DSLR FRIDAY UPDATE

April 1, 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 (DSLR) 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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- **April 1** – BP2, BP3 Budget Revisions Requiring Prior Approval
- **April 30** – Updated BP4 Work Pans and Budgets

CDC Finalizes PHEP BP4 Funding Allocations
CDC has finalized the PHEP Budget Period 4 (BP4) funding allocations and updated the BP4 budget planning numbers in PERFORMS. The total fiscal year 2022 (FY 2022) funding for the PHEP BP4 cooperative agreement is $653,588,620. Recipients can now update their budgets and work plans in the PERFORMS BP4 application module to reflect their final funding allocations. Recipients must submit their updated BP4 applications in PERFORMS by **11:59 p.m. EDT on Saturday, April 30**. No further action is needed in GrantSolutions. Once final applications are received, CDC will complete its review of the applications and issue final Notices of Award in June in preparation for the start of BP4 on July 1.

Many recipients should see a reduction in their direct assistance costs previously associated with their preparedness field staff. CDC began centrally funding most Career Epidemiology Field Officers in the current Budget Period 3 and on July 1 will begin centrally funding senior Preparedness Field Assignees (PFAs) in addition to the junior PFAs serving two-year assignments. Recipients with senior PFAs will only incur FY 2022 direct assistance costs to cover the October to June portion of FY 2022. The move away from direct assistance should result in significant increases in available PHEP funds for many jurisdictions.

The final BP4 funding is based on a $20 million increase in FY 2022 appropriations for the PHEP program, resulting in approximately $16 million in new funding awards. Of that amount, about $7 million is allocated to the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) and approximately $8.7 million to the Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats (LRN-C).

With the $7 million increase, the FY 2022 funding for CRI is $71,685,603, or 11% of total PHEP funding for FY 2022. The 50 states and four directly funded localities will receive additional CRI funding to support the activities of approximately 400 local planning jurisdictions in 72 large metropolitan centers. Recipients can use the additional funding to address gaps identified during the COVID-19 response and to support the expansion

of the PHEP operational readiness review (ORR) evaluation to encompass all 15 preparedness and response capabilities.

The $8.7 million increase for LRN-C activities includes $1.7 million in additional funding for the 10 LRN-C Level 1 laboratories and $7 million in new funding for Level 1 and 2 laboratories to support technology transfer activities and equipment upgrades. The additional funding will support the following activities.

- The $1.7 million increase for the 10 LRN-C Level 1 laboratories represents a 15% increase in dedicated PHEP funding, the first increase in more than five years. The additional funding will support the laboratories' rising equipment maintenance agreement costs and their ability to provide CDC laboratory surge capacity.

- Additionally, to sustain and maintain the ongoing work of the LRN-C, CDC will provide $1 million in PHEP BP4 funding for the first of a four-year LRN-C technology transfer initiative. Four LRN-C laboratories in Alaska, Georgia, Minnesota, and New York will each receive $250,000 in BP4 funding to provide LRN-C method technical assistance, LRN-C Materials Program quality assessments, and chemical threat method validation studies for newly developed CDC methods.

  CDC selected these four laboratories based on their subject matter expertise and demonstrated record of performance in these areas. In subsequent budget periods, other LRN-C laboratories may also be eligible for additional funding to support ongoing technology transfer activities for the network.

- CDC will also fund 20 Level 2 LRN-C laboratories with $300,000 each in BP4 to update gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) equipment, which tests for volatile organic compounds such as cyanide and tetramine. CDC plans to support these laboratory equipment replacement costs for the remaining LRN-C testing laboratories over future budget periods based on available funds. The updated equipment will enable CDC to improve current LRN-C capabilities to detect new and emerging chemical threat agents. CDC's LRN-C program staff will provide the laboratories with the information needed to complete these upgrades.

CDC Completes Registration for Initial PORTS Users
CDC has approved more than 400 users from the 62 PHEP jurisdictions for the PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) online data collection system. CDC had previously projected that the new system would receive approval to open by the end of March. However, due to internal delays CDC plans to open PORTS by **Friday, April 8.** As CDC prepares to open the system, approved users will receive emails from CDC's Secure Access Management Services (SAMS) or DSLR IT Support notifying them that they have secure access to PORTS. The email notifications will include links directing users to the SAMS login page and then the PORTS home page until the system goes live. Users should take note of the announcements displayed on the PORTS home page for updates about the system opening. After PORTS opens, CDC will continue to update the home page with the most current PORTS information and the status of the system.

April 13 PHEP Connects Webinar Reviews LRN-C Capability Updates
CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar is scheduled for **1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, April 13**. Feature speaker Rudolph Johnson, chief

of the Emergency Response Branch in CDC's National Center for Environmental Health, Division of Laboratory Sciences, will share general operations information and recent updates to development of diagnostic capabilities such as clinical toxicology testing and laboratory instrumentation, for the Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats (LRN-C). He will also provide insights into how laboratory instrumentation updates and staff training are critical investments for broader laboratory capabilities.

Participant Information
Dial-In: (669) 254-5252 (Audio only)
Meeting ID: 161 241 1865
Passcode: 569595
Web Link: https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1612411865

CDC Continues to Address PERFORMS BP4 Application Issues

The PERFORMS Budget Period 4 (BP4) application module will be open until April 30 to allow recipients to update their BP4 work plans and budgets following the release of final BP4 funding allocations. CDC's PERFORMS support team continues to address issues that users have reported with the BP4 application module. The team has resolved most issues with updating the Budget Detail Report and has devised a temporary solution to the pending issue with inclusion of line items under the" DA-Other" category in the Budget Detail Report. Users experiencing issues with updating the ending dates for CRI contractual items should take the following steps.

