ASTHO Updates

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.

Recent News and Partner Updates

Ministry of Health and Partners Work to Address Zika in the Marshall Islands

Although there have been no recent cases of Zika transmission in the Marshall Islands, the country has had previous cases of local transmission and now the Ministry of Health is preparing for potential future outbreaks. With local, U.S., and international partners, the Ministry is continuing active surveillance for possible re-introduction of the virus and focusing on vector control measures to prepare for the rainy season. View a recent situation report to see their active epidemiology efforts.

Volunteers in Puerto Rico Engage Community in Zika Response

The Puerto Rico Medical Reserve Corps is responding to the threat of Zika by leveraging established community partnerships to focus on education and equip people with accurate information about how Zika
could affect their health. Read more about their efforts in this [post](#) from the U.S. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response.

**Data for Decision-Making Accredited Training Program for the Pacific**

Regional partners of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) have revitalized the data for decision-making training program for the Pacific, which aims 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).

Upcoming Data for Decision-Making Course Dates:

- June 13-17 - DDM4 (FNU PH715: Intermediate Epidemiology & Data Analysis) - Pohnpei

To learn more, please contact the Focal Point of the PPHSN Coordinating Body at [FocalPointPPHSN-CB@spc.int](mailto:FocalPointPPHSN-CB@spc.int) or visit the [PPHSN website](#).

**Upcoming Funding Opportunities and Deadlines**

**Public Health Preparedness and Response Cooperative Agreement for All-Hazards Public Health Emergencies: Zika 2016**

**Application deadline:** June 13

**Funder:** CDC – OPHPR

**Description:** This [funding opportunity announcement](#) outlines CDC guidance, technical, and financial assistance in response to a potential outbreak of Zika virus disease in the continental United States, Hawaii, and U.S. territories and freely associated states. Eligibility is limited to state, local, and territorial public health departments or their bona fide agents.

**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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