

DSLR

FRIDAY UPDATE

October 29, 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 (DSL)R 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/stateandlocalreadiness/) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

Direct Assistance Requests Due November 22

Monday, November 22, is the deadline for PHEP recipients to submit direct assistance (DA) requests. Recipients should send to their project officers any requests for renewals or new personnel. This includes public health advisors, Senior Preparedness Field Assignees, or Career Epidemiology Field Officers (CEFOs). As a reminder, DSLR now centrally funds one CEFO per state and directly funded locality and two regional CEFOs for the Caribbean and Pacific jurisdictions, but recipients can use DA funding to support additional CEFOs. Recipients should contact their project officers for DA request forms.



COVID-19 Response Activities

CDC Asks Recipients to Review, Update Crisis Response Spend Plan Reports

A CDC review of spending reports submitted in REDCap in September by recipients of the 2020 COVID-19 crisis response funding shows discrepancies with expenditures reported in the Payment Management System (PMS). REDCap expenditures should be equal to or higher than what is shown in PMS. However, at least 16 recipients reported less spending in REDCap than what is reflected in PMS. CDC asks recipients to review their REDCap spend plan information to ensure it accurately reflects actual funds committed and to make updates as needed.

CDC Hosts November 2 Webinar on Connecting Public Health and Long-term Care Communities

CDC and the [John A. Hartford Foundation](#) will host a webinar from **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, November 2**, for state health departments and other stakeholders on “Connecting Public Health and Long-term Care through New [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) COVID-19 Strike Team Funding.” This [webinar](#) will provide examples of how public health and health care organizations have partnered effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to discuss state strategies for successful collaborations to implement activities funded by the new [Nursing Home and Long-term Care Facilities Strike Teams and Infrastructure Project](#). CDC has awarded \$500 million in strike team funding through CDC’s [Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity](#) (ELC) Cooperative Agreement to support nursing homes and long-term care communities.

This webinar is intended for all sections of state health departments that have a role in pandemic response, as well as state and local organizations representing nursing homes and other long-term care providers, clinical staff, residents and families, state quality improvement partners, and state licensing boards.

Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 1619922010

Passcode: 65961150

Web Access: [Webinar link](#)

Updated COVID-19 Resources for K-12 Schools Now Available

CDC has developed a comprehensive set of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about COVID-19 for School Administrators](#) based on previously released [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) to help support a safer return to school. Topics covered in the FAQ include vaccination, masks, physical distancing, testing and screening, sports and other activities, mealtime, and ventilation.

Further information on a safer return to school can be found at the [CDC Schools and Child Care Programs web page](#) or by contacting the CDC State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support Task Force’s School Support Section at eocevent335@cdc.gov.

New International Travel System Goes into Effect November 8

On September 25, CDC issued orders to implement a [new travel policy](#) announced by the Biden-Harris administration to safely resume global travel to the United States while protecting the health and safety of American communities from COVID-19.

Starting November 8, non-U.S. citizens who are not immigrants to the United States will be required to be fully vaccinated and provide proof of their vaccination status to fly to the United States. There will be very limited exceptions to this vaccination requirement for certain non-U.S. citizens who are not immigrants, including children under the age of 18.

Fully vaccinated air passengers, regardless of citizenship, will continue to be required to show a negative pre-departure COVID-19 test taken no more than three days before they board their flight to the United States. Passengers who are not fully vaccinated will require a test taken no more than one day before departing to the United States.

All air passengers to the United States will also be required to provide basic contact information to airlines before boarding flights to the United States. This will allow airlines to better coordinate with public health agencies to share information when needed to keep the public safe and informed and strengthen their ability to rapidly identify and contact people in the United States who may have been exposed to a communicable disease, such as COVID-19.

Further guidance on the very limited exceptions to these vaccination requirements, what constitutes acceptable proof of vaccination, and other operational details can be found at the following CDC websites.

- [Laws and Regulations](#)
- [Travel](#)

Conditional Sailing Orders Extended for Cruise Ships

On October 25, CDC announced a [temporary extension of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order \(CSO\) for cruise ships](#) through January 15, 2022. This temporary extension includes minor modifications and applies to all commercial, noncargo, foreign-flagged, passenger-carrying vessels currently operating or planning to operate in U.S. waters with the capacity to carry at least 250 individuals and with an itinerary anticipating an overnight stay onboard or a 24-hour stay onboard for either passengers or crew.

Additional information can be accessed at CDC's [Framework for Conditional Sailing Order Temporarily Extended Through January 15, 2022](#).



What's on the Calendar

- **November 10** – PHEP Connects Webinar
- **November 17** – PHEP Recipient Call



Preparedness and Response Resources

November 10 PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights Pennsylvania's Cost-Saving Strategies for Preparedness Tools

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

Wednesday, November 10. This webinar will provide an overview of Pennsylvania's evaluation methods used to identify and implement cost-saving measures for its health alert network and disease surveillance system. Andrew Pickett and Nathan Huyett from the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response will share a brief history of preparedness funding in Pennsylvania and methods used to identify and implement cost savings for these systems.



