ASTHO Updates

SAVE THE DATE: 12th Annual Directors of Public Health Preparedness (DPHP) Meeting

ASTHO is pleased to announce the 12th Annual DPHP Meeting, scheduled to take place Oct. 25-27 in New York City. Hotel reservation information can be found here. Additional information about registration and a draft agenda are expected to be available in July. We hope that you can join us in October and continue the tradition of networking, information sharing, and collaboration that has been the hallmark of DPHP meetings.

ASTHO Offers Resources for Zika News and Preparedness

ASTHO continues to monitor the Zika virus situation and has increased its Incident Command System activation to level 2 to support state and territorial health officials. To date, local transmission of the Zika virus has been reported in American Samoa, Kosrae (Federated States of Micronesia), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Find more information on Zika and ASTHO-compiled resources on ASTHO’s Zika web page.

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 is working with members to capture stories from across all ASTHO content areas.

ASTHO shares these stories on its website and in the State Public Health Weekly, other ASTHO newsletters, communications with affiliate organizations and partners, and at ASTHO meetings.

Please submit stories about your successes in preparedness using ASTHO’s online form.

Success Stories

Success Story: Preparedness in Yap State, FSM

Yap State in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has successfully developed and utilized its public health preparedness program to great effect, despite the state’s numerous public health risks. The state’s geography puts the area at great risk of typhoons and tsunamis. Through two super typhoons within the last 15 years
others in the decades before, Yap survived with no fatalities. Additionally, preparedness officials have instituted alerts in response to its tsunami risk.

Yap also experiences numerous public health risks. Utilizing its H5N1 Pandemic Influenza Plan, the entire country of FSM managed to avoid any fatalities. Dengue Fever 1,2,3,4 all hit Yap regularly and couple with Influenza-like illnesses and leptospirosis, making diagnosis and treatment difficult. During some outbreaks, the state hospital nearly doubled its usual 35-40 bed capacity to a 60-70 bed surge capacity. Under the leadership of an incident commander, the hospital set up beds from its mobile hospital in outpatient areas and delivered IV fluids to avert severe outcomes and a public health crisis.

The state has in place 8 full or partial preparedness plans. When needed, Yap has successfully utilized its systems and plans to keep its community healthy and safe.

Recent News and Partner Updates

Health Centers in American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands Receive Zika Funding

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded funding to three health centers with twelve delivery sites in American Samoa and the islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas to fight Zika. The monies are slated for expansion of preventive and primary care services, outreach, and patient education and screening. Read the award announcement for more information.

CDC Publishes Article on Recent Screenings of Blood Donations for Zika Virus Infection in Puerto Rico

CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report recently included the article “Screening of Blood Donations for Zika Virus Infection — Puerto Rico, April 3–June 11, 2016,” which was co-authored by a representative from the Puerto Rico Department of Health. The article reviews the process and results of screening blood donations for Zika virus in Puerto Rico following the FDA’s February recommendations.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Below is a calendar of preparedness events relevant to some or all of the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific and Caribbean Islands, listed by Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) or Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Capability. This full list can also be accessed and downloaded here.

Strategic National Stockpile Preparedness Course

Dates: Aug. 21 – 27
Location: Anniston, AL
Capability: PHEP 8
Description: The Strategic National Stockpile Preparedness Course is a 4 day course designed to give federal, state, and local officials information on how to best plan and prepare for a public health emergency and how to use and manage
the Strategic National Stockpile in response to a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or technological accident. Visit CDC’s Center for Domestic Preparedness website to register.

Framework for Healthcare Emergency Management

**Dates:** Sept. 25 – Oct. 1  
**Location:** Anniston, AL  
**Capability:** HPP 1, 3, 10, PHEP 10  
**Description:** Framework for Healthcare Emergency Management (FRAME) is a four-day course designed for personnel who are responsible for the development, implementation, maintenance, and administration of emergency management programs and plans for healthcare facilities/systems (e.g., hospitals, clinics, community health centers). Functional areas addressed by this course include an overview of relevant standards, regulations and organizations; integration with agencies and stakeholders; the Incident Command System (ICS) as it applies to healthcare; plans and the planning process; facility and personnel preparedness; exercises and training; surge and related mass casualty issues (including patient care and/or ethics, evacuation, public affairs, and risk communications), recovery, and finances/reimbursement. Visit CDC’s Center for Domestic Preparedness website to register.

Twelfth Annual Directors of Public Health Preparedness Meeting

**Dates:** Oct. 25 – 27  
**Location:** New York, NY  
**Capability:** All capabilities  
**Description:** The mission of the DPHP peer group is to provide a forum for, and to enhance the ability of senior state public health preparedness staff to develop and share strategies, tactics and sound practices, and maintain communications regarding common operational issues on state public health preparedness. This year’s meeting will provide a forum for the DPHPs and federal partners to exchange dialogue on timely public health preparedness policy issues.

National Immunization Conference 2016

**Dates:** Sept. 13 – 15  
**Location:** Atlanta, GA  
**Capability:** PHEP 4, 8, 13  
**Description:** This three-day conference with three plenary sessions, 12 breakout sessions, workshops, two immunization Q&A sessions, posters, and exhibits will highlight the following topics:

- Adult Immunization  
- Immunization Information Systems  
- Programmatic Issues  
- Health and Risk Communications  
- Epidemiology and Surveillance  
- Childhood and Adolescent Immunization

Please note that while there is no charge to attend the conference, space is limited. It is recommended to register well in advance of the registration deadline of August 22, 2016, to guarantee availability. Please visit...
Preparedness Summit

Dates: April 25-28, 2017  
Location: Atlanta, GA  
Capability: All capabilities  
Description: The Preparedness Summit is the first and longest running national conference on public health preparedness. Since its beginning in 2006, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has taken a leadership role in convening a wide array of partners to participate in the Summit; presenting new research findings, sharing tools and resources, and providing a variety of opportunities for attendees to learn how to implement model practices that enhance the nation’s capabilities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies.

HAI Workshop

Dates: 2017, Exact date TBD  
Location: Location TBD  
Capability: HPP 1  
Description: ASTHO and the CDC are collaborating to support state and territorial health agencies in their work to eliminate healthcare-associated infections (HAI) and protect patients across the healthcare system. The aim of this project is to: 1) facilitate coordination and implementation of Ebola-related work for effective and sustainable HAI programs; and 2) accelerate capacity building around healthcare infection control assessment and outbreak response.

Data for Decision-Making Training

Capability: PHEP 13  
Description: 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). To learn more, please contact the Focal Point of the PPHSN Coordinating Body at FocalPointPPHSN-CB@spc.int or visit the PPHSN website.

PIPER Summit

Dates: Spring 2018  
Location: American Samoa  
Capability: All capabilities  
Description: The summit is open to preparedness stakeholders in the Pacific islands, and is an opportunity for preparedness partners to network and discuss important topics and share practices.
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

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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