

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

August 27, 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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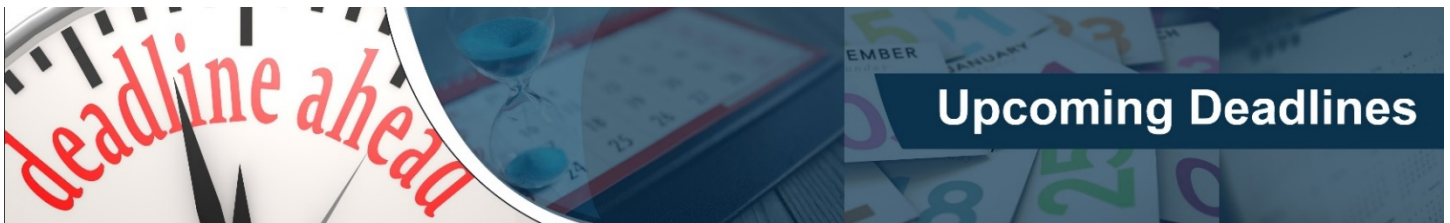
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- **August 31** – PHEP BP3 Budget and Work Plan Revisions
- **September 1** – COVID-19 Workforce Development Budget and Work Plan Revisions



September PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights Preparedness Resources for Water-Related Emergencies

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar is scheduled for **1 p.m. EDT on**

Wednesday, September 8. The webinar will address water-related emergencies and outbreaks caused by pathogens, chemicals, toxins, natural disasters, or infrastructure failure. Speakers will share lessons learned from water-related emergencies and outbreaks along with resources that state, tribal, local, and territorial public health preparedness staff can use to prepare for and respond to these events.



Updated Guidance Available on Breakthrough Infections

On August 23, CDC released [The Possibility of COVID-19 after Vaccination: Breakthrough Infections](#), which provides information on what is currently known about COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infections. CDC is collecting data on vaccine breakthrough infections and closely monitors the safety and effectiveness of all Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorized COVID-19 vaccines. Research shows that the FDA-authorized vaccines offer protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death against currently

circulating variants in the United States. However, some people who are fully vaccinated will get COVID-19. Fully vaccinated people with a breakthrough infection are less likely to develop serious illness than those who are unvaccinated and get COVID-19. Vaccines remain effective in protecting most people from COVID-19 infection and its complications.

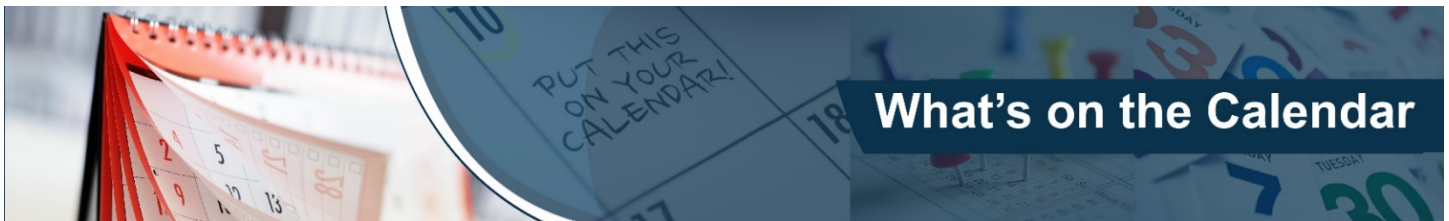
FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine

On Monday, August 23, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration [approved the first COVID-19 vaccine](#). The vaccine has been known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and will now be marketed as Comirnaty (koe-mir'-na-tee) for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

The [Fact Sheet for Recipients](#) provides additional information about both the approved and authorized vaccine. Providers should continue to use the vaccines on their shelves.

CMS Expands Medicare Payments for At-Home COVID-19 Vaccinations

To increase access to vaccinations and improve health equity, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is expanding opportunities for people to receive COVID-19 vaccinations at home. To ensure Medicare beneficiaries who have difficulty leaving their homes or are otherwise hard-to-reach can receive the vaccination, providers can now receive additional payments for administering vaccines to multiple residents in one home setting or communal setting of a home. Review the CMS [press release](#) regarding this announcement.



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CDC EPIC Webinar Highlights Disaster Citizen Science

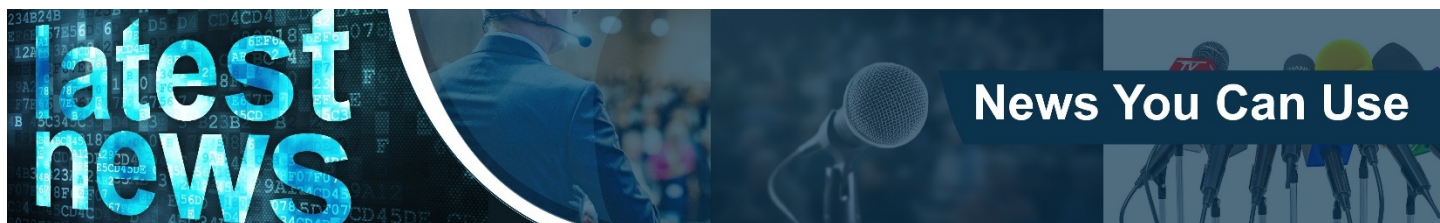
CDC and the RAND Corporation will host a webinar at **1 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, September 1**, to introduce participants to the growing field of disaster citizen science. The webinar will also discuss two new toolkits that can help improve both preparedness outcomes and community resilience. Disaster citizen science engages members of the public in scientific activities related to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The public health benefits of citizen science include community empowerment and improved disaster operations through data collection.

