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

ASTHO Updates

ASTHO to Host Informal Lunch at the Preparedness Summit

Those attending the Preparedness Summit in Dallas, Texas are invited to an informal lunch gathering for territorial and freely-associated state representatives on Wednesday, April 20. Please meet us in the Senators Lecture Hall at 12:15 p.m. after the session entitled “Developing and Maintaining a Health Security Workforce: What Is the Current Status of Education and Training and Are We Meeting the Needs of the Future?” We will then head over to the lunch provided by NACCHO, which usually takes place in the Exhibit Hall. Please contact Lindsi LoVerde at lloverde@astho.org if you have additional questions.

ASTHO Resources for Zika News and Preparedness

ASTHO continues to monitor the Zika virus situation and has activated its Incident Command System at level 3 to support state and territorial health officials. 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 cases and ASTHO-compiled resources on ASTHO’s Zika 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 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

CDC Publishes Article on Contraceptive Needs and Zika Response in Puerto Rico

In This Issue

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CDC’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* recently included the article “Estimating Contraceptive Needs and Increasing Access to Contraception in Response to the Zika Virus Disease Outbreak — Puerto Rico, 2016,” which was co-authored by representatives from the Puerto Rico Department of Health. The article assesses the resources and challenges related to contraceptive access in Puerto Rico in the context of the Zika virus outbreak response.

**Guam Students Convene Preparedness Summit**

Members of FEMA’s Region IX Youth Preparedness Council organized the 2016 Service Learning Youth and Community Preparedness Summit in support of their ongoing efforts to enhance community preparedness and resiliency in Guam. The summit enabled regional and federal partners to equip participants with tools that empower youth to become invested in preparedness. Students were exposed to relevant resources and developed emergency plans for a variety of hazards, including earthquakes, hurricanes, and tsunamis.

If students in your jurisdiction are interested in connecting with the Guam student leaders to host a similar workshop, contact FEMA Region IX mentor Randy Brawley.

**International Medical Corps Partnership Opportunities in Pacific Islands**

International Medical Corps (IMC) is a leading global health and medical humanitarian organization that recently played a significant role in responses to the Nepal earthquake and the West Africa Ebola epidemic. It has significant global response experience and expertise, including public health, medical services, mental health and psychosocial support services, water, sanitation, and hygiene, and related sectors. It also supports all hazards and infectious disease/pandemic planning at national, state, territorial, and locality levels; training in preparedness and response; and tabletop and functional exercises.

IMC has extensive experience in the Asia-Pacific region and is seeking collaborations with Asia-Pacific Island partners in health and medical preparedness and response. For further information, please contact Dave Tarantino, MD, MPH, Senior Physician, Medical Planning and Preparedness, IMC (dtarantino@internationalmedicalcorps.org) or call (202) 828-5155.

**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
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


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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