes of COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC Statement on Masks in Public Transportation Settings](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC Strategy for Global Response to COVID-19 \(2020-2023\)](#)

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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 Center for Preparedness and Response
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

