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## CSSTE-CDC COVID-19 Core Epi Workgroup Meeting Notes

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| Date:           | Wednesday April 5, 2023 |
| Start/End Time: | 1:00-2:00p              |

## CSSTE-CDC Core Epi COVID-19 WG Mtg Notes

| #                                                                                             | Items                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| 1. Open and Welcome                                                                           | <b>Open and Welcome – Ben Chan, NH</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2. Open Discussion/Listening Session: Public Health Emergency Expiration Communications Needs | <b>Open Discussion/Listening Session: Public Health Emergency Expiration Communications Needs, Aliko Weakland, CDC</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>What communication needs do STLTs have and to what level and in what timeframe?</li><li>Erin Connolly, Office of the Director of NCIRD, co-lead for the Joint Information Center, working with Aliko on communication, planning, and implementation coming out of the PHE</li><li>Plan to also bring communications back into programs.</li><li>CDC current talking points about the PHE ending are share in the weekly digest and are attached in today's reminder email.</li></ul> <b>Discussion/Questions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Discussions so far have focused on changing metrics. Can you clarify when this might go into effect?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>CDC reports that as many changes as possible will take effect on 5/11/23. Some will lag, such as aligning website on information. But, the goal for pivots and changes that change with PHE ending is to have them all implemented on 5/11.</li></ul></li><li>Is the HCF ICP guidelines timeline on that same track?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The HCF ICP guidelines are on a different timeline.</li></ul></li><li>STLT feedback: Our leadership and communications have long moved past the end of the emergency communication. (For example, one STLT ended their PHE in March). While we recognize that some talking points are to a wider audience, generally STLTs are not awaiting guidance and communications from CDC. Most remaining interest is in program services rather than epidemiology of COVID-19. What is important to us in epidemiology is how and when we transition to a more traditional reporting format and schedule for COVID-19 as a seasonal/annual notifiable disease.</li><li>We recognize that there are many changes that are difficult and entangled.</li><li>STLTs would like to guidance on reformatting reports from a March starting timeline. Should we use Jan to Dec or Oct to April? Would prefer Jan to Dec.</li><li>Talking points are great, but not a lot that is definitive, or detailed. Having more detail or a mockup of the website changes would be helpful</li><li>Knowing which guidance will be revised, which won't would be helpful, even with broad timeframes (Spring, Fall, etc.)</li><li>Given this is a smaller group, we would love to have CDC come back with more of this type of detail to the ASE.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Last week CDC had a close hold meeting with even smaller group sharing some more detail and will continue to share more detail with larger groups when possible.</li></ul></li><li>NYTimes is planning to use the CDC website for cases.</li></ul> |

- CSTE has a committee and COP for surveillance and informatics. They are asking for more information and details on all of this. It would be helpful to meet with them, and hear their questions, and to join one of their calls, as they have a different and important perspective.
  - CDC met last week with a pre-decisional small group and it would be great to include some of the STLT surveillance and informatics folks in these discussions on the week after next. Will plan this and joining their meetings to hear feedback.
- Talking points are very focused on what changes will be from data streams. But, STLTs and their HCFs want to know *how this will impact* the HCFs community. Do they need to maintain testing contracts, more supplies, less supplies, etc.? There is a lot of uncertainty. Which guidance documents will be expiring, updated, revised, changed? Especially for LTCF, and congregate care mandates, what is staying or going?
- Had a Region 1 call last week and similar comments were made on that call.
- There are three areas of communication needs:
  1. Acknowledge that these changes are consistent with what STLTs already transitioned to: Shifting to hospitalization, deaths, ED visits, severe disease, etc.
  2. Data and metrics – The purpose of displaying data is to show what is actionable and useful and include information on why we display data and how it is intended to be used. If case counts are still being shown, need to explain why, if not actionable. Just for transparency?
  3. How do the changes in metrics impact the recommendations? (HCF guidance will change, public spheres will change).
- Will there be public messaging about testing and mask wearing going forward? STLT communications still feel there will be an expectation that public health provides some guidance on these behaviors. We continue to get questions from the public about the burden of COVID in the community?
- New Health Action Alliance (CDC foundation, NSC..) fact sheet on “end of the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency; What Employers should know.” [https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/6010e149d9130a63e7b78adb/63fe271928e72dbc3fefe2be\\_End%20of%20the%20Emergency%20One-Sheet%20\(2\).pdf?ACSTracking%20ID=USCDC\\_10\\_4-DM102752&ACSTrackingLabel=NIOSH%20News%20%20April%202023&deliveryName=USCDC\\_10\\_4-DM102752](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/6010e149d9130a63e7b78adb/63fe271928e72dbc3fefe2be_End%20of%20the%20Emergency%20One-Sheet%20(2).pdf?ACSTracking%20ID=USCDC_10_4-DM102752&ACSTrackingLabel=NIOSH%20News%20%20April%202023&deliveryName=USCDC_10_4-DM102752)
- The COVID data tracker website currently doesn’t have a forewarning, but that would be helpful as it is now ~5 weeks away. (The public doesn’t see the CDC talking points).
  - CDC has this in the plan. Can’t do it yet as the plan is still in progress.
- CSTE comments that it is important to talk to all different types of members. ASE is only State Epis, Large City lead Epis, and Deputy State Epis. Rest of 3,000 members are not on the ASE calls or these WG calls which is an even small group. Surveillance and informatics folks are not on these calls nor are Flu and respiratory diseases leads. We need a plan to share these changes and points with others.
  - CDC replies on CSTE to amplify to rest of their members and looks to the Associations to share talking points with members.
- Many questions STLTs are receiving are directly related to how the ending of the PHE emergency will impact what is required in the various CMS memos. And what information they will need to report.
- Is CDC planning a press conference on May 11?
  - Media outreach is being planned and may happen before May 11 - large press conference not likely at this point.

