



Preparedness Newsletter

In the US-Affiliated Pacific and Caribbean Islands

Volume 1, Issue: # 4

February 2015

ASTHO News

Follow @ ASTHO on Twitter to get the latest public health news from our website and partners

ASTHO Releases Summary of Analysis of President's FY 2016 Budget

On February 2, President Obama released his FY 2016 budget request, proposing \$1.091 trillion in overall discretionary spending. This request is \$74 billion above the \$1.016 trillion budget cap for FY 2016 allowed under sequestration, and a 7 percent increase from the top-line figure of \$1.013 trillion from the prior year. As it has the previous few years, the administration's proposal eliminates the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant. It also reduces the Section 317 Immunization Program by more than \$50 million, or 8 percent. Overall, the proposal calls for CDC funding of \$7 billion: \$6.096 billion in budget authority and \$914 million in the Prevention and Public Health Fund. The \$6.096 billion would be a 2 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

In the next step of the FY 2016 appropriation process, the chairmen of the Senate and House Budget Committees, Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Rep. Tom Price (R-GA-06), will establish the budget framework. Both chairmen have articulated a plan to balance the budget in 10 years, and House Chairman Price, in particular, has emphasized his intention to stick with the sequester caps. For a more detailed look at how the president's proposed budget would affect public health programs, see ASTHO's [Legislative and Policy Update web page](#).

CDC-ASTHO Ebola Preparedness and Response Article Published on Public Health Reports

Last month, Public Health Reports published the CDC and ASTHO written article, "[Health Communications and Community Mobilization During an Ebola Response: Partnerships with Community and Faith-Based Organizations](#)." The article describes how a 10-step approach can be applied by state and local health departments to incorporate businesses, schools, charitable foundations, and community and faith-based organizations during an Ebola response.

New Articles Posted on ASTHO's Blog StatePublicHealth.org

Be sure to check out the latest posts on ASTHO's blog, [StatePublicHealth.org](#). This month features articles on the [measles](#) outbreak.

Preparedness in the News

National Association of State EMS Officials Releases Domestic Preparedness Improvement Strategy

On January 29, the National Association of State EMS Officials released the [EMS Domestic Preparedness Improvement Strategy](#) in an effort to

In This Issue

[ASTHO News](#)

[Preparedness in the News](#)

strengthen emergency medical services systems preparedness and response activities. This strategy was developed with support from the Department of Homeland Security and participation from various response stakeholders. The strategy presents a set of actionable and solutions-oriented recommendations for the emergency medical community at the appropriate federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial levels and for national associations.

Partner Updates

WHO Continues Ebola Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Workshops in the USAPI



In response to the risk of extension of the West Africa Ebola outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) has disseminated Ebola readiness assessment instruments, planning templates, and an Ebola Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) train-the-trainer workshop package designed for Pacific Islands countries and territories. WHO requested the assistance of PIHOA in the deployment of the IPC training in the USAPI. With the support of the ASTHO Preparedness program and the Association of Public Health Labs, Dr. Mark Durand of PIHOA attended the initial WHO IPC workshop held in Fiji in December, where he assisted Dr. Angela Merianos of WHO in adapting the training curriculum and in planning for further delivery in the USAPI.

To date, training using the IPC curriculum has been delivered at:

- The Association of USAPI Labs Regional Meeting held in GUam during the week of January 26.
- A three day workshop conducted in the Republic of the Marshall Islands for hospital and public health preparedness staff from the islands of Majuro and Ebeye during the week of February 1.

Two additional national IPC workshops are scheduled for the weeks of February 9 and February 16 for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau. The national workshops include several desktop outbreak scenarios as well as full-dress, on-site simulations held at isolation units within the central national hospitals.

For further information and workshop materials, please contact Mark Durand at durand@pihoa.org.

Palau Ministry of Health Conducts SNS Full-Scale Exercise

Palau's 2nd Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Full-Scale Exercise took place February 9-13 and was conducted by the Palau Ministry of Health in partnership with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce (MPIIC), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO). The purpose of the

[Partner Updates](#)

[Upcoming Conferences & Webinars](#)

[Upcoming Grant Deadlines](#)

[Promising Practices](#)

[About ASTHO](#)

Quick Links

[ASTHO](#)

[Preparedness](#)

[PIHOA](#)

[SPC](#)

[ASPR](#)

[Hospital Preparedness Program \(ASPR\)](#)

[ESAR-VHP \(ASPR\)](#)

[ASTHO Public Health Career Center](#)

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](#)

exercise was to test Palau's SNS plan; the exercise included trainings, exercises, and drills to evaluate current protocols. The Palau Red Cross Society also participated and representatives attended from the National Emergency Committee; semi-government agencies; community volunteer groups; media organizations; the US Marshals; and the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Read more about the exercise [here](#).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Division of Strategic National Stockpile Announces Its Course Schedule

The Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS) is happy to announce its Strategic National Stockpile Preparedness course and Mass Antibiotic Dispensing Train-the-Trainer (MADT) course schedules for federal fiscal year 2015. Provided in partnership with FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama, interested applicants can apply through CDP's registration system at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/register/registration-process/>. Open season for applications is approximately three months from the start of each course. All travel expenses will be paid for by FEMA for state and local personnel, and the courses are free.

