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## Resilience Report

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

### The 4-Year "Anniversary" of COVID-19



On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 characterized a [public health emergency of international concern \(PHEIC\)](#). By March 11, 2020, the WHO's Director-General announced the assessment of the global COVID-19 outbreak as a [pandemic](#). Though there had been several months of COVID-19 activity across the globe by this juncture, the characterization of the coronavirus as a pandemic marked a pivotal action that reflected the outbreak's increasing level of spread and severity, and further actions, like stay-at-home orders, would begin in the U.S. in upcoming days.

After more than three years, the federal [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration](#) ended and the [WHO](#) determined COVID-19 as an "established and ongoing health issue which no longer constitutes a PHEIC" in May 2023. However, transmission continues at present, and indicators can be monitored on the [CDC's COVID Data Tracker](#).

As CONSTANT reflects on the events of the pandemic, we do so with the utmost sympathy for the millions of people and their loved ones who been impacted by COVID-19

related infections, hospitalizations, and deaths.

**"Anniversary" In the News:** Media outlets are reflecting on the fourth "anniversary" of the WHO's characterization of COVID-19 as a pandemic in many different ways. Below are links to select new sources.

- **Time Magazine:** Authored by Dr. Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the WHO, "[COVID-19 Shows Why the World Needs a Pandemic Agreement](#)," explains the difference between the PHEIC declared on January 30, 2020 and his characterization of COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020. While the PHEIC has a legal and technical meaning, "pandemic" is a descriptor rather than a designation. Dr. Adhanom Ghebreyesus also reinforces the importance of developing an international agreement on pandemic preparedness and response to solidify how countries will work together in the future to counter a future pandemic.
- **Science News:** An article published by *Science News* focuses on pandemic-related grief and spotlights the pending resolution to commemorate the first Monday in March as "[COVID-19 Victims Memorial Day](#)." Also cited is a George Washington University project on memorialization, misinformation, and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic titled [Rituals in the Making](#).
- **ABC News:** A [timeline](#) outlined by ABC News takes a look at key milestones between December 2019 and March 2024 to show both its devastating impacts and successes toward mitigating those over a four-year period. A separate article also looks at COVID-19 [by the numbers](#).
- **U.S. News:** Long COVID and its impacts are explored. At time of writing, there is not approved treatments or tests for long COVID despite 17% of U.S. adults reporting experiencing it per a [Household Pulse survey](#) conducted by the Census Bureau/National Center for Health Statistics. When extrapolated, this could mean 45M+ Americans have suffered from long COVID.

**Additional COVID-19 Related Updates:** Stay up-to-date on all things COVID-19 and pandemic preparedness. Additional updates to guidance, hearings, and research include:

- **Updated Respiratory Virus Recommendations:** Earlier this month, the CDC updated its [respiratory virus recommendations](#), which apply to a range of viruses that includes COVID-19, the flu, and RSV. The recommendations suggest that people should stay home and away from others until one is both fever-free for 24 hours, and symptoms are getting better. Added precautions should then be taken for the next five (5) days. In addition to this guidance, the CDC reinforces core prevention strategies like immunizations and hygiene as well as additional prevention strategies like masks and distancing. Read the full press release [here](#).
- **Hearing on the White House's Role in Pandemic Preparedness and Response:** Last week, the Select Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing titled "Examining the White House's Role in Pandemic Preparedness and Response" to discuss the Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy (est. in 2023). Read a [summary](#) or watch the hearing in the [link](#).
- **Current Perceptions of COVID-19 and Vaccines:** A new survey from the [Pew Research Center](#) provides figures for various COVID-19 topics like vaccination, long COVID, perception of threat, personal concern, and more.

**What Your Agency Can Do:** CONSTANT is working with multiple organizations to update Infectious Disease Emergency Response (IDER) or Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) Plans to incorporate COVID-19 best practices and lessons learned. The "anniversary" of COVID-19 marks an opportunity to review, update, and/or further implement your agency's COVID-19 After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP), coordinate with your partners through plan development, training, and exercises, invest in strengthening health equity, and ultimately sustain preparedness and resilience efforts for emerging threats. Looking to get started? [ASPR TRACIE](#) compiles resources across topic collections.

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# Upcoming Conferences

CONSTANT team members will be at a number of upcoming industry conferences. We look forward to connecting with our clients, partners, and colleagues at each of these events.

## Joint Civil and DOD CBRN

### Symposium

**Jeff Philippart, Business  
Development Director, is  
attending the  
Symposium.**

**Washington, D.C.  
March 13-14**



# NEMA Mid-Year

## Forum

Portfolio Leads  
Mona Bontty and Ali Leis  
are attending the  
Mid-Year Forum.

Washington, D.C.  
March 17-21



## 2024 Preparedness

### Summit

Portfolio Lead Ali Leis  
and Senior Associate  
Jessica Driskill  
are attending the  
Preparedness Summit.

Cleveland, OH  
March 25-28



## In the News



### Countering Violent Extremism

A GAO Report submitted in late February recommended that DHS and the FBI develop strategies and goals for sharing information with and receiving information from social media and gaming companies on threats related to domestic terrorism. While each agency has mechanisms for sharing information, defining these goals would enable less of an ad-hoc approach and would facilitate better communications and resource sharing.

[Read More](#)



## Largest Wildfire in TX History

In late February/early March, Texas experienced multiple wildfires, including the Smokehouse Creek Fire, which has burned more than 1M acres and is 87% contained at time of writing. It will likely take the [agriculture industry](#) years to recover from the impacts. Dangerous [fire weather conditions](#) continue for northern TX as well as other parts of the Great Plains through the remainder of the week. More updates from TX Governor Abbott are linked below.

[Read More](#)



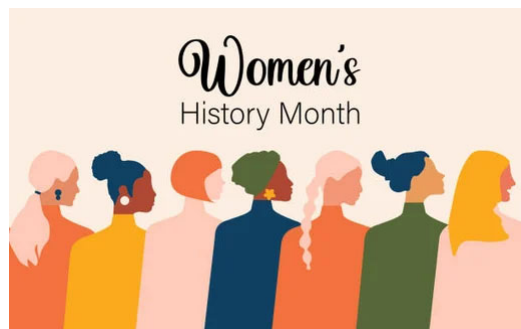
## Solar Eclipse Upcoming on Apr. 8

On April 8, 2024, a [total solar eclipse](#) will pass over the U.S. Occurring when the Moon passes between Sun and Earth, the sky will darken as if it is dawn or dusk for those in select locations between Texas and Maine. To emergency management, public safety, and healthcare agencies preparing for the event, resources from [CISA](#) and ASPR TRACIE (below) may be helpful. We urge all of our readers to stay safe with these important tips from [NASA](#)!

[Read More](#)

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## The Fun Stuff





### Honoring Women's History Month

This year's [National Women's History Month's](#) theme is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion." CONSTANT, a women-owned small business, joins this celebration to honor women, past and present, who have advocated for EDI in the workplace and beyond.

### Feeling Lucky This St. Patrick's Day

Read all about the history of St. Patrick's Day [here](#). Interested in attending a parade? Here are the [10 best](#) across the U.S. Celebrate another way by wearing green to select [Krispy Kreme](#) locations March 15-17 to get a free donut or try their limited time flavors.

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### We're Here to Support You

If you need help with disaster preparedness, infectious disease planning, or anything in between, send us an email at [staff@constantassociates.com](mailto:staff@constantassociates.com). We are here to help.

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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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