More information on this webinar and previous Emergency Partners Information Connection (EPIC) webinars can be found on the [EPIC Webinar website](#).

CDC to Host September 14 Webinar on Equity and Policy Preparedness

CDC, in conjunction with the National Governors Association (NGA) and the American Bar Association, will

host a “What’s New: Equity and Policy Preparedness during Public Health Emergencies” webinar from **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, September 14**. This webinar is aimed at preparedness and response professionals and will focus on how states and territories can better serve these groups through the end of the COVID-19 response and future public health emergencies. Specifically, this webinar leverages lessons learned from the efforts of states and territories to meet the needs of disproportionately affected groups in 2020, to identify persistent barriers, and to identify promising practices for states seeking to address longstanding public health equity issues. Register [here](#) to attend the webinar.



CDC Releases New Health Equity Publication

CDC has released the [Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#) reference document explicitly designed to help public health and health care professionals align health communication products and strategies with the specific cultural, linguistic, environmental, and historical situation of each targeted population or audience. These guiding principles have been developed in collaboration with experts from across the agency, and with input from CDC partners, and are designed to adapt to changes in language and society’s cultural norms. CDC encourages public health professionals and partners at the federal, state, and local levels to apply these principles across their public health communication work, including when creating information resources and presentations, when engaging with partners, and when developing and reviewing external or internal communication materials.

New CDC Regional Office Opens in Vietnam

CDC officially opened its new Southeast Asia Regional Office in Hanoi, Vietnam, on August 25. In attendance were Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky, and deputy prime ministers and health ministers from 11 countries. The new regional office strengthens CDC’s ability to meet its mission of protecting Americans and people of the region by responding more rapidly to health threats wherever they occur and building key relationships to tackle shared health priorities. More information is available [here](#).

ASTHO to Host Special Webinar on Public Health Preparedness and Leadership After September 11

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) will host a special webinar from **1 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. EDT on Thursday, September 9**, “Two Decades After 9/11: What We’ve Learned About Public Health Preparedness and Leadership.” Keynote speakers and panelists will discuss the lessons learned and the significant strides made in advancing local, state, and national public health preparedness and emergency response capabilities since the events of September 11. Speakers will share their perspectives on advances made regarding legislation, planning, and recovery, programmatic and funding considerations, how states have built preparedness departments, and what capabilities exist today. Speakers will also discuss the remaining challenges of COVID-19 and the next big challenges facing public health preparedness. Register [here](#) to attend the webinar.



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, August 27](#)

- [Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Frontline Workers Before and During B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant Predominance — Eight U.S. Locations, December 2020–August 2021](#)
- [SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Hospitalizations Among Persons Aged ≥16 Years, by Vaccination Status — Los Angeles County, California, May 1–July 25, 2021](#)
- [Recommendations and Reports: Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, United States, 2021–22 Influenza Season](#)
- [Trends in Nonfatal and Fatal Overdoses Involving Benzodiazepines — 38 States and the District of Columbia, 2019–2020](#)
- [Mental Health and Substance Use Among Adults with Disabilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, February–March 2021](#)
- [Antimicrobial Treatment and Prophylaxis of Plague: Recommendations for Naturally Acquired Infections and Bioterrorism Response](#)
- [New COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Among Adults, by Vaccination Status — New York, May 3–July 25, 2021](#)
- [Sustained Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines Against COVID-19 Associated Hospitalizations Among Adults — United States, March–July 2021](#)
- [Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Nursing Home Residents Before and During Widespread Circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant — National Healthcare Safety Network, March 1–August 1, 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#)
- **UPDATED** [Communication Toolkit for Migrants, Refugees, and Other Limited-English-Proficient Populations](#)
- **UPDATED** [Resources for Refugee Resettlement Service Providers](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
- **UPDATED** [Workplaces and Businesses](#)
- **UPDATED** [Community, Work, and School](#)
- **UPDATED** [CDC Offers Health Tips for Back to School During COVID-19](#)
- **UPDATED** [Schools and Childcare Programs](#)
- **UPDATED** [Retirement & Shared Housing](#)
- **UPDATED** [Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments](#)
- **UPDATED** [How to Talk with Patients Who are Immunocompromised](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 in Newly Resettled Refugee Populations](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot](#)
- **UPDATED** [Investigation of Long-Term Effects of Myocarditis after mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Specific Groups](#)
- **UPDATED** [The Possibility of COVID-19 after Vaccination: Breakthrough Infections](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccine Breakthrough Case Investigation and Reporting](#)

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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