



Resilience Report

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

In this week's Resilience Report, we highlight the latest on COVID-19, provide updates on legislation that could impact the Emergency Management industry, and look ahead to upcoming events, including the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day. And, with Black History Month's theme of Black Health and Wellness, we take an opportunity to spotlight the topic of health equity, providing resources on current circumstances and suggested steps that can be taken by individuals and communities to work towards eliminating health disparities.



Officials Continue to Recognize Terrorism Threats

The U.S. remains in a heightened threat environment per a new DHS [National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin](#). Misleading information, narratives, and conspiracy theories circulated online from both foreign and domestic actors fuel the concerns. Following recent threats directed at [HBCUs](#) and [faith-based institutions](#), the Bulletin also provides information about how DHS and the FBI are responding.

COVID-19's Long-Term Implications

Latest COVID-19 news: 1) recent Senate hearings on lessons learned from COVID-19 relating to [inclusivity](#), the [health care workforce](#), and [funding](#); 2) a [third global pulse survey](#) on continuity of essential health services during the pandemic from the WHO; 3) the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' new [Pandemic Preparedness Plan](#); 4) strengthened bipartisan support for an [independent COVID-19 commission](#); and 5) a [timeline](#) for the authorization of the COVID-19 vaccine for children under 5 years of age.

Representatives Introduce the Active Shooter Alert Act

Recent active shooter incidents at [Bridgewater College](#) and a Fred Meyer grocery store in [Richland, Washington](#) are two in a trend of active shooter incidents per the FBI's [latest report](#). To increase information to communities, two U.S. Representatives introduced the [Active Shooter Alert Act](#) to the House, which proposes creating a system similar to AMBER Alert to notify the public of gun violence.

In headlines over the past few weeks, DHS has launched a [Cyber Safety Review Board](#) to unite the government and industry leaders in strengthening cyber security; implications of the [Tonga Eruption](#) continue to emerge; disaster preparedness at the [Bureau of Prisons](#) can be improved per a GAO report; and the [FIRE Act](#), which would amend the Stafford Act, [passed out](#) of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee last week.



Every issue, we'll dedicate space for a topic that we think is especially important for public health representatives to read. In honor of Black History Month, this week we're looking at health equity, the right to health and healthcare without "[unfair, unavoidable, or remediable differences](#)" in the care they receive due to race, socio-economic status, or social group. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted these issues.

- FEMA announced that [Black Health and Wellness](#) is the focus of Black History Month. In a time when Black Americans suffer [higher rates of drug overdose deaths, higher maternal mortality rates, lower COVID-19 vaccination rates](#), addressing these disparities in health is paramount.
- The [GAO released a report](#) on Monday on the CDC's, HRSA's, and FEMA's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. While the CDC surpassed the program goal of providing at least 40 percent of vaccines to racial and ethnic groups besides non-Hispanic White, all three agencies appeared to lag in providing some groups (i.e., non-Hispanic Black) with vaccines in numbers proportional to population data. Although the data is incomplete, the current results indicate unequal vaccine distribution.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) aims to [centralize health information about the most vulnerable populations](#) with a standardized database across government programs, streamlining abilities to provide benefits to vulnerable clients. This automation would speed up services like dental care, behavioral health and substance use disorder treatments, and maternal care, all services that disproportionately impact minority populations.
- At the federal level, [CMS and HHS](#) have plans to promote health equity in 2022. States like [California](#) are already using data to develop health programs aimed at reversing injustices. Meanwhile, companies like [Uber](#), [CVS](#), [JPMorgan Chase](#), [Deloitte](#), and many others are taking action to help dismantle systemic disparities in healthcare.

How You Can Promote Health Equity

Improving healthcare access and quality for diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural groups and individuals with access and functional needs takes effort at every level of the community. Individuals can make a difference in changing the ways that the health system treats historically underserved communities.

- **Understanding the barriers:** [Structural racism](#) in U.S. health policy has a [generational impact](#) on minority community health. One of the best ways to help

eradicate disparity in care is to [understand how racism has shaped the policies and laws driving health and healthcare access](#). Issues like [poor research data quality](#) and [spatial access](#) to hospitals contribute to systemic inequity.

- **Addressing the barriers:** [Dismantling the structural barriers](#) requires trust in healthcare providers. However, [building trust](#) with vulnerable communities takes time. [Working with community leaders](#), providing resources in multiple languages, and using appropriate images and messages in outreach campaigns can help. [Educating providers](#) on how to combat disparities, focusing on [mitigating the effects of climate change](#), and [multi-faceted research approaches](#) also impact health equity.
- **Supporting Equity Efforts with Actions:** [Bridging the gap between public health needs and education](#) and [corrective legislation](#) can promote [justice in healthcare](#). Community Health Needs Assessments and After Action Reports can provide insight into disparities and needs, health equity practices, and areas of improvement. For information on [grant funding](#) opportunities, check out the Journal of Health Affairs.



Super Bowl LVI

The Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals face off this Sunday in Super Bowl LVI, and the Rams are currently [favored](#) by just 3.5 points. We love a good game as much as anyone, but the Super Bowl is also about the food and the commercials (we've got your sneak peaks right [here!](#)) If you're hosting, [here's](#) some recipe ideas, or if you're in the LA area and are looking for a party, check out the host city's [events](#).

All You Need Is Love

Valentine's Day, this Monday, February 14, is widely celebrated by sweethearts with flowers, candy, and more. If you don't have a gift idea yet, we have you covered with [these](#) suggestions for luxury gifts on any budget. Or consider making the day extra-special with a [unique activity](#). And for our history buffs, [here](#) are some interesting (and surprising) facts about the day's history.

To Top It All Off

If the Super Bowl and Valentine's Day aren't enough, we're also tracking the Olympics, including the current [medal count](#) and one of the [history-making events](#). And the 2022 [Oscar nominations](#) were announced this week (you still have time to watch the nominated films, as the ceremony is scheduled for March 27).



The CONSTANT Team is here to support you.

If you need help with disaster preparedness, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, shoot us an email at donna@constantassociates.com. We are here to help.

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