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Resilience Report

Brief insights and the latest innovations in emergency management and health security.

It is hard to believe we are one month into 2021 and it has been almost one year since community transmission of COVID-19 was detected in the United States. Although extreme weather and rapid changes in state and national response plans aim to keep us on our toes, some of our favorite ways to unwind also adapt to meet us where we are (i.e. at home). This week on Resilience Report we look back at COVID-19 response efforts while focusing on moving forward with new tools to manage this ongoing pandemic. Plus food, art, and beer.



CA Reopening Could be Yay or Yikes.

This week, the state of California and many of its counties abruptly allowed for some businesses to [start reopening](#). The move is being welcomed by many, but is not without risks, as many health experts note.

First DHS Advisory Bulletin in a Year.


On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned that the country could be at increased [risk of domestic extremist violence](#) in the coming weeks as a result of dissatisfaction with the 2020 election results, [among other things](#).

Extreme Weather Across the U.S.

Severe weather has affected much of the U.S. this week, including [tornados](#) in Florida and [Alabama](#) and an “atmospheric river” is [dumping rain and snow](#) across much of California.

Looking Ahead to Climate Justice.

President Biden is putting environmental justice at the center of his administration’s efforts to [combat climate change](#). He signed an executive order this week with several provisions related to climate equity.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: PANDEMIC FUTURE

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic there have been constant changes. As 2021 begins we look back at what we've learned and forward towards a changing, but hopeful, future in a pandemic era.

Lessons Learned.

- FEMA's [initial assessment](#) report examines its pandemic response operations from January - September 2020 to identify and implement best practices across the agency.
- Since the beginning of the Resilience Report, COVID-19 resources and news have been included making a browse through [past editions](#) a useful retrospective.

Forward Focused.

- The new White House administration recently released the [National Strategy for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness](#) with a goal-focused roadmap for the country to address the ongoing public health crisis. It also held its 1st COVID-19 briefing, pledging to [have scientists lead](#) the efforts to combat this national emergency.
- A survey by the [Business Group on Health](#) explored trends in employer health plan design for 2021 and found many large employers are starting to view their health care strategy as an integral part of their workforce strategy.

Keeping an eye to the future also means following ongoing updates about the virus and vaccines. Here are some key COVID-19 considerations as we continue into 2021, along with some of our favorite resources for staying informed and up-to-date on major developments:

- **Maintaining situational awareness on new variants:** The CDC has a webpage dedicated to [emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants](#), including a [map of U.S. cases](#) caused by these new strains. Checking the sites regularly and staying informed of new developments regarding emerging variants, will be a big consideration in 2021.
- **Understanding the different vaccines.** Bloomberg has a [great resource](#) to keep yourself informed about the differences between all the vaccines as well as their timelines. The New York Times also has some [great articles](#) explaining how different types of COVID-19 vaccines work.
- **Keep doing what you've been doing.** Given the number of unknowns about the effects of the vaccines on viral transmission and the amount of time it will take to reach herd immunity, even [after you receive a vaccine](#) it will continue to be crucial to mask up, social distance, and follow public health guidance.

Experienced CONSTANT staff have expertise in counterterrorism, healthcare security, and emergency management. Shoot us an [email](#) for more information.



Remote Performances.

Looking for a little bit of art in your life? The Broad has you covered with live [performances](#) of music, language, and movement plus [spotlight videos](#) on artists.

Take-Out Food Festival.

If you're in the Los Angeles area, and hungry, the [Re:HER](#) women-owned restaurant festival may hit the spot and help keep locally owned business going. Or, just read the menu to drool and take notes to visit when you're in town.

Culture From Your Couch.

Virtual concerts have become some of the easiest ways to enjoy a bit of culture and fun from the comfort of your own home. [Seattle Symphony](#) has a wonderful virtual lineup in their Masterworks series and even a children focused event.

Mail-In Beer Tastings.

Tasting festivals are hard to duplicate in a COVID-19 era, but [California Craft Beer Week](#) is taking that as a challenge to do something different. If you like craft beer, this might be just the at-home regional tour for you.

We're Here to Support You

If you need help with vaccine planning, COVID-19 AARs, mass fatality planning, EOC surge staff, or anything in between, shoot us an email at jason@constantassociates.com.
We are here to help.



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