

Health Care Readiness Bulletin

Week of July 24, 2023

This bulletin provides the latest news and information related to ASPR's Health Care Readiness Programs, in addition to links to a variety of emergency preparedness and response tools and resources. Please add "donotreply@connect.hhs.gov" to your email contact list so it is not marked as spam.

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Upcoming Important Dates

- **July 26:** Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) - Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program Joint Recipient Business Meeting

General Announcements

White House Launches Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response (OPPR)

As part of the President's commitment to ensure that our country is more prepared for a pandemic than we were when he took office, the Administration is standing up the OPPR. This will be a permanent office in the Executive Office of the President (EOP) charged with leading, coordinating, and implementing actions related to preparedness for, and response to, known and unknown biological threats or pathogens that could lead to a pandemic or to significant public health-related disruptions in the United States. OPPR will take over the duties of the current COVID-19 Response Team and Mpox Team at the White House and will continue to coordinate and develop policies and priorities related to pandemic preparedness and response.

To lead this work, the President announced that Major General (ret) Paul Friedrichs will serve as the inaugural Director of OPPR and Principal Advisor on Pandemic Preparedness and Response as of August 7, 2023.

Read the [full statement](#) from the White House to learn more.



Recipient Information

ALL RECIPIENTS

Upcoming Recipient Meetings

Meeting Name	Recipient Group	Event Details
HPP-PHEP Joint Recipient Business Meeting	HPP and PHEP Cooperative Agreement Recipients	Wednesday, July 26 1:00 - 4:00 PM ET Registration Information
HPP-PHEP Joint Business Meeting for U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands	HPP and PHEP Cooperative Agreement Recipients in U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands	Wednesday, August 2 7:30 PM ET <i>Registration Information Forthcoming</i>

Note: ASPR will update this table in each issue of the Bulletin as additional meetings are scheduled. Recordings and transcripts from previous webinars can be accessed on the [ASPR Health Care Readiness Programs Webinars](#) webpage.

Hospital Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement Recipients

HHS ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE) Rollout Webinar

ASPR will hold the MRSE rollout webinar on **Thursday, July 27, 2023, from 3 PM – 4 PM ET**. During the webinar, the MRSE team will review updates that have been made to the MRSE Exercise Planning and Evaluation Tool. The tool has been re-designed to be more user-friendly and intuitive, incorporate a streamlined version of the Surge Estimator Tool (SET), and simplify patient tracking data inputs. The MRSE team will also go over updates to the MRSE Situation Manual, which provides optional guidance to better support Health Care Coalitions (HCCs) by including additional, non-core HCC members in the exercise. During this webinar, the MRSE Support Team will walk through these updates and demonstrate how HCCs can use the tool to capture exercise data. The Support Team will also be available to answer questions during the webinar.

Note that registration is required. [Register for the event here](#). Upon registering, you will receive an email with the Zoom event link as well as a calendar placeholder. Please do not forward this invitation information to outside parties.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the MRSE Support Team via the [MRSE mailbox](#). You may also request a one-on-one session with the Team by emailing the [MRSE mailbox](#).

[Register Here for the MRSE Rollout Webinar](#)

HPP Recipient End of Year (EOY) Data Collection Update for Fiscal Year 2022 Reporting

The PERFORMS HPP Performance Module will open for HPP FY 2022 reporting on August 2, 2023. ASPR will provide the PERFORMS FY 2022 HPP Performance Module Training twice – once on Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET and once on Thursday, September 14, 2023 from 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET. Additional emails will be delivered in the coming days with further information including training registration and the PERFORMS reporting instructional manual. If you have any questions, please contact the [SHARPER](#) mailbox with your Field Project Officer (FPO) copied.

Hospital Association COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Activities Cooperative Agreement Recipients

Hospital Association Recipient and Sub-Recipient EOY Data Collection Update

ASPR has started the data collection process for year three of the Hospital Association COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Activities Cooperative Agreement. The data collection period will run from Monday, July 17, 2023, until Friday, September 15, 2023. Each recipient should have received an email containing recipient and sub-recipient data collection forms, alongside detailed instructions on how to submit performance measures data. If you have any questions or did not receive the aforementioned email, please contact the [Hospital Association Cooperative Agreement Mailbox](#) with your FPO copied.