**If you have other thoughts/feedback/input on this topic, please email Andrew ([aadams@cste.org](mailto:aadams@cste.org)) and Marci ([mLAYTON@cste.org](mailto:mLAYTON@cste.org)) – they can consolidate responses and send to CDC. However, you can also send further comments to [eocjlead2@cdc.gov](mailto:eocjlead2@cdc.gov).**

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| 3. | Injury Indicators and COVID-19                                     | <p>Injury Indicators and COVID-19: Guidance on Analysis, Interpretation, and Communication – <b>Dagan Wright, OR, and Kristen Allen, CSTE Consultant</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document was attached in today's reminder email</li> <li>• Many may not yet have had time to review it.</li> <li>• Please review and provide feedback by next Wed 4/12<sup>th</sup> (let us know if you need longer)</li> <li>• During the pandemic, Injury Epis quickly realized, and it was in the literature, that ED visits and hospitalizations for injuries dropped dramatically.</li> <li>• 2021 literature review, presented to The CSTE Injury Prevention WG</li> <li>• The WG had an interest in developing guidance for STLTs and assembled a small sub-WG</li> <li>• They created a Framework for injury epis to approach injury surveillance during COVID and for future PHEs</li> <li>• Link: <a href="https://cste-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/misrael_cste_org/ES1lap9LMxIMiU4kABxYx5MBMmKB7gsRnVMdL7dLVpsLeA?e=wyHEsy">https://cste-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/misrael_cste_org/ES1lap9LMxIMiU4kABxYx5MBMmKB7gsRnVMdL7dLVpsLeA?e=wyHEsy</a></li> </ul> <p><i>Feedback:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congratulate the WG on the work. This is a wonderful document that while oriented to COVID-19 and injuries is an example of how epidemiologists should think about their data and analyses, whether or not related to COVID-19. I recommend that it not die with interest in COVID-19 and be used in an ongoing way for the epi community.</li> <li>• Would like to share with occupational health SC members – we would be interested in looking at it from an OH injury perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, you can share and we are happy to receive feedback: <a href="mailto:misrael@cste.org">misrael@cste.org</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• For context on reviews/approvals internally- this has been reviewed by the larger Injury Surveillance Workgroup and subcommittee co-chairs. CSTE Injury/SUMH Steering Committee co-chairs will review and give final approval after the Core Group feedback.</li> <li>• Is health equity addressed and incorporated? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thank you for this feedback. This will be addressed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>If you have any other questions or feedback on the document, please email: Mia Israel <a href="mailto:misrael@cste.org">misrael@cste.org</a></b></p> |
| 4. | STLT Long COVID Approaches Document                                | <p><b>STLT Long COVID Approaches Document, Marci Layton, CSTE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSTE Long COVID WG of approximately 30 members.</li> <li>• Developing a document sharing what STLTs are doing for approaches to data collection and surveillance</li> <li>• This will be the last COVID document from CSTE preparedness group</li> <li>• A lot of great overviews from jurisdictions on their approaches which will be included</li> <li>• Will share on the next Core Epi WG call</li> <li>• Thereafter, will share on ASE call</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 5. | Survey on STLT Approaches to COVID Surveillance after the PHE ends | <p><b>Survey on STLT Approaches to COVID Surveillance after the PHE Ends</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great responses, all but one STLT.</li> <li>• Will present results on Monday's ASE call</li> <li>• And will likely use next Core Epi WG to talk about this in more detail.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 6. | Upcoming Discussion and Agenda Items                               | <p><b>Upcoming Discussion and Agenda Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Next regularly scheduled call: Wednesday 4/19/23 1-2PM ET</u></b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |