

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

January 21, 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](https://www.cdc.gov/stateandlocalreadiness/) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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CDC to Commemorate PHEP 20th Anniversary in 2022

This year, CDC will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the PHEP program. The PHEP program was established in 2002 when Congress enacted legislation and appropriated nearly \$1 billion in funding to support preparedness and emergency response nationwide in public health departments. For the first time, funding was distributed to 62 state, local, and territorial jurisdictions to improve the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

CDC plans to observe the PHEP 20th anniversary throughout 2022 in a variety of ways. Highlights of the PHEP program over the past two decades will be featured in the DSLR Friday Update and on 20th anniversary webpages on the CDC State and Local Readiness website. Activities are also planned for the 2022 NACCHO Preparedness Summit in April.

In addition, CDC will recognize and celebrate the state, local, and territorial public health preparedness workforce and their contributions to the PHEP program over the past two decades. CDC invites PHEP directors to submit representatives from their jurisdictions in the following three categories.

- **PHEP Trailblazers:** Public health preparedness directors and other staff who have made lasting contributions to the field of public health emergency preparedness over the past 20 years. CDC requests that PHEP directors each submit one state and one local PHEP Trailblazer.

- PHEP Pathfinders: Public health preparedness professionals early in their preparedness careers who demonstrate effective leadership, innovation, and a willingness to contribute to the broader preparedness community. CDC requests that PHEP directors each submit one state and one local PHEP Pathfinder.
- PHEP Champions: Staff who have been with the PHEP program in their jurisdictions in some capacity for at least 10 years. Champions may also be community health workers or other volunteers. CDC requests that PHEP directors submit PHEP Champions that fit the criteria. There is no specific number associated with this category.

CDC has provided PHEP directors with more details on the workforce recognition criteria in a separate email. The submission deadline is **Monday, February 28**. Submissions should be sent to preparedness@cdc.gov.

CDC will recognize PHEP Trailblazers, PHEP Pathfinders, and PHEP Champions in the DSLR Friday Update, on the CDC website, and during the 2022 Preparedness Summit.

PHEP BP4 Application Module Now Open in PERFORMS

The PHEP Budget Period 4 (BP4) application module is now open in PERFORMS. The PERFORMS team will conduct two training sessions for recipients on the application module. The sessions will be held at **1 p.m. EST on Tuesday, January 25, and 11 a.m. EST on Wednesday, January 26**. Both sessions will cover the same information and users may participate in either or both sessions. CDC will also conduct separate calls for Pacific Island recipients and will provide that information separately. The application deadline is **Monday, March 21**.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (866) 724 5153 (Audio only)

Participant Code: 75708931

Web Link: <https://dslr-itt.adobeconnect.com/itt-performs/>

February 9 PHEP Connects Webinar Highlights Dispensing Simulation Program

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

EST on Wednesday, February 9. The webinar is entitled "POD SimPLER: Point of Dispensing Simulation Program for Leveraging and Evaluating Resources - A Planning Tool for Public Health Emergencies." The webinar will provide an overview of POD SimPLER, which was developed with the help of user testing feedback from state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments around the country. Health departments can use this tool to quickly estimate pill dispensing or vaccine administration capacity. Using the scenario outputs comparison feature, these estimates can be presented to decision makers if, for example, evidence shows additional resources will be needed. Speakers include Lauren Finklea and Mike Kelly from the National Center for Environmental Health and Robert Garcia from DSLR. The webinar will be extended an additional 15 minutes beyond the traditional hour to review features of POD SimPLER.



Participant Information

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

Meeting ID: 161 241 1865

Passcode: 569595

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



2022 Public Health Crisis Response NOFO Materials Available

CDC conducted an informational call January 14 to discuss the 2022 notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the Public Health Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement. The presentation slides along with the 2022 Public

Health Crisis Response NOFO Fast Facts are now available and were sent to jurisdictions in a separate email. Jurisdictions can request copies of the materials at preparedness@cdc.gov. As a reminder, the NOFO is available on <https://www.grants.gov>. Applications are due **Monday, February 14**.

Distribution of Free, At-Home COVID-19 Tests to Americans Now Underway

On January 14, the White House released [a fact sheet](#) on the distribution of free, at-home rapid COVID-19 tests to Americans. A half-billion tests became available for order on January 19 at [COVIDtest.gov](https://www.covidtest.gov) and will be mailed directly to American households. To ensure broad access, the program will limit the number of tests sent to each residential address to four tests. Tests will usually ship within seven to 12 days of ordering.

CDC Webinar Focused on Maximizing Resources for COVID-19 School Testing

With the rise of the Omicron variant and the surge in COVID-19 cases, school testing remains a critical strategy for keeping schools open safely for in-person learning. During CDC's January 20 COVID-19 STLT Response Strategies Community of Practice webinar, CDC subject matter experts reviewed the testing resources available for schools. Resources include those recently [announced by the White House](#), which include laboratory-based testing available through [Operation Expanded Testing \(OpET\)](#), the five million point-of-care test initiative, and the ELC Reopening School supplemental funding. A [replay of this webinar](#) will be held at **3 p.m. Tuesday, January 25**.

CDC Updates Consumer Mask Website to Emphasize Protection, Fit, and Comfort

CDC has updated its [types of masks and respirators webpage](#) to offer further guidance on prevention of the transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Masking is a critical public health tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Any mask is better than no mask. To protect oneself and others from COVID-19, CDC continues to recommend that everyone wear the most protective and [well-fitting mask](#) available and to wear that mask consistently.

These updates to the CDC webpage reflect the science on masking, including what has been learned over the past two years, and details the level of protection provided by available masks and respirators, noting that some provide better protection than others. CDC will continue to share the science of masking as it becomes available.



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Preparedness and Response Resources

[CDC Learning Connection](#) helps public health and healthcare professionals stay informed about quality trainings from CDC, other federal agencies, and federally funded partners. This month, CDC Learning Connection is offering the following continuing education credit opportunities.

- [Molecular Approaches for Clinical and Public Health Applications to Detect Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Viruses](#)

- [Clean Hands and Spaces Web-Based Training](#)
- [Succession Planning and Workforce Development for Public Health Agencies](#)
- [Assessing Deployment Related Environmental Exposures](#)

Registration for the CDC Learning Connection newsletter is [available at this link](#).

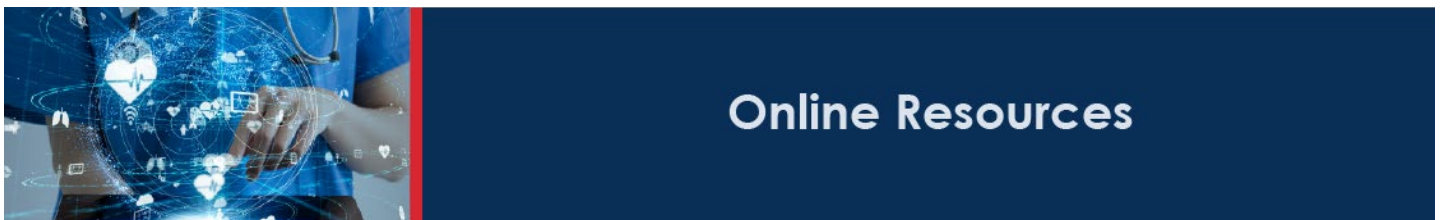


CDC Offers New Health Literacy Curriculum for Young Adults

As high school and college-age students transition into adulthood it's important that they develop personal health literacy skills to manage their own health care before they graduate. CDC offers resources on [Navigating the Health Care System](#) to teach young adults the skills they'll need to communicate effectively with health care providers and advocate for themselves. Other curricular resources and ways to collaborate with schools, educators, and childcare providers on health literacy initiatives can be found [on the CDC website](#).

Public Health Stakeholders to Convene on January 26 to Explore Equitable Public Health Policymaking

A special convening of staff from national, state, and local public health stakeholders will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST on **Wednesday, January 26**, to discuss public health authority and preemption. The presentation is co-hosted by ChangeLab Solutions, Local Solutions Support Center, NACCHO, The Network for Public Health Law, Public Health Law Watch, and Temple University's Center for Public Health Law Research. The session will explore the impact of state interference on equitable public health policymaking. Registration information can be [found at this link](#).



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, January 21](#)
- [Zika-Associated Birth Defects Reported in Pregnancies with Laboratory Evidence of Confirmed or Possible Zika Virus Infection — U.S. Zika Pregnancy and Infant Registry, December 1, 2015–March 31, 2018](#)
- [Use of Recombinant Zoster Vaccine in Immunocompromised Adults Aged ≥19 Years: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [Progress Toward Poliomyelitis Eradication — Afghanistan, January 2020–November 2021](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Children Aged 2–17 Years With >2 Hours of Screen Time Per Weekday, by Sex and Age Group — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2020](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [MMWR Weekly COVID-19 Briefing](#)
- **NEW** [Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Receipt of Medications for Treatment of COVID-19 — United States, March 2020–August 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations by COVID-19 Vaccination Status and Previous COVID-19 Diagnosis — California and New York, May–November 2021](#)
- **NEW** [Notes from the Field: Early Evidence of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.529 \(Omicron\) Variant in Community Wastewater — United States, November–December 2021](#)

- **NEW** [Use of the Janssen \(Johnson & Johnson\) COVID-19 Vaccine: Updated Interim Recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, December 2021](#)
 - **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Staffing Resources](#)
 - **UPDATED** [V-safe COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Registry](#)
 - **UPDATED** [Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Rapid Testing Performed in Point-of-Care Settings](#)
 - **UPDATED** [Caring for Someone Sick at Home](#)
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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.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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