



April 8, 2022 | Issue 43

Resilience Report

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

The past few weeks have been busy for the government, with the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget being introduced and legislation with implications for emergency management and public health making their rounds. Amidst this, officials prepare for a possible resurgence in new daily COVID-19 cases while trying to incorporate lessons learned in ongoing response and recovery. So this week, we provide resources, best practices, and tips relevant to the COVID-19 After Action Report (AAR) process. We'll also highlight the upcoming holidays and the latest in sports.



Tornado Season Starting Off Strong

- After [record-setting tornadoes last month](#), the southern U.S. experienced heavy rain, hail, and dozens of tornadoes this week, resulting in [at least two deaths](#). The storms are moving north, leaving over 12 million people at [risk of severe thunderstorms](#) in North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida. Here's a [refresher on tornadoes](#), just in time for peak tornado season.

Tribal Public Health Security and Preparedness

- In a step toward reducing health inequity in tribal entities, a group of senators advanced the [CDC Tribal Public Health Security and Preparedness Act](#) this week. If passed, this bill would remove a restriction on the CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness program and would set aside grant funds for Tribes.

Show Us the (FY 2023) Money

- The Biden-Harris Administration's proposed budget for the FY 2023 includes [increased funding for state and local governments](#) for several initiatives, including community violence prevention, environmental cleanup, hazard mitigation, infrastructure projects, and affordable housing. The FY 2023 budget also includes more [funding for pandemic preparedness and biodefense](#). Next up, the budget goes to the House and Senate for approval.

CISA Declares Inaugural Emergency Communications Month

- April is now CISA's [Emergency Communications Month](#). This campaign provides [resources](#) to raise awareness of the importance of emergency communications during natural disasters, cybersecurity incidents, and other hazards. Next week is also [National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week \(NPSTW\)](#), which honors the importance of communications personnel in promoting public safety.



Every issue, we'll dedicate space for a topic that we think is especially important for emergency management and public health professionals to read. This week, we highlight the importance of using lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic for shaping ongoing response and preparation for the next disaster. A COVID-19 AAR and Improvement Plan (IP) can bolster your organization's readiness and serve as a road map. Below we highlight available resources to help your jurisdiction:

- This U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) [Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange](#) (TRACIE) document highlights templates, elements to consider, and sample reports. Hint: You might see CONSTANT's very first [COVID-19 AAR](#) on this list.
- The pandemic has provided an opportunity for leaders to reevaluate how they address equitable preparedness and recovery for the whole community. You can use Cal OES's [Inclusive Planning Blueprint for Addressing Access and Functional Needs at Mass Testing and Vaccination Sites](#) (supported by yours truly) to evaluate the equity of your mass testing and mass vaccination plans and understand how to strengthen physical and programmatic accessibility.

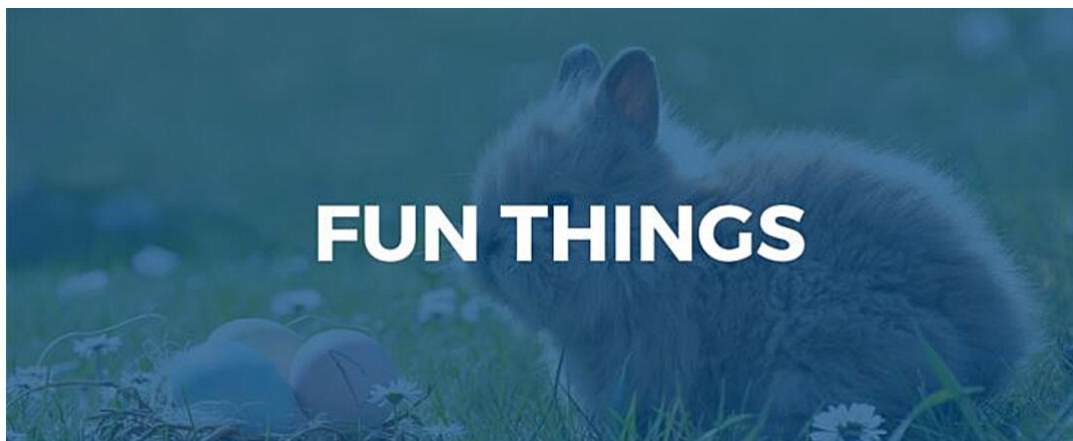
Tips from CONSTANT's In-House Experts to Develop an Actionable AAR

CONSTANT has developed more than a dozen COVID-19 AARs for clients across the country that include state and local Offices of Emergency Management and Departments of Public Health, hospitals, and higher education. Our health security experts have extensive experience facilitating the AAR process, from initiation, to data collection, to report writing. Below, we highlight tips for successful AAR development:

- **Foster Buy-In Within Your Organization:** Kristen Baird is CONSTANT's Health Security Practice Lead. She has over twelve (12) years of experience in public health that includes leading COVID AARs for notable state and local clients, serving as a Subject Matter Expert in Puerto Rico during the Zika outbreak, and developing the H1N1 Response Plan for the Louisiana Department of Health. Kristen stresses that the key to a successful COVID-19 AAR process is **buy-in from the bottom-up**

and top-down with engagement from middle managers. A pre-AAR planning session that engages multiple levels of staff can set realistic expectations of what individuals will need to contribute to process a valuable investment for the organization. Coming to a consensus on the AAR framework internally not only clearly defines the details that will help inform the report, but can link to how the organization will implement the report findings into ongoing improvement.

- **Encourage Continuous Positivity and Outlook:** Jessica Driskill is currently an Associate with CONSTANT. She has over twelve (12) years of experience that includes serving as a Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Healthcare Coalition Coordinator with Butte County Public Health and serving in leadership roles in the development of COVID-19 AARs for jurisdictions across California, Arizona, and Washington. Jessica emphasizes that it is critical that stakeholders remain engaged throughout the AAR development process. **Setting a positive tone for the report and highlighting its potential impacts** to stakeholders through multiple emails, meetings, and newsletters will strengthen its outcomes.
- **Clearly Define the Parameters of the Report:** Hieu Vo is an Associate with CONSTANT who specializes in promoting safety and equity for all communities following complex incidents. This has included the development of COVID-19 AARs for organizations across the U.S., including one of CONSTANT's first ever COVID-19 AARs. Hieu notes the importance of **identifying themes to address in the AAR and IP** to ensure that priorities remain the focus, especially given the large volume of data that will be collected and the nuances that might be revealed. If necessary, additional AARs can be developed to focus in depth on specific functions.



The Spring Holiday Season

Next week includes prominent holidays [Ramadan](#), [Passover](#), and [Easter](#). We pulled some [Ramadan traditions](#), [73 Passover recipes](#), and all of the [best Easter candy](#) to enjoy next week.

Celebrate Your Animal Companion

In case you need an excuse to spoil your fur baby, Monday is [National Pet Day](#)! You can help animal shelters before [busy season](#) by volunteering, donating supplies, and fostering. Or head over to [adoptapet.com](#) to search for your new best friend.

The Latest in Sports

Missing March Madness? Don't worry, yesterday was [MLB Opening Day](#), and we look at early [predictions for the season](#). [Tiger is back at Augusta](#), and [the Official Masters' site](#) covers all your favorites.



We're 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.

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 by clicking [here](#).



Constant Associates, 21250 Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 400, Torrance, CA 90503
[Manage preferences](#)