

**DSL**R

# FRIDAY UPDATE

**\*The next DSLR Friday Update will be published Wednesday, November 22, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. \***

**November 17, 2023**

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](#) or contact us at [preparedness@cdc.gov](mailto:preparedness@cdc.gov).

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**DSL**R FRIDAY UPDATE



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## Upcoming Deadlines

- **November 21** – PHEP Direct Assistance (DA) Requests
- **November 30** – PHEP Action Plans



## PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

### CDC National Report Highlights PHEP Role during COVID-19 Response

CDC's national report on [Response Readiness in the Time of COVID-19: The PHEP Program's Role and Impact](#) is now available online. This national report is a high-level snapshot of select activities that PHEP recipients conducted between July 2021 and June 2022 and an assessment of how those activities contributed to the national COVID-19 pandemic response. The report also provides an at-a-glance summary of the comprehensive Operational Readiness Review (ORR) data that recipients submitted during PHEP Budget Period 3. The report describes key strengths, challenges, and next steps for recipients and CDC.

### December PHEP Connects Webinar to Discuss Laboratory Strategies to Advance Preparedness and Response

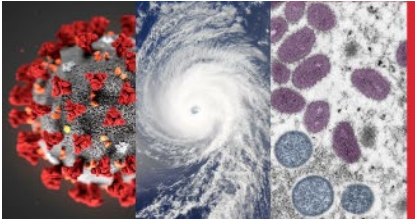
CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar, scheduled for **1 p.m. EST on Wednesday, December 13**, will present an overview of CDC's Laboratory Response Network (LRN) including its

purpose, recent accomplishments, and how PHEP recipients and the LRN can work together to advance preparedness and response capabilities. CDC presenters Rupesh Naik from DSLR and Tricia Blevins and Amy Watson Hardnett from LRN will also discuss how public health laboratories can align their strategies, activities, and resources to actively support public health preparedness and response. Following is the participant information.



### Participant Information

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



## Emergency Response Activities

### CDC Provides New Respiratory Virus Resources

CDC recently released the following webpages on the CDC website regarding respiratory viruses.

- [Take Steps to Help You Stay Healthy During the Holidays](#)
- [Vaccination Trends—Adults](#)
- [CDC Digital Media Toolkit: 2023-2024 Flu Season](#)



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## Preparedness and Response Resources

### November 2023 Climate and Health Outlook Available Online

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) [Office of Climate Change and Health Equity](#) (OCCHE) has released its [November 2023 Climate and Health Outlook](#). This edition explores the climate-related health hazards of heat, wildfire, drought, and hurricanes and provides information on how to reduce health risks associated with each. It also features findings from a survey of Californians on their health impacts from climate change, an overview of why wildfire smoke is a public health concern, and a feature on alpha-gal syndrome.

Visit the [Climate and Heat Outlook Portal](#), which has interactive maps of county-level data on climate hazards and individual-level risk factors for health impacts.

### ASPR TRACIE Releases Utility Failures in Health Care Tip Sheet

The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) has released a [Utility Failure Tip Sheet](#). This tip sheet can help facility planners identify the risks and develop a plan for unexpected, prolonged power loss as well as frequent, episodic losses of power (i.e., brownouts) that will increase the stress placed on backup (generator) power systems. This tip sheet is part of the [ASPR TRACIE Utility Failures in Health Care Toolkit](#), which can

help health care facility managers and emergency planners identify issues to consider when planning for and responding to various types of utility failures.

### **Rural Public Health Emergency Preparedness Workshop Application Period Now Open**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced an opportunity to participate in a rural public health emergency preparedness workshop scheduled to be held in conjunction with the 2024 Preparedness Summit. The workshop will take place on **Sunday, March 24**.

NACCHO, in partnership with the East Tennessee State University Center for Rural Health Research (ETSU), is developing recommendations for how to support rural local health department capacity to build and sustain CDC's public health preparedness and response capabilities. The recommendations are based on information collected from several listening sessions that NACCHO conducted with rural PHEP coordinators in states around the country. This workshop will give participants the opportunity to hear and provide feedback on the draft recommendations developed by NACCHO and ETSU, engage with fellow rural PHEP coordinators on challenges and best practices, and provide input on future directions for rural PHEP.

Being accepted as a workshop participant will also include a full conference registration and travel award for the 2023 Preparedness Summit. Those who plan to attend the summit in another capacity have the option to apply for just the workshop registration without the travel award. The deadline to submit [applications](#) is **11:59 p.m. Monday, November 27**. For additional information, contact Emily Schreiner at [eschreiner@naccho.org](mailto:eschreiner@naccho.org).

### **NACCHO Announces Virtual Learning Collaborative for the Inclusion of MCH Populations in Emergency Preparedness and Response**

NACCHO, with support from CDC, is recruiting members for a virtual learning collaborative (VLC) to train local maternal-child health (MCH) and emergency preparedness and response (EPR) professionals on integrating MCH considerations into emergency planning. This VLC aims to increase local capacity to prioritize MCH populations in emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts through training modules and interactive hands-on exercises. The VLC begins in January 2024 and runs through July 2024. Continuing education for this activity is pending.

The deadline for [applications](#) is **11:59 p.m. PST on Thursday, November 30**. For additional information, contact Elana Filipos at [efilipos@naccho.org](mailto:efilipos@naccho.org).



### **CDC Expands Testing of International Air Traveler Samples**

CDC is conducting a new pilot on samples it is collecting as part of its [Traveler-based Genomic Surveillance \(TSG\) program](#) to provide early detection of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and select other respiratory viruses, in addition to SARS-CoV-2. The pilot is expected to last for several months. Samples that test positive for these viruses will be sequenced and uploaded to public databases to provide valuable information to public health officials and policy makers.

Read the full media statement at [CDC Expands Testing of International Air Traveler Samples to Include Flu RSV, and Other Respiratory Viruses](#).

### **Biden-Harris Administration Takes Actions to Improve Health of Rural Communities**

The Biden-Harris Administration announced it is taking actions to improve the health of rural communities and help rural health care providers stay open. These actions include:

- Building on the Affordable Care Act and Inflation Reduction Act to increase access to affordable health coverage and care for those living in rural communities.
- Keeping more rural hospitals open in the long run to provide critical services in their communities.
- Bolstering the rural health workforce, including for primary care and behavioral health providers.

- Supporting access to needed care such as behavioral health and through telehealth services.

Read the full [press release](#) from HHS.



### CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, November 17](#)
- [Trends in the Prevalence of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Among Adults Aged ≥18 Years — United States, 2011–2021](#)
- [Fatal Occupational Asthma in Cannabis Production — Massachusetts, 2022](#)
- [Progress Toward Measles Elimination — Worldwide, 2000–2022](#)
- [Vital Signs: Missed Opportunities for Preventing Congenital Syphilis — United States, 2022](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Surveillance of Silicosis Using Electronic Case Reporting — California, December 2022–July 2023](#)
- [Notes from the Field: A Cluster of Multi-Strain Invasive Pneumococcal Disease Among Persons Experiencing Homelessness and Use of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine — El Paso County, Colorado, 2022](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Children and Adolescents Aged 4–17 Years Who Practiced Yoga During the Past 12 Months, by Sex and Age Group — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2022](#)

### CDC Online Resources

- **UPDATED** [CDC Respiratory Virus Updates](#)

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