



Preparedness Newsletter

U.S.-Affiliated Pacific and Caribbean Islands

Volume 1, Issue: # 8

July 2015

ASTHO News

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

Newsletter Archive Now Available Online

An archive of past issues of the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific and Caribbean Islands Preparedness Newsletter is now available on ASTHO's [website](#).

Success Stories

Focus on Puerto Rico: Increasing Preparedness through a Comprehensive Hazard Vulnerability Analysis

The Puerto Rico Department of Health's (PRDOH) Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response (OPHPR) preparedness capacity was enhanced through the development of a hazard vulnerability analysis (HVA), the first step in the development of emergency operation plans, made possible with Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Hospital Preparedness Program funds. The HVA serves as a needs assessment for emergency management programs and allows the identification of possible gaps at the moment of a response. Furthermore, priorities can also be ranked in order to address all the preparedness components.

Since 2001, healthcare institutions have been encouraged to enhance their readiness for disasters through the development of plans based on an annual hazard vulnerability analysis. However, these HVAs are usually conducted individually and only cover the healthcare services providers. For this reason, in 2011 OPHPR allocated funds for the development of an HVA that would evaluate all PRDOH regions, as well as the following three systems: healthcare providers, public health, and mental/behavioral healthcare.

The HVA starts by identifying the five top hazards, following a methodology based on probability of occurrence. These five hazards are: hurricanes, earthquake/tsunami, flooding, landslide and pandemic events. The analysis was conducted for all seven PRDOH regions, providing a comprehensive picture of these hazards' impact on each region.

Updated HVA results have been shared with healthcare providers participating at all regional healthcare coalitions as well as other public health partners. This comprehensive HVA has proven instrumental in the development of plans and procedures, increasing the degree of preparedness achieved.

In This Issue

[ASTHO News](#)

[Success Stories](#)

[Partner Updates](#)

[Upcoming Conferences and Webinars](#)

[Promising Practices](#)

[About ASTHO](#)

Quick Links

[ASTHO](#)

[Preparedness](#)

[PIHOA](#)

[SPC](#)

[ASPR](#)

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

Partner Updates

Pilot Testing of New Public Health Surveillance Curriculum for Pacific Islands Complete

In May, the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association, in partnership with ASTHO, CDC, WHO, the Secretariat for the Pacific Community, the University of Guam, University of Melbourne/RAPID project, and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and Fiji National University, completed pilot testing of an accredited five-course, newly revised data for decision-making curriculum designed to improve disease surveillance by developing epidemiology technicians for public health agencies in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. Since the project started in August 2013, five courses have been redesigned and pilot tested with a core group of epidemiology technician candidates from across the region. The last of the courses, a mentored independent study project course, is ongoing through August and is generating 24 separate projects related to disease surveillance and data analysis. The entire program is being offered for delivery in-country to each of the Pacific Island jurisdictions as a next step.

FY 2014 Grant Funding Profiles Now Available

CDC has released a grant funding profile [tool](#) that allows individuals to search for 2014 fiscal year grants and cooperative agreements provided to health departments, universities, and other public and private agencies in the United States and territories. The data can be viewed by jurisdiction and category, and summary reports are available for the U.S. territories and freely-associated states.

The Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS) Announces Course Schedule

DSNS has announced 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 in Anniston, Alabama, interested applicants can apply [online](#), and open season for applications is approximately three months from the start of each course. All travel expenses for state and local personnel will be paid for by FEMA, and the courses are complimentary.

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Preparedness course is blended and uses self-paced learning, virtually-led classrooms, and in-person training to provide state and regional planners and medical countermeasures (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 Remaining Course Date:

[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 \(RAND\)](#)

[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 \(PublicHealth.org\)](#)

- August 10-12

MADT Remaining Course Date:

- August 24-26

Questions? Please contact [Barbara Cooper](#) or [Steve Holland](#).

Upcoming Conferences and Webinars

2015 ASTHO Annual Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 29 - Thursday, October 1

Where: Salt Lake City

Description: ASTHO's annual meeting welcomes state and territorial health officials; department heads and other leaders at state and local health agencies; individuals from federal health agencies, academic institutions, and healthcare facilities; private sector health industry executives; and leaders from ASTHO affiliates and other public health organizations into a conversation to address strategic public health and leadership issues.

Registration: Visit <http://www.astho.org/Annual-Meeting-2015/>.

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 Newsletter, please contact us at mcarlin@astho.org. 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.

[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.

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: Mary Currier, MD, MPH (MS)

Regional Representatives

I: Harry Chen, MD (VT)
II: Mary O'Dowd, MPH (NJ)
III: Marissa Levine, MD, MPH (VA)
IV: Mary Currier, MD, MPH (MS)
V: Karen McKeown, MSN, RN (WI)
VI: J.T. Lane (LA)
VII: Gerd Clabaugh (IA)
VIII: Wendy Braund, MD, MPH, MEd (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: David Sundwall, MD (Alumnus, UT)
ASTHO Executive Director: Paul Jarris, MD, MBA