

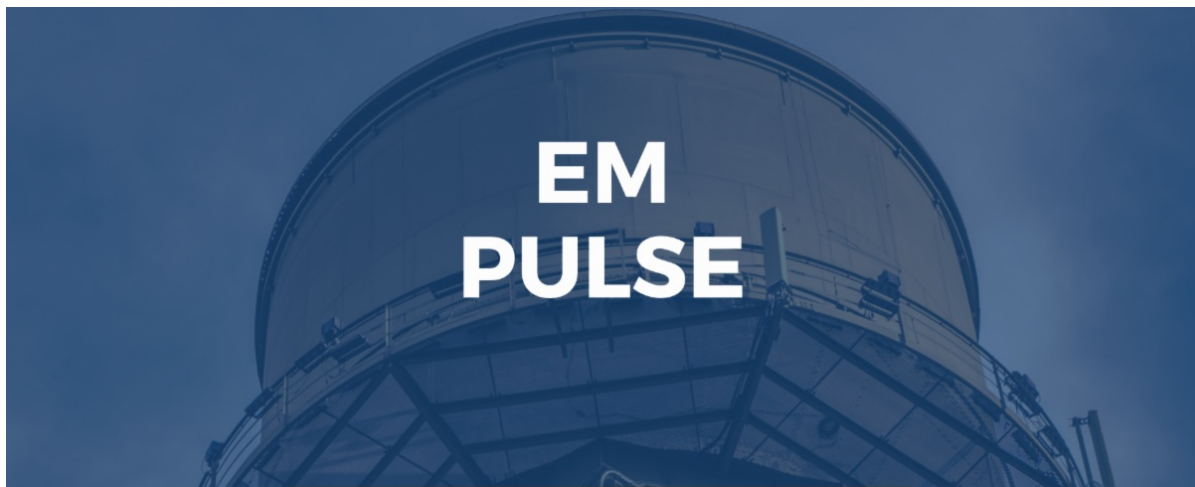


February 12, 2021 | Issue 13

Resilience Report

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

As COVID-19 infection rates continue to decline across the country, distribution of the vaccine remains at the forefront of response efforts. This week on Resilience Report we focus on overcoming the challenges of ensuring that COVID-19 vaccine distribution efforts are accessible and equitable. Plus, trying to balance a week of hate crimes and terrorism with a month celebrating Black history, a New Year, and love.



WHO Fights Fake News on Social Media.

Since the early days of the pandemic, the World Health Organization has partnered with technology companies to [minimize the spread](#) of false information about COVID-19. But many health communication experts warn that the actions taken have not been enough.

State COVID-19 Policy Actions and Data.

The Kaiser Family Foundation just released [a useful tool](#) that breaks down how all 50 states are prioritizing and distributing vaccines. The site also breaks down social distancing actions by state and which states have implemented different policy actions.

String of Attacks on Asian Americans.

Multiple attacks in recent days on Asian Americans have raised concerns about the threat of racially-motivated violence against Asian Americans. Alameda County, California has since created a [special response unit](#) focused on crimes against Asian Americans.

Water Terrorism.

Last week, hackers attempted to [poison the water supply](#) in Oldsmar, Florida by changing the chemical content. Plant operators caught it and were able to intervene, but the attempted attack highlights the vulnerability of the nation's water supply.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: VACCINE EQUITY & ACCESS

In the first month of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution around [13,000,000 people](#) received a dose and now about [10% of the US population](#) has had at least one. With each jurisdiction managing its own distribution plans, there are many opportunities to learn from one another. This is especially true we see that equity and accessibility continue to [be a challenge](#) in many places and there are signs of [potential disparities](#) in access to and uptake of the vaccine. For a deeper CONSTANT exploration of this topic, see our [recent blog post](#).

Planners thinking about accessibility and equitable access for points of dispensing (PODs) may find the following resources provide reminders and examples of how others have worked to make sure all community members can reach and use their PODs.

- The Pacific ADA Center provides not only general [preparedness resources](#) to clarify disability and ADA issues in emergency management, it also has a resource dedicated to [Accessibility at Drive-Through Medical Sites](#).
- As Texas and the White House work hand-in-hand to [establish vaccine mega sites](#), the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index informed where they would be located to reach communities with a high risk of COVID-19 exposure and infection.
- Los Angeles County is taking steps to reach older adults and the elderly who have limited mobility or access to transportation with a [mobile COVID-19 vaccination](#) site that will go door-to-door.

Hot off the press from the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security is [Equity in Vaccination: A Plan to Work with Communities of Color Toward COVID-19 Recovery and Beyond](#). It provides a wealth of suggestions for working with BIPOC communities to improve the reach of vaccination efforts. Below is our condensed version of their five key principles and associated action items.

- **Iteration:** Recognize that repeated engagement with BIPOC communities will be required to build trust over time. Holding "listen-and-plan" sessions where community members can share their thoughts related to COVID-19 vaccination with officials is one step to start doing this.
- **Involvement:** Welcome BIPOC community representatives into the planning and public health processes. An action to begin this could be to create a networking chart to engage trusted leaders, social networks, and pillar institutions in these communities for 2-way communication.
- **Information:** Tailor vaccination messaging to address the specific concerns of BIPOC populations in your community. Feedback from "listen-and-plan" sessions can be a good resource to inform this.
- **Investment:** Work to maintain investments of time, attention, and funding for vaccination efforts in BIPOC communities. One way is by enlisting private enterprises to support vaccination.
- **Integration:** Plan for recovery in BIPOC communities even beyond vaccine

distribution. Look to incorporate the above key principles into ongoing and sustainable community initiatives.

Experienced CONSTANT staff have [provided recommendations](#) on POD planning and vaccine distribution in our blog. Want more information? Shoot us an [email](#).



Climate Inspiration.

If you enjoyed Amanda Gorman's performed poem at the inauguration, you may enjoy this beautiful recorded rendition of her disaster and [climate change inspired poem](#) "Earthrise."

Black History Month Tributes.

One inspiring way to celebrate Black History Month is by reading a [daily thank you letter](#) paying "homage to both the widely known and small-profile giants of Black history." The authors pay tribute to current and historical figures who have inspired them and impacted human history.

February Festivities.

February holidays need a little added sparkle? Check out some virtual [Chinese New Year](#) (2/12/21) and [Valentine's Day](#) (2/14/21) activities to share with friends, family, or coworkers!

Investing in the Future.

Sacramento Kings player Harrison Barnes is on a mission to invest in closing the wealth gap for Black Americans by creating [one million savings accounts](#) for kids this month. He's on his way already with 500 new accounts started!

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.



CONSTANT is certified as an 8(a) and Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Business (EDWOSB) and as a Great Place To Work. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Got this as a forward? You can subscribe to receive future issues of Resilience Report [here](#).



