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Resilience Report

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

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to make news, and not in a good way. The emergence of the Delta variant (and others) and concerns over continued vulnerability and transmission rates have led some officials to enact new mandates and policies. This week, the Resilience Report looks at the new rules being implemented or considered and how to make sure you're protected and informed.



Heatwave and Droughts Continue

The dangerous heat waves sweeping the nation and widespread drought in western states have reduced the levels in [two major water bodies](#), the Great Salt Lake and Lake Powell, to historic lows, and the crisis is expected to get worse.

Record Heat Confirmed

The extreme heat that has been gripping the country continues this month, contributing to the drought conditions and the [wildfires](#) spreading across the Pacific. Now we know that last month was the [hottest June on record](#), breaking multiple records across the U.S.

New COVID Variants Emerge

We've heard a lot about [COVID variants](#), especially since Delta has been in the news quite a bit recently (along with the alpha, beta, gamma, and lambda variants). But now officials are keeping an eye on the emerging [Columbian variant](#), which was responsible for 10% of all new cases in FL last week.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: VACCINATION MANDATES AND POLICIES

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. This week, we are taking a look at employee COVID-19 vaccination mandates and policies that are being implemented by federal, state, and local governments as well as Fortune 500 companies.

- On Monday, the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) became the first federal agency to mandate vaccines for its health care workers. [New York City](#), the city of [Los Angeles](#), and the state of [California](#) also issued similar policies for its city and state employees this week, requiring the vaccine or weekly COVID-19 tests.
- Google, Facebook, Netflix, Morgan Stanley, and BlackRock are among the [Fortune 500](#) companies requiring vaccinations in order for employees to return to the office.
- Advocacy groups are starting to publicly support vaccination mandates, including a [joint statement](#) issued by more than 50 health care organizations calling for mandatory vaccination for all health care employees.
- You can track vaccination rates nationally and in your state and community [here](#).

The Impact of COVID-19 Vaccinations

Although vaccination rates keep rising, vaccine hesitancy continues to be a concern. Improving vaccination coverage will be crucial as we tackle a growing number of COVID-19 variants and a potential resurgence. Here are some ways to start doing that:

Suggestion #1: Understand why individuals are reluctant to get the vaccine by using the four r's (receive, repeat, respond, and refer) to guide discussions with them. This involves listening to vaccine-hesitant individuals and asking questions, repeating information back to demonstrate understanding, responding by asking to share some information, and referring to evidence-based facts.

Suggestion #2: Even if your organization or government isn't considering a mandate, encourage vaccinations among your employees by addressing barriers. Offering paid time off for employees to get the COVID-19 vaccine not only provides an incentive but demonstrates a larger commitment to employee health and wellbeing.

Suggestion #3: Keep up to date on federal guidance. For people who may already be hesitant about getting vaccinated for a variety of reasons, one immediate question is whether vaccine mandates and policies are legal. The Department of Justice answered this question in a July 6 [opinion](#) that became public on Monday.

CONSTANT staff are experienced in developing return to work policies and business continuity plans. [Email](#) us to learn more!



FUN THINGS

Desserts Galore!

For all our sweet-treats lovers out there, there's a lot of opportunities to celebrate, including [National Cheesecake Day](#) (today!), [National Ice Cream Sandwich Day](#), and for a healthier option, [National Watermelon Day](#). Click the links for some ideas of how to celebrate glucose in all its forms!

Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games

The Olympics are underway! Check out the medal count [here](#). And while there are always great stories that come out of the games, we love these about the first [American Taekwondo medal winner](#) and the [support for gymnast Simone Biles](#) after she withdrew from the team and all-around individual finals to focus on her mental health.

Dog Month

August 1 kicks off a month-long celebration of our four-legged friends with National Dog Month. Check out the best LA dog parks [here](#). Ready for a hike? [Here](#) are the best dog-friendly trails in the U.S. for hikers of all intensities.



We're Here to Support You

If you need help with ARPA projects, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, shoot us an email at donna@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.

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