The SNS Preparedness course is a "blended" course using self-paced learning, virtually-led classrooms, and in-person training to provide state and regional planners and MCM staff all the information needed to design and execute MCM mass dispensing. This includes instruction on formulary, warehouse operations, distribution methods, and point of dispensing operations.

SNS Preparedness Course Dates:

- 4 - 6 May 2015
- 10 - 12 August 2015

There are no prerequisites for the SNS Preparedness course.

The MADT course can help improve your preparedness training. Working with DSNS's expert trainers, your staff can become certified to offer CDC continuing education credits through a FEMA authorized course. Please pass on this exciting opportunity to those who provide training in your jurisdiction.

MADT Course Dates

- 27 - 29 May 2015
- 24 - 26 August 2015

Prerequisites for this course are:

- Attendance at either DSNS' SNS Preparedness course, or Mass Antibiotic Dispensing (MAD) course, or Mobile Preparedness course (MPC).

[\(RAND\)](#)

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

[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 \(NIPP\)](#)

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

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

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



- At least a part-time role as trainer.

Questions? Please contact Barbara Cooper at bic1@cdc.gov or Steve Holland at aoy7@cdc.gov.

Upcoming Conferences & Webinars

Webinar - CDC Update on Vaccines and Measles

When: Monday, February 23, 2015 at 10:30am EST

Description: CDC's top immunization experts will provide an update on the agency's ongoing measles response and address questions from the audience. This is a free, 30-minute webinar.

Registration: To register, visit

<http://nationalpress.org/programs-and-resources/program/live-webinar-update-on-vaccines-from-the-cdc/>.

57th PIHOA Executive Board Meeting

When: Monday, March 9 - Thursday, March 12, 2015

Where: Koror, Republic of Palau

Description: The Republic of Palau Ministry of Health is hosting the 57th PIHOA Executive Board Meeting to discuss topics of regional significance. Open sessions are available on Tuesday, March 10 and Wednesday, March 11, 2015 for PIHOA guests.

Registration: Now open

at <https://classic.regonline.com/builder/site/default.aspx?EventID=1680801>.

2015 Preparedness, Emergency Response, and Recovery Consortium and Exposition (PERRC)

When: Monday, March 23 - Thursday, March 26, 2015

Where: Orlando, Florida

Description: PERRC will "bring together healthcare, medical, public health and volunteer emergency management personnel involved in disaster recovery and response efforts representing the governmental, public and private sectors to discuss shared practices in preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. This forum will provide a hands-on, adult learning environment promoting the sharing of ideas and discussion of best practices." More information available at <http://www.perrc.org/>.

Registration: Now open at <https://www.cvent.com/events/2015-preparedness-emergency-response-recovery-consortium-expo/registration-be644ac8fca84c17b9e97dea4b28e1f0.aspx>.

2015 Preparedness Summit - Global Health Security: Preparing a Nation for Emerging Threats

When: Tuesday, April 14 - Friday, April 17, 2015

Where: Atlanta, Georgia

Description: Each year, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) holds a national conference in the field of public health and healthcare preparedness. The 2015 Preparedness Summit will address issues in global health security.

Registration: Available at <http://preparednesssummit.org/2015-preparedness-summit/registration-rates/>.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

2015 PHMSA HMEP States and Territories Hazmat Grants

Application deadline: Friday, April 3, 2015

Funder: U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Description: "The purpose of this grant program is to increase State, Territorial, Tribal, and local effectiveness in safely and efficiently handling hazardous materials incidents, enhance implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), and encourage a comprehensive approach to emergency training and planning by incorporating the unique challenges of responses to transportation situations." For more information, visit <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=272471>.

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.

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 E-Newsletter, please contact us at nfajardo@astho.org. Content should be of interest to public health professionals in the US Affiliated Pacific and Caribbean Islands and should concern public health and healthcare system preparedness and related activities.



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.

President: Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA (CT)
President-Elect: Ed Ehlinger, MD, MSPH (MN)
Secretary-Treasurer: Brenda Fitzgerald, MD (GA)
Immediate Past President: Terry Cline, PhD (OK)
Past President: José Montero, MD, MPH, MHC (NH)

Regional Representatives

I: Sheila Pinette, DO (ME)
II: Mary O'Dowd, MPH (NJ)
III: Karyl Thomas Rattay, MD, MS (DE)
IV: Mary Currier, MD, MPH (MS)
V: LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH (IL)
VI: J.T. Lane (LA)
VII: Gerd Clabaugh (IA)
VIII: Wendy Braund, MD, MPH, MSE (WY)
IX: James Gillan, MS, HSA (GU)
X: John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH (WA)

Ex-Officio

Rep. Affiliate Council: Amber Norris Williams (Safe States Alliance)
Rep. Senior Deputies Committee: Julie Cox-Kain, MPA (OK)
Alumni Member: VACANT
ASTHO Executive Director: Paul Jarris, MD, MBA