

Division of State and Local Readiness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program: Informatics Priorities

Public health informatics has been identified as a CDC priority, as it is a foundational component of surveillance, epidemiology, and health decision-making across health care and public health groups.

PHEP Program Review

CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHPR) initiated the PHEP Program Review in April 2015. CDC senior leaders convened during a series of discussion-based meetings to review the PHEP program's current status and develop recommendations for strategic improvements. The committee developed a total of 17 recommendations to increase the overall public health impact of the program across three objectives:

- Enhance day-to-day public health impact of the PHEP program
- Assure accountability of PHEP investments
- Identify opportunities for continued program development, including public health informatics

PHEP Informatics Initiatives

OPHPR's Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL) is addressing informatics priorities through the following initiatives.

- Partnering with other CDC programs, including the Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services (CSELS) and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), to identify and align informatics initiatives with PHEP program priorities and goals, in support of the CDC Surveillance Strategy
- Assuring each PHEP awardee provides a letter signed by the jurisdiction's senior health official (SHO) confirming the PHEP director and epidemiology and laboratory leads have provided input into annual PHEP work plans, strategies, and investment priorities
- Partnering with CSELS to enhance state informatics and health information technology capabilities through the placement of up to three informatics field assignees (IFAs) at selected state health departments as part of a pilot program

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