



Preparedness Newsletter

U.S.-Affiliated Pacific and Caribbean Islands

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ASTHO News

Follow [@ASTHO](#) on Twitter, and see ASTHO's blog, www.StatePublicHealth.org, for the latest public health news.

Attend the 2015 ASTHO Annual Meeting to Learn More About Promising Practices in State and Territorial Public Health

The [2015 ASTHO Annual Meeting](#) is a unique opportunity to strategize and build relationships with senior state and territorial public health leaders on national public health priorities. We hope that you can join us Sept. 30-Oct.1 at the Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek in Salt Lake City.

This year's meeting's theme is "Creating the Conditions for Health in Our States and Territories," and it features two full days of public health presentations and discussions. The plenary sessions will highlight states and territories as "laboratories of democracy" where public health agencies play a key role in developing and testing new policies and programs aimed at creating the conditions for optimal health. Other scheduled topics include Health in All Policies strategies, effective healthy aging programs, preventing adverse childhood experiences, partnerships in tribal health, State Innovation Models highlights, building an economic case for public health prevention, and the launch of the 2016 ASTHO President's Challenge on achieving optimal health through a Health in All Policies approach. For more information, contact [Melissa Lewis](#), ASTHO's director of member engagement.

Call for National Preparedness Month Events

In support of National Preparedness Month and [America's PrepareAthon!](#), FEMA's campaign to take preparedness one step further by moving people from awareness to action, ASTHO is reaffirming its pledge to prepare in September. ASTHO will be promoting events occurring across the states and territories via [Twitter](#) and through a [webpage](#) dedicated to Preparedness Month activities and the collection of promising practices in public health preparedness.

If your agency is hosting or participating in National Preparedness Month activities in September, [let us know!](#) To share promising practices and accomplishments in Preparedness that your state or territory would like ASTHO to publish as stories, submit your topics [here](#). Please contact [Lindsy LoVerde](#) or [Neyling Fajardo](#) with questions.

ASTHO Releases New Resource Guide for Preparedness Directors

ASTHO is pleased to provide the [Directors of Public Health Preparedness Resource Guide](#), which highlights national preparedness efforts, ASTHO resources and activities, and several methods of information sharing in this critical area. The briefing book includes a summary of preparedness topics that are key to state and territorial health agencies and offers action items that will help state and territorial preparedness leaders further understand their roles. This guide was created with input from seasoned preparedness directors to ensure that the most relevant and critical information is included. We hope that the briefing book will be a valuable resource for individuals who are new to the field, and

a handy reference for those who are already familiar with these programs. Find more information on ASTHO's preparedness [web page](#).

Partner Updates

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Seeks Donations for Typhoon Soudelor Relief

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is actively providing medical and behavioral services to the community that was [affected](#) by Typhoon Soudelor earlier this month and is [accepting donations](#) to assist in these efforts.

58th Pacific Island Health Officers Association Conference Held in Honolulu

The 58th Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) Conference was held Aug. 5-7 in Honolulu. The meeting aimed to convene senior and deputy health leadership from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to discuss issues of regional significance and decide on critical priorities forward through official communiques, resolutions, and recommendations. Visit the [PIHOA conference web page](#) for meeting documents and presentations, including the CDC briefing presentation entitled "[Public Health Emergency Preparedness in the Pacific Island Region](#)."

CDC Publishes Article on Methyl Bromide Exposure in the U.S. Virgin Islands

CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) recently included the article "[Severe Illness from Methyl Bromide Exposure at a Condominium Resort - U.S. Virgin Islands, March 2015](#)," co-authored by two representatives from the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health. The article described the recent issue and the investigation and response by the health agency in partnership with other federal and territorial agencies.

Promising Practices

Call for Preparedness Stories

ASTHO's "[Have You Shared](#)" initiative systematically collects and disseminates stories that highlight promising and useful practices and implementation strategies developed by state, territorial, and freely associated state health agencies. ASTHO created the Have You Shared campaign to solicit stories of promising practices and is working with our members to capture stories from across all ASTHO content areas.

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Resources

[Live Map of Epidemics and Emerging Disease Alerts in the Pacific \(SPC\)](#)

[Weekly Pacific Syndromic Surveillance Reports \(WHO\)](#)

[Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network](#)

[Disasters.data.gov](#)

[National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities](#)

[Building Community Resilience to Disasters \(RAND\)](#)

[Social Distancing Law Project Legal Assessment Template](#)

Stories collected by the Have You Shared initiative are shared through the ASTHO website as well as through the State Public Health Weekly, other ASTHO newsletters, communications with affiliate organizations and partners, and ASTHO meetings.

Please tell us about your successes in preparedness at <http://www.astho.org/Forms/Preparedness/Accomplishments/>.

Have something to share?

If your agency or organization would like to contribute to the Preparedness Newsletter, please [contact us](#). Content should be of interest to public health professionals in the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific and Caribbean Islands and should concern public health and healthcare system preparedness and related activities.

[\(ASTHO\)](#)

[Social Distancing Law Project Meeting Template \(ASTHO\)](#)

[NEMA EMAC Resources](#)

[EMAC Tips for Health Agencies \(ASTHO\)](#)

[Citizens Corps Volunteer Liability Guide \(FEMA\)](#)

[The National Infrastructure Protection Plan](#)

[Volunteering in Public Health \(PublicHealth.org\)](#)

[Tools for Radiation Readiness \(ASTHO\)](#)

[Public Health Preparedness and Response to Chemical and Radiological Incidents \(RAND\)](#)



About ASTHO

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

ASTHO is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

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