Participant Information

Dial-In: (669) 254-5252 (Audio only)

Meeting ID: 161 241 1865

Passcode: 569595

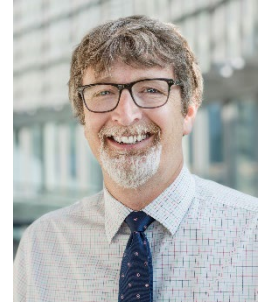
Web Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612411865>



News You Can Use

CDC Names New CPR Director

On October 25, CDC announced that Henry Walke, MD, MPH, will serve as the new director of the Center for Preparedness and Response (CPR) beginning November 7. Dr. Walke has led several CDC emergency responses, most notably the ongoing COVID-19 response. On September 24, he stepped down as CDC's COVID-19 response incident manager, a position he held since July 2020, helping to expertly guide CDC's response teams during one of the agency's – and the nation's – most tumultuous public health crises.



Prior to this special assignment, Dr. Walke served as director of the Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections in the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID). His service to NCEZID also included a prior role as chief of the Bacterial Special Pathogens Branch in the Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology, where he directed an integrated epidemiologic and laboratory program dedicated to preventing and controlling dangerous bacterial diseases.

He also held several positions with CDC's Center for Global Health, where he helped expand the Field Epidemiology Training Program in Asia and the Americas. He joined CDC in 2001 as a medical officer based in Amman, Jordan, leading a Field Epidemiology Training Program. His preparedness experience includes extensive work on CDC's anthrax preparedness efforts, co-chairing the HHS Anthrax Integrated Program Team and co-chairing CDC's Anthrax Coordination Unit, which supports the agency's preparedness and response strategy for an anthrax incident. He also played prominent roles in multiple CDC emergency responses. They include serving as the EOC's incident manager and deputy incident manager for the Zika and Ebola responses and contributing to several hurricane responses, the anthrax Department of Defense incident, and the Tulane *Burkholderia pseudomallei* incident in nonhuman primates.

Dr. Walke earned undergraduate and medical degrees with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He has been board certified in family medicine and preventive medicine, has co-authored more than 50 scientific publications, and has received numerous awards for public health achievements.

CDC to Invest in Advanced Infectious Disease Forecasting and Analytics

On October 26, CDC announced \$26 million in funding to develop next-generation infectious disease forecasting and analytics. The funded work will develop new methods and resources for analyzing infectious disease data to support public health decision-making, create tools and programs to train the next generation of infectious disease modelers, and help understand and develop evidence-based strategies to combat health inequities in outbreaks. Additional information can be accessed at: [CDC To Invest \\$26 Million in Advanced Outbreak Forecasting and Analytics](#).

The agency will provide \$21 million to support research and development of advanced infectious disease models and analytical tools. The awards will support three years of work at five leading academic institutions: University at Albany, State University of New York; Johns Hopkins University; Stanford University; the University of Utah, and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

CDC also announced \$5 million to support collaborations with the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy to further advance federal infectious disease modeling capabilities. These funds will support rapid-response research projects and provide access to high performance computing resources.



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, October 29](#)

- [COVID-19 Vaccination and Non-COVID-19 Mortality Risk — Seven Integrated Health Care Organizations, United States, December 14, 2020–July 31, 2021](#)
- [Severity of Disease Among Adults Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 Before and During the Period of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Predominance — COVID-NET, 14 States, January–August 2021](#)
- [Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA Vaccination Against COVID-19 Hospitalization Among Persons Aged 12–18 Years — United States, June–September 2021](#)
- [Vaccination Coverage by Age 24 Months Among Children Born in 2017 and 2018 — National Immunization Survey-Child, United States, 2018–2020](#)
- [Routine Vaccination Coverage — Worldwide, 2020](#)
- [Cake Decorating Luster Dust Associated with Toxic Metal Poisonings — Rhode Island and Missouri, 2018–2019](#)
- [Current Marijuana Use and Alcohol Consumption Among Adults Following the Legalization of Nonmedical Retail Marijuana Sales — Colorado, 2015–2019](#)
- [Update of the Blood Lead Reference Value — United States, 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11 Years Old](#)
- **NEW** [CDC To Invest \\$26 Million in Advanced Outbreak Forecasting and Analytics](#)
- **NEW** [CDC COVID-19 Orders for Cruise Ships](#)
- **NEW** [Framework for Conditional Sailing Order Temporarily Extended Through January 15, 2022](#)
- **NEW** [Food Safety Alert](#)
- **NEW** [Health Alert Network Notice](#)
- **UPDATED** [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about COVID-19 for School Administrators](#)
- **UPDATED** [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- **UPDATED** [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about COVID-19 for School Administrators](#)
- **UPDATED** [Schools and Child Care Programs](#)

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.

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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