Follow @ASTHO on Twitter, and see ASTHO’s blog, www.StatePublicHealth.org, for the latest public health news.

ASTHO Updates

ASTHO Resources for Zika News and Preparedness
ASTHO is actively monitoring the Zika virus situation and has activated its Incident Command System at level 3 to support state and territorial health officials. Find more information on Zika cases and ASTHO-compiled resources on ASTHO’s Zika page.

ASTHO to Attend Pacific Islands Public Health Preparedness Summit
Lindsi LoVerde, ASTHO’s senior analyst of public health preparedness, will attend the Pacific Islands Preparedness and Emergency Response Summit in Guam on March 24-25. LoVerde recently became the primary ASTHO contact for all preparedness-related issues in the U.S. territories and freely-associated states, and is looking forward to connecting with attendees during the summit. If you are attending the summit and would like to meet with her and learn more about how ASTHO can assist with your work, please email LoVerde at loverde@astho.org or call (571) 527-3155.

Call for Preparedness Stories
ASTHO’s "Have You Shared" initiative systematically collects and disseminates stories that highlight 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 submit stories about your successes in preparedness using our online form.

Recent News & Partner Updates

Locally-Transmitted Zika Virus Infections Reported in the Pacific and Caribbean
Ongoing Zika virus transmission has been reported in four U.S. insular areas: Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. CDC is tracking and reporting the situation in the U.S. states and insular areas. President Obama has proposed an emergency spending measure to prevent the spread of Zika, and it includes improvements in the Medicaid program in the U.S. insular areas. Stay up-to-date on the latest Zika literature through the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy's collection of U.S. and international articles, links, and resources.
Data for Decision-Making (DDM) Accredited Training Program for the Pacific

Pacific region health ministers strongly recommend strengthening capacity in data analysis, surveillance, and epidemiology. In response, regional partners of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) have revitalized the DDM training program for the Pacific. The purpose of this training course is to build core public health functions in Pacific Island countries and territories for the long-term improvement of the national health services. The program is designed for health professionals who work with health information and data (e.g., communicable disease, noncommunicable disease, maternal and child health, and environmental and clinical data).

Scheduled DDM Course Dates:

- April 11-15 - DDM3 (FNU PH711: Introduction to Epidemiology & Data Analysis) - Pohnpei
- June 13-17 - DDM4 (FNU PH715: Intermediate Epidemiology & Data Analysis) - Pohnpei
- December 2015-June 2016 - DDM5 (FNU PH7114: Mentored Surveillance or Data Analysis Project) - Pohnpei

To learn more, please contact the Focal Point of the PPHSN Coordinating Body at FocalPointPPHSN-CB@spc.int or visit the PPHSN website.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

59th Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) Executive Meeting

**When:** Monday, March 21-Thursday, March 24  
**Where:** Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands  
**Description:** This meeting will bring together key national and regional stakeholders, Pacific development partners, and U.S. federal agency leadership to discuss health issues of regional significance. The participants will discuss and decide on critical priorities to move forward for partner/funder advocacy through official communiques, resolutions, and recommendations. Stakeholders and partners include leadership from the CDC Office of State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support, senior leadership from ASTHO, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, and the World Health Organization.  
**Who:** The summit is open to national and regional stakeholders, Pacific Island health officials, and U.S. federal agencies that work within the Pacific.  
**Registration:** Contact Billie Hiraishi (billieh@pihoa.org) for more information.

Pacific Regional Infectious Disease Conference

**When:** Monday, March 21-Wednesday, March 23  
**Where:** Guam  
**Description:** The Infectious Disease Conference is hosted by the Guam PHEP Office and will be followed by the Pacific Islands Preparedness and Emergency Response Summit. The conference is the first of its kind and will focus on preparing for the Festival of Pacific Arts, a two-week
Olympic-style event held every four years at different Pacific countries. This year's festival will be held on Guam from May 22-June 4.

Who: The conference is open to all Pacific Islands, including Hawaii and the South Pacific, and the intended audience includes lab, epidemiology, and preparedness stakeholders.

Registration: Contact Patrick Lujan (Patrick.Lujan@dphss.guam.gov) or Tricia Shimizu (triciashimizuguamdphss@gmail.com) for more information.

Pacific Islands Preparedness and Emergency Response (PIPER) Summit

When: Thursday, March 24-Friday, March 25
Where: Guam
Description: This year's PIPER Summit will be hosted by the Guam PHEP Office.
Who: The summit is open to preparedness stakeholders in the Pacific islands.
Registration: Contact Patrick Lujan (Patrick.Lujan@dphss.guam.gov) for more information.


When: Tuesday, April 19-Friday, April 22
Where: Dallas, Texas
Description: Each year, the National Association of County and City Health Officials holds a national conference in the field of public health and healthcare preparedness. The 2016 Preparedness Summit will address issues in building community resilience and recovery following disasters.
Registration: Available at http://preparednesssummit.org/registration-rates/.

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.

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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