ASPR Trainings & Webinars



COVID-19 Clinical Rounds: A Peer-to-Peer Virtual Community of Practice

COVID-19 Clinical Rounds are resource webinars intended for consultant physicians involved in critical care practice, fellows, residents, pharmacists, nursing staff, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, and allied health staff. All previous recordings can be found on the [HHS ASPR Project ECHO COVID-19 Clinical Rounds website](#).

First Responder Resiliency TeleECHO Program

The First Responder Resiliency teleECHO Program is aimed at increasing self-care and resiliency in crisis. This interdisciplinary team, led by a group of subject matter experts including Dr. George Everly, an internationally acknowledged disaster psychologist, and Dr. Jeff Katzman, a leading expert in trauma and resiliency, has expertise in a variety of specialties including: critical incidence trauma care, psychiatry, emergency and pre-hospital medicine, law enforcement mental health, and pastoral care. These sessions are held **every other Monday from 4:00 - 5:00 PM ET**.

[Register Here](#)



Upcoming Trainings and Webinars

Host	Event	Event Details
University of Vermont	A Qualitative Analysis of U.S. State Laws Regulating Incentives for Health Behavior This presentation will describe the results of a qualitative study examining state laws regulating incentives for health behavior. Such laws may have important implications for provision of contingency management for substance use disorder, including in rural areas.	Wednesday, July 26 12:00 - 1:00 PM ET Registration Information
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)	Implementation of the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) in Pueblo County, Colorado Learn about the process of adopting and implementing the MAHC at the local level with Pueblo Department of Public Health and	Wednesday, July 26 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET Registration Information

Environment (PDPHE) in Pueblo County,
Colorado.

Association of State and
Territorial Health Officials
(ASTHO)

**Introducing New Approaches to Enhance
Power Outage Support Users**

This virtual offering will brief attendees about the significant increase in power outages and their impact on in-home life support users, explain current barriers for life support users when navigating and surviving power outages, and introduce the Louisiana Department of Health's (LDH) Power Outage Partners pilot and the range of other approaches jurisdictions can employ to increase power outage support for life support users.

Wednesday, July 26
12:00 - 1:00 PM ET
[Registration Information](#)

Department of Health and Human
Services (HHS)

**National Human Trafficking Prevention
Summit**

The Summit will include opportunities to hear from experts across multiple sectors and engage in discussions on best practices and lessons learned in efforts to prevent human trafficking and related forms of violence. Plenaries and workshop topics will span several priority areas, including child protection; education, training, and outreach; procurement; housing and economic mobility; healthcare and behavioral health; and research and evaluation with a focus on integrating equity practices.

Thursday, August 3 - Friday,
August 4
[Registration Information](#)

American College of Emergency
Physicians (ACEP)

Vaccinating in the Emergency Department

This webinar will discuss vaccinations in the emergency department with Dr. Michael Waxman and Dr. Robert Rodriguez.

Tuesday, August 8
1:00 - 2:00 PM ET
[Registration Information](#)

ASTHO

**Maintaining Patient Access to Care in
Rural America**

The webinar will focus on the implementation and successes of the AZ Resource Equity and Access Coordination Hub (REACH) program, which serves as a patient transfer system that can be quickly mobilized during a variety of public health events.

Tuesday, August 8
2:00 - 3:00 PM ET
[Registration Information](#)

Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention (CDC)

**CDC PHEP Connects: The Impact on
Public Health Due to Power Outages - Part
II**

Presenters will discuss how power outages related to emergencies such as wildfires, hurricanes, and winter storms, whether planned or unplanned, create significant challenges for federal, state, and local communities.

Wednesday, August 9
1:00 PM ET
[Connection Information](#)

National Governor's Association

**Workshop on Preparing for Future Public
Health Emergencies**

The objectives of the joint workshop include identifying strategies and promising practices for detecting new and emerging threats, enhancing public health infrastructure and workforce, improving legal and administrative preparedness, tackling increasingly concurrent emergencies.

