



# COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities

## Strategies and Practices for an Equitable Reopening and Recovery



Equity Playbook Bulletin – December 2021

*The [COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities](#) (Equity Playbook) supports local communities in building an equitable recovery. Through these [Equity Playbook Bulletins](#), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Equity Technical Assistance Team continues to collect and share new equity resources, best practices and strategies.*

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For more information about any of these resources and population-specific contacts, or to share suggestions for topics or resources to include in future Equity Playbook Bulletins, please contact our Equity Playbook Coordinator: [Eileen.Liu@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Eileen.Liu@cdph.ca.gov).

## Crosscutting Strategies

### Communications

- **[Community Toolkit for Addressing Health Misinformation](#)**. The [U.S. Surgeon General](#) has developed a toolkit that provides specific guidance and resources for health care providers, educators, librarians, faith leaders, and trusted community members to understand, identify, and stop the spread of health misinformation in their communities. This includes a [22-page overview of the health misinformation and resources](#) to prevent it, ["Talk to Your Community About Health Misinformation"](#) Infographic and ["Health Misinformation Checklist"](#) Infographic.

### Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- **[Public Health Alliance Regional Equity Learning Collaborative](#)**. The [Public Health Alliance of Southern California](#) launched a [Regional Equity Learning Collaborative \(Alliance Equity Collaborative\)](#) with a two-year, cross-departmental collaborative of public health departments throughout Southern California committed to advancing equity locally and creating a vision for equity for the region. The Collaborative brings together public health leaders from across disciplines, including health and race equity, epidemiology, environmental health, health education, and more. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from public health leaders from across the region, identify promising practices for advancing equity both here in California and across the nation, and co-create solutions in partnership with the communities they serve.

### Mental Health Care

- **[Resources to Help Prevent Trauma and Suicide During Catastrophic Events](#)**. [Prevention Institute](#) released [online modules to support communities in understanding recent national trends](#) and use interactive tools to identify local communities at elevated risk for suicide; exploring promising interventions addressing the unique needs of communities at high-risk; understanding how the CDC's technical package and other tools and frameworks can support suicide-prevention efforts; and rapidly assessing local fit and feasibility of best available evidence from CDC's technical package during catastrophic events and beyond.

## Longer-term COVID-19 Response Strategies

### Cross-sectoral Collaboration and Health in All Policies (HiAP)

- **[COVID-19 Equity Investment Guide](#)**. The [Bay Area Regional Inequities Initiative \(BARHII\)](#) has updated the COVID-19 Rolling Response and Recovery Plan, and created a companion COVID-19 Equity Investment Guide series. This version, updated for the summer/fall of 2021, retains some focus on crisis response, but contains more strategies and principles for an equitable longer-term recovery in light of historic state and federal investments. The investment guide will support local governments in planning for a COVID-19 rolling recovery process that safeguards the health and economic well-being of everyone who calls the Bay Area home.
- **[Analysis on Health and Social Vulnerabilities Across Communities](#)**. The [California Pan-Ethnic Health Network \(CPEHN\)](#) conducted an analysis of California's recent COVID-19 response strategies which relied on Area Based Social Indices tools to address COVID-19 inequities. CPEHN analyzed quantitative data publicly available through the California Department of Public Health, and collected additional qualitative information through interviews with a number of CPEHN's community partners, who helped racially and ethnically diverse Californians receive the COVID-19 vaccine. CPEHN identified fifteen priority recommendations tied to the four findings from the analysis to effectively address and prioritize racial and health equity. For more information, please review the [Nothing About Us Without Us One-Pager](#) and [Nothing About Us Without Us FAQ](#).
- **[Equitable Recovery Efforts Led by Community-Based Organizations Report](#)**. This report, created by the [California Pan-Ethnic Health Network \(CPEHN\)](#), [ChangeLab Solutions](#), and [Prevention Institute](#), with contributions from 21 California Community Based Organizations— provides recommendations for policymakers and community leaders on opportunities to improve California's efforts toward an equitable recovery from the social, economic, and health effects of the pandemic. Further information about this report can be found on the [CPEHN Publication](#) page.
- **[Local Government Guide for Centering Communities Impacted by Inequities](#)**. The [Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative \(BARHII\)](#)'s latest research-based tool, the [Farther Together Guide](#), is intended to help local governments step up to the growing inequity challenges. This guide provides a plan for public agencies to engage communities in climate resilience planning and disaster response to foster a healthy, resilient future for the Bay Area. It also provides detailed recommendations for policymakers and practitioners on centering communities impacted by inequities. For more information about the Farther Together Guide can be found on the [BARHII: Farther Together Guide](#) publication page.
- **[COVID-19 Equity Lessons for the Climate Crisis](#)**. In November, CDPH's Office of Health Equity's [Climate Change and Health Equity Section](#) and the [California Air Resources Board \(CARB\)](#) convened the Public Health Workgroup of the California Climate Action Team (CAT-PHWG) for a workgroup meeting focused on the lessons learned from COVID-19 equity actions, and how they can be leveraged to strengthen climate action planning and community resilience to the health impacts of the changing climate. For more information, please review the [CAT-PHWG Agenda](#) and [CAT-PHWG Recording](#).

### Trauma-informed Response

- **[Sexual Violence in Disasters Guide](#)**. The [National Sexual Violence Resource Center's](#) newly updated [Sexual Violence in Disasters guide](#) draws from research, reporting, and the lived experiences of survivors to explore the connections between sexual violence and disasters, the inequities that shape them both, the lessons to be learned from the resilience of survivors and their communities, and opportunities to prevent sexual violence before, during, and after disasters. Population-specific Response Strategies

## Native American Communities: Resources

- **[Climate Preparation in Indian Country: Protecting Tribal Health in Crisis](#)**. The [Tribal Climate Health Project \(TCHP\)](#) collected resourceful approaches to crisis response and recovery in Indigenous communities and considers how new knowledge, lessons, examples, and practices can be applied by Tribes to strengthen preparedness for future emergencies. This includes climate change, in areas focused on health service education, data tracking, emergency planning and much more. For more information on this report, please visit the [TCHP publication page](#).
- **[Cultural Humility: Basics for Working with California Native Americans](#)**. The [Office of the Tribal Advisor](#) created an informative training presentation for California State professionals focused on the basic for working with California Native Americans to promote better understanding of the issues and backgrounds of California's Native American population. This training includes information about the cultural and historical backgrounds of California Native American individuals, communities, and tribes for professionals to gain a better understanding of the issues to improve collaboration and communication. For more resources, please visit [Office of the Tribal Advisor Resources](#) page.

***Please note:** These resources, best practices, and strategies have been included based on self-identification or partner referral. This Bulletin does not represent CDPH's connection with, or approval or endorsement of, all the listed content and their sources. These materials are being shared to help support and elevate dialogue and collaboration across equity focused state and local teams.*