ASTHO News
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Preparedness Summit Held in Atlanta, Georgia

The 2015 Preparedness Summit was held April 14-17 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year’s conference focused on global health security and brought attendees from nearly every state in the nation as well as several territories and countries. The conference featured keynote presentations by senior federal officials representing the White House, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Homeland Security, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

ASTHO Hosts Gathering for Directors of Public Health Preparedness at the Preparedness Summit

State and territorial Directors of Public Health Preparedness joined ASTHO and federal representatives during the Preparedness Summit for a meeting to discuss current issues and upcoming events. Attendees had opportunities to ask questions and offer feedback on various topics and programs.

Phyllis Wallace Appointed United States Virgin Islands State Health Official

Gov. Kenneth Mapp appointed Phyllis Wallace Commissioner of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health (USVIDH), effective April 9. Wallace previously worked at USVIDH for more than 30 years and served as deputy commissioner for the St. Thomas-St. John District before being promoted to commissioner. ASTHO congratulates Wallace on her appointment. Wallace replaces Duane Howell, who has served as health commissioner since January. ASTHO thanks Howell for his service.

Partner Updates

Yap & Chuuk Typhoon Maysak Disaster Relief Fund

The Pacific Island Health Officers Association is kindly requesting your support of disaster relief efforts in the devastated islands of Yap and Chuuk after the recent hit by Typhoon Maysak. Relief efforts are underway from a number of sectors and relief agencies, but additional resources are still needed and are welcome. Re-building destroyed/damaged public infrastructure (schools and clinics), land crops, and homes will take time even after immediate relief efforts are provided. The Federated States of Micronesia greatly welcome any support that can be provided. For more information please contact Billie Hiraishi, PIHOA Communications Officer at (808) 537-3131 or billieh@pihoa.org.
57th Pacific Island Health Officers Association Board Meeting Held in Koror, Palau

The 57th Pacific Island Health Officers Association Board Meeting was held in Koror, Palau from March 9-13, 2015. The objective of the meeting was to convene senior and deputy health leadership from the Territory of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Territory of Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau to discuss issues of regional significance, and by the end of the meeting, decide on critical priorities forward through official communiques, resolutions and recommendations. Please visit the PIHOA conference page (http://pihoa.org/news/57th_conference.php) for meeting documents and presentations, including a presentation on Supporting Epidemiology Preparedness in the Pacific Islands.

The Division of Strategic National Stockpile Announces 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).
- At least a part-time role as trainer.

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

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### Upcoming Conferences & Webinars

#### 2015 Association of Public Health Laboratories Annual Meeting

**When:** Monday, May 18 - Thursday, May 21, 2015  
**Where:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Description:** The APHL Annual Meeting & Ninth Government Environmental Laboratory Conference, organized by the Association of Public Health Laboratories, will cover areas like emergency preparedness, informatics, food safety, and newborn screening.  
**Registration:** Available [here](#).

#### Public Health and Disasters Conference

**When:** Sunday, May 10 - Wednesday, May 13, 2015  
**Where:** Park City, UT  
**Description:** Public Health and Disasters is a multidisciplinary national conference that brings together professionals from a variety of disciplines including academia, research, medical practice, and emergency response, as well as policy-makers from public health, community disaster preparedness, social science, government, media, and non-governmental organizations. Presentation topics include funding, collaboration, safety training, and working as a first responder.  
**Registration:** Available [here](#).

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### Upcoming Grant Deadlines

#### Disaster Health Information and Collaboration Projects 2015

**Application deadline:** Monday, July 6, 2015  
**Funder:** National Library of Medicine (NLM)  
**Description:** This funding opportunity is for small projects to improve access to disaster medicine and public health information for health care professionals, first responders, and others who play a role in health-related disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Projects must be conducted within the 50 States, territories, and possession of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the District of Columbia. For more information, visit [https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=c681c3181b5fa1c831b46e6e9f465442](https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=c681c3181b5fa1c831b46e6e9f465442).
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 mcarlin@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.

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