- When changing the ending date adjust the dollars requested field; this will allow both fields to save. Users should refresh the page to confirm the value has saved.
- After the ending date is correct, restore the dollars requested field to the desired value, if needed.
- If there is a large volume of ending dates that need to be corrected, users should contact the PERFORMS Help Desk at performssupport@cdc.gov to request assistance with correcting these items.

In addition, users experiencing issues with changing the fringe rate on a personnel line item should refresh the page to see the change displayed.

COVID-19 Response Activities

CDC Recommends Additional Boosters for Certain Individuals
Following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulatory action on March 29, CDC has updated its vaccine recommendations. The update allows certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the age of 50 years who received an initial mRNA booster dose at least four months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. Separately and in addition, based on newly published data, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago may now receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

These updated recommendations acknowledge the increased risk of severe disease in certain populations including those who are elderly or over the age of 50 with multiple underlying conditions, along with the currently available data on vaccine and booster effectiveness.

CDC Releases New PSAs Promoting COVID-19 Vaccinations, Boosters among AI/AN Communities
CDC recently released new COVID-19 public service announcements (PSAs) that promote COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters among American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. The PSAs are available on CDC's Tribal Communities webpage. CDC encourages recipients to post the PSAs on their social media platforms, websites, and other places where they can help reach AI/AN communities and their supporters.

Biden Administration Launches COVID.gov Website
On March 30, the Biden Administration launched COVID.gov, a new central location for vaccines, tests, treatments, masks, and the latest COVID-19 information. The website also includes a new Test-to-Treat locator tool. On COVID.gov Americans will find:

- Free vaccines and boosters available at more than 90,000 locations.
- Free at-home tests that can be delivered straight to households.
- Free high-quality masks at convenient locations like local pharmacies and grocery stores.
- New Test-To-Treat sites where Americans can get tested, and, if positive, get lifesaving treatments right away.
- The latest information about the level of COVID-19 spread in a community.

CDC Provides New and Updated COVID-19 Resources
- New data suggest that the pandemic has had a substantial effect on tuberculosis (TB) trends in the United States. Reported TB disease diagnoses fell 20% in 2020 and remained 13% lower in 2021 than TB disease diagnoses made prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more at Effect of COVID-19 on Tuberculosis in the U.S.
- CDC's updated COVID-19 School Testing Toolkit includes new resources featuring the voices of parents and school leaders discussing why they support school testing for COVID-19. A new Questions and Answers About Regular Testing for COVID-19 at School video covers common parent questions about regular testing for COVID-19 at school.
- Find Free Masks (N95 Respirators) includes an updated list of pharmacies that provide free masks (N95 respirators). This site **does not show their current inventory**. Individuals should confirm availability with the location.
- CDC provides updated guidance on Cruise Ship Travel During COVID-19.

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Preparedness and Response Resources

ASPR Hosts Virtual COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Speaker Series
The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) will provide a virtual three-part COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Speaker Series that explores opportunities to raise awareness about resources that can help reduce burnout, promote mental health, and encourage trauma-informed care strategies among the health and emergency management workforce in response to COVID-19.

News You Can Use

CDC Releases Statement on President's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
On March 28, CDC released a statement on the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget and CDC's budget request. CDC's budget request for FY 2023 includes $10.675 billion in discretionary budget authority, Public Health Service evaluation funds, and Prevention and Public Health Funds, which is $2.3 billion more than the FY 2022 appropriation. In addition, CDC's budget includes new proposed mandatory funding to establish a Vaccines for Adults program and to invest in pandemic preparedness.

Specifically, the CDC budget request includes funding to:

- Improve readiness for future public health crises,
- Address racial and ethnic and other disparities in public health,
- Build public health approaches to prioritize mental health and reduce violence, and
- Defeat diseases and epidemics.

Learn more about [CDC/ATSDR's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Congressional Justification](#).

Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, April 1](#)
- [Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022](#)
- [Assessment of Epidemiology Capacity in State Health Departments — United States, 2021](#)
- [Use of At-Home COVID-19 Tests — United States, August 23, 2021–March 12, 2022](#)
- [Effectiveness of Homologous and Heterologous COVID-19 Booster Doses Following 1 Ad.26.COV2.S (Janssen [Johnson & Johnson]) Vaccine Dose Against COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department and Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Adults — VISION Network, 10 States, December 2021–March 2022](#)
- [Notes From the Field: Xylazine-Related Deaths — Cook County, Illinois, 2017–2021](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Office-Based Physicians Who Had Telephone or Internet/Email Consults with Patients — National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, United States, 2018 and 2020](#)
- [Cardiac Complications After SARS-CoV-2 Infection and mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination — PCORnet, United States, January 2021–January 2022](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **NEW** [Effect of COVID-19 on Tuberculosis in the U.S.](#)
- **NEW** [Questions and Answers About Regular Testing for COVID-19 at School](#) (video)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 School Testing Toolkit](#)
- **UPDATED** [Find Free Masks (N95 Respirators)](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID Data Tracker](#)
- **UPDATED** [Cruise Ship Travel During COVID-19](#)

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