APPLETREE COVID-19 Supplemental Awards
Arkansas Department of Health

Introduction
In early 2021, ASTHO, with support from CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), announced awards to five state health agencies to support their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. State health agencies in Kentucky, Virginia, Arkansas, Vermont, and Indiana were selected for this opportunity because of their recent application to ATSDR’s Partnership to Promote Local Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement program. Vermont requested that ASTHO work directly with their partner organization, Informed Green Solutions (IGS), for this project. ASTHO is providing funding and assistance to the recipient state health agencies and state health agency partners to support their environmental health-related COVID-19 response activities. This factsheet outlines activities supported under these awards for the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

Supported Activities – Arkansas Department of Health
ADH’s Environmental Health Branch will be working to conduct a variety of proposed activities as part of this funding award aimed at supporting COVID-19 response and community engagement. These plans are subject to change per the state’s COVID-19 response needs and priorities. Activities supported through this award include the following:

- Performing COVID-19 inspections and consultations during standard on-site restaurant inspections. The goal is to facilitate public understanding and compliance with ADH/CDC guidance and directives through April 1, 2021.
- Reviewing plans and consulting with event planners to ensure events, such as weddings and sporting events, are conducted as safely as possible and according to ADH/CDC guidance and directives through Feb. 28, 2021 (when directives were relaxed).
- Installing software packages to allow for the geocoding of COVID-19 data. By geocoding COVID-19 patient data, ADH will be able to better address health disparities during vaccine distribution decision making, as well as better define cases within sewersheds for monitoring purposes.
- Consulting with individuals and businesses to answer any questions regarding COVID-19 mitigation measures. ADH will also work with businesses to identify and notify owners of any potential employee outbreaks.