Thursday, August 10 - Friday,
August 11
[Registration Information](#)

Tools, Resources, & Reports



ASPR TRACIE Resource Spotlight: Extreme Heat Resources



Many ASPR partners are responding to extreme heat events in their communities. Access the ASPR TRACIE [Utility Failures Topic Collection](#), the heat-related sections in the [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#), and [Issue 17 of *The Exchange*](#) which focuses on utility outages and extreme heat.

HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Warn Hospital Systems and Telehealth Providers about Privacy and Security Risks from Online Tracking Technologies



The OCR and FTC are cautioning hospitals and telehealth providers about the privacy and security risks related to the use of online tracking technologies that may be integrated into their websites or mobile apps that may be impermissibly disclosing consumers' sensitive personal health data to third parties. Tracking technologies are used to collect and analyze information about how users interact with websites or mobile apps. Generally, tracking technologies developed by third parties send information directly to the third parties who developed such technologies and may continue to track users and gather information about them even after they navigate away from the original website to other websites.

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

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Approves New Drug to Prevent Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in Babies and Toddlers



Last week, the FDA approved Beyfortus (nirsevimab-alip) for the prevention of RSV lower respiratory tract disease in neonates and infants born during or entering their first RSV season, and in children up to 24 months of age who remain vulnerable to severe RSV disease through their second RSV season.

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

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) for Special Pathogen Preparedness



The latest episode of the *Transmission Interrupted* podcast from the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), NETEC delves into the HICS and its importance in responding to special pathogens and other emergencies. Join host Jill Morgan and special guests Kyesha Turner from Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Darrell Ruby from Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Spokane, Washington, and Ryan Tuckmeyer from Cedars Sinai in Los Angeles, as they share their experiences and insights on how HICS ensures readiness, coordination, and effective response in the face of various scenarios.

Listen to the full [podcast episode](#) from NETEC.

CDC to Reopen Public Health Crisis Response Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



CDC plans to reopen the current Public Health Crisis Response NOFO, TP22-2201, in early August on www.grants.gov. The NOFO will remain open for 60 days to allow for applications from local health departments or tribes that meet eligibility requirements due to population changes. The list of eligible jurisdictions will be listed in the NOFO. CDC will reopen the funding announcement annually during the NOFO's five-year performance period to ensure CDC maintains a current roster of eligible jurisdictions for public health emergency response funding. The Public Health Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement approved but unfunded roster currently includes 97 jurisdictions. They include the 50 states, eight U.S. territories and freely associated states, 38 local jurisdictions, and one tribal government. The 2022 roster expires January 31, 2027.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Approves California and Kentucky Requests to Provide Essential Behavioral Health Services Through Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams



“California and Kentucky recognize the vital importance of breaking down barriers to meet people in crisis with the care they need,” said CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. “With these approvals, California and Kentucky join a growing number of states in helping connect people to qualified health professionals as the first point of care during a crisis. This ensures people can get the care they need when and where they need it.”

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

CMS Releases Community Outreach Tool on Medicaid, Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Renewals



CMS has posted a communications toolkit and other useful resources that partners can use to educate communities about the need for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program enrollees to renew their coverage and how to find other coverage if they are no longer eligible.

Learn more and view the [resources](#) from CMS.

American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP): Pediatric Emergency Care Improved During the Pandemic, New Assessment Shows



Despite significant resource and staffing challenges throughout the pandemic, emergency departments demonstrated notable improvements in pediatric emergency care. ACEP recently published the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) 2021 assessment was just published in [JAMA Network Open](#) which reflects progress since the prior assessment in 2013.

Read the full [analysis of the study](#) from the ACEP.

Domestic Preparedness Journal: Long-Term Care Facilities in Emergency Preparedness Planning



An important part of community emergency preparedness planning includes long-term care facilities such as nursing homes, dialysis, home care centers, or hospice facilities. Older adults and those with disabilities have increased vulnerability during emergencies. This population may have more [limitations](#), require additional support, and may experience health emergencies sooner than others when faced with limited food, drink, rest, or access to electricity.

Read the [full article](#) from the *Domestic Preparedness Journal*.

American Medical Association (AMA): ChatGPT, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health Care and the Future of Medicine



The use of generative AI, like ChatGPT, in medicine has the potential to unburden physicians and help restore the patient-physician relationship. However, regulatory uncertainty and liability concerns are barriers to adoption. AMA President Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH, joins the AMA Update podcast discuss the many ways generative AI will change health care.

