ASTHO Updates

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 lloverde@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

Zika Virus Infections Reported in the Caribbean and Hawaii

On Jan. 15, CDC released an official health advisory regarding the Zika virus. As of that date, local transmission had been identified in at least 14 countries or territories in the Americas, including Puerto Rico. The Hawaii State Department of Health also announced a Zika-linked microcephaly case in a baby born to a mother who was likely infected with Zika virus while she lived in Brazil in 2015. No local transmission has been reported in Hawaii.
CDC recommends that pregnant women should consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. State health departments are requested to report laboratory-confirmed cases to CDC.

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:

- Feb. 15-19 - DDM1 (FNU PH712: Public Health Surveillance) - Pohnpei
- April 11-15 - DDM3 (FNU PH711: Introduction to Epidemiology & Data Analysis) - Pohnpei
- June 6-10 - 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

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.

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**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/. Early bird registrations ends Feb. 19.

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**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.

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**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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