

# Frequently Asked Questions

## National Syndromic Surveillance Program

### Community of Practice (NSSP CoP)

#### **1. Why isn't CDC continuing its partnership with ISDS?**

CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS) coordinates funding opportunities for capacity building through the National Partnerships' "umbrella" cooperative agreement (<https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/partnerships/capacity-building-assistance-OT18-1802.html>). CDC's NSSP uses the CSTLTS Partnership umbrella cooperative agreement mechanism to carry out surveillance-related activities.

In late 2018, CSTLTS announced 39 recipients of the 5-year funding opportunity for the National Partnerships cooperative agreement. These 39 were selected from 120 applicants through an extensive objective review process. These 39 national partners are now eligible to further compete for funding opportunities available throughout CDC. Unfortunately, ISDS was not selected as an organization for the Partnership umbrella cooperative agreement mechanism. Therefore, ISDS will not be able to participate in further competition to support the NSSP Community of Practice.

NSSP is working with CSTLTS to identify and fund a new partner (out of the eligible 39) to facilitate the NSSP Community of Practice. The competitive process should be completed over the summer and the new partner announced in September 2019.

#### **2. How long will the NSSP Community of Practice resources be available on the ISDS website?**

The International Society for Disease Surveillance (ISDS) website will remain a resource throughout the term of the cooperative agreement, which ends June 30, 2019. When the cooperative agreement ends, ISDS will provide materials identified in the transition plan to CDC.

#### **3. Will NSSP Community of Practice membership lists be transitioned?**

Yes. ISDS will email the NSSP community and ask members to (1) update their member information on [www.healthsurveillance.org](http://www.healthsurveillance.org) and (2) grant ISDS permission to share their contact information with CDC and the new partner.

#### **4. Will the Knowledge Repository remain available to the NSSP Community of Practice?**

ISDS will maintain the Knowledge Repository, syndrome library, webinar library, NSSP Community of Practice membership directory, and other services throughout the current cooperative agreement, which ends June 30, 2019. Both ISDS and CDC would like for this body of work to remain available. ISDS and CDC/NSSP are finalizing the transition plan to move resources to CDC, and details will follow.

**5. The NSSP Community of Practice has accumulated 3 years of resources through the work of the groups. Is there a plan to maintain these group-related resources?**

ISDS CDC/NSSP are finalizing the transition plan to move resources to CDC, and details will follow. The transition plan will address resources and specify which data will be packaged and given to NSSP when the cooperative agreement ends (June 30, 2019).

**6. What will happen to the monthly NSSP Community of Practice (NSSP CoP) conference call and the NSSP CoP workgroups and committees?**

The monthly NSSP CoP members' call and the NSSP CoP workgroups and committees are essential. They provide a valuable service to the community AND guide program priorities. Throughout the transition, the NSSP will try to ensure continuity in the support it provides. NSSP will schedule meetings, take notes, and provide teleconference support for the monthly NSSP CoP call and regularly scheduled workgroup and committee meetings.

**7. In the future, will a cost be associated with participating in the NSSP Community of Practice (NSSP CoP)?**

No, there will not be a cost associated with participating in the NSSP CoP or accessing its resources. The NSSP CoP adheres to federal regulations and **cannot charge** for membership or participation. Whatever partner organization is awarded the new CoP cooperative agreement, it *cannot charge* for CoP membership-associated services.

**8. How can we stay up-to-date with the transition of the NSSP Community of Practice (CoP) to a new partner? What if we have questions?**

NSSP will use several channels to inform the community, including communications from the NSSP CoP Group Chairs and Co-Chairs, email communications, monthly [NSSP Update newsletter](#), and CDC's NSSP website ([www.cdc.gov/nssp](http://www.cdc.gov/nssp)).

**9. If I have questions, who do I contact?**

Please send your questions to the NSSP mailbox: [nssp@cdc.gov](mailto:nssp@cdc.gov). If you have questions for the ISDS team, contact Director of Informatics Emilie Lamb ([elamb@syndromic.org](mailto:elamb@syndromic.org)).