Listen to the full [podcast episode](#) from the AMA.

New Toolkit Available for Monitoring and Surveillance of Behavioral Health After Disasters



With the support of CDC's Office of Readiness and Response, RAND Corporation researchers have developed a practical online and interactive [toolkit](#) for state, territorial, local, and tribal public health departments. The toolkit can assist with conducting behavioral health surveillance following disasters and other public health emergencies. With improved monitoring and surveillance of behavioral health precursors and impacts, public health officials can

- Follow long-term trends and better anticipate the potential impacts of emergencies;
- Identify sudden increases in behavioral health needs;
- Evaluate the equity and effectiveness of interventions for conditions such as depression, anxiety, and substance use; and
- Position resources to prevent adverse behavioral health impacts from future emergencies.

This toolkit shows how existing data sources can be used for behavioral health surveillance in the context of a variety of public health emergencies. These sources include unemployment insurance claims, 2-1-1 hotline calls, calls to Poison Control Centers, prescription drug fills, sales of over-the-

counter sleep aids, and use of emergency departments and emergency medical services. The toolkit is publicly available and free to access.

ASTHO: Preparing for the Next Public Health Crisis



Staff from ASTHO and Thomas Dobbs, the former Mississippi state health officer, have co-authored a commentary in the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* on preparing for the next pandemic or public health crisis. The commentary describes how COVID-19 and other recent crises have highlighted the importance of accurate communication, depoliticizing public health, securing funding, and implementing policy solutions to prepare for future outbreaks. Additionally, the piece addresses how health equity and community engagement will be crucial for effective pandemic responses.

Read the [full article](#) from ASTHO.

ASTHO: When There's Fire, There's Smoke - States Prepare for Health Impacts of Wildfire Smoke



With wildfire season kicking off this summer with [fires in Canada causing air quality issues](#) in many parts of the United States, state health agencies are preparing for and responding to the impact of wildfire smoke on community health. According to CDC, [wildfire smoke inhalation](#) can cause any number of symptoms, including coughing, chest pain, shortness of breath, and asthma attacks. As the [United States begins to see more wildfires](#) during increasingly dry and hot summers and falls, it is important for health agencies to be ready to address concerns from the public and collaborate with other state agencies, like environmental or natural resource agencies, to mitigate the health risks of wildfire smoke.

Read the [full article](#) from ASTHO.

NACCHO: Rebuilding Medical Reserve Corps Units to Meet Community Need



NACCHO shares stories and strategies that two Medical Reserve Corps units are implementing to rebuild their units. Profiled units come from Stanislaus County, California and the Medical Reserve Corps of West Georgia.

Read the [full article](#) from NACCHO.

Additional Guidance, Reports, and Resources

- **UPDATED** [ASPR TRACIE CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule Integrated Healthcare Systems Implications](#)

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, June 20](#)
- [Soft Tick Relapsing Fever — United States, 2012–2021](#)
- [Progress Toward Hepatitis B Control and Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of Hepatitis B Virus — World Health Organization African Region, 2016–2021](#)
- [Arthritis Among Children and Adolescents Aged <18 Years — United States, 2017–2021](#)
- [Use of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Vaccines in Older Adults: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2023](#)
- [Notes from the Field: Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children with Laboratory Evidence of Prenatal Zika Virus Exposure — Puerto Rico, 2023](#)
- [Notes from the Field: An Outbreak of Shiga Toxin–Producing Escherichia coli O157:H7 Associated with a Farming Camp — Tennessee, 2022](#)
- [QuickStats: Percentage of Children and Adolescents Aged ≤17 Years Who Have Experienced a Specified Stressful Life Event, by Type of Event and Family Income — National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2021](#)



We Want to Hear from You!

ASPR wants to hear how your organization and/or sub-recipients are making an impact in your communities. We will use your stories to demonstrate the importance of investing in emergency preparedness and response in some of our policy and budgetary documents.

Share your organization's experience in emergency preparedness, response, or recovery by answering a few questions on our [Story](#)

[From the Field Submission Form.](#)

Our team will contact you for more information, as needed, and you may see your story published on the [Health Care Readiness in Action: Stories from the Field](#) webpage. Thank you in advance for sharing!

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