



*Environmental Health Officer  
Professional Advisory Committee*



# The EHO Assessment

**June 2020 News and Updates**

*A place to learn about current events and updates from the EHOPAC*

## **EHOPAC Leadership Updates**

Welcome to another edition of the new all-digital format for sharing EHO News and Updates. This web-enabled format is intended to provide timely updates for officers; we welcome your feedback!

### **Message from EHOPAC Leadership:**

Plans change. That fact is especially apparent this month with the cancellation of major PHS, professional and personal events. EHOs know how to be resourceful and adaptable, and the EHOPAC is no different. We are facing the unexpected with **innovation, flexibility and empathy**. Please read on to learn how the EHOPAC is exploring new opportunities and maintaining essential services, to support and advocate for our category and the environmental health profession despite changing circumstances and resources.

Back by popular demand and including some new items, the following links provide EHO-specific resources for COVID-19 response guidance:

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

- [PPE Donning and Doffing with Gown](#) (using Example #2 going from dirty to clean)
- [Respirator Donning and Doffing](#)
- [Gloves Doffing Procedure](#)
- World Health Organization [Donning](#) and [Doffing](#) Tyvek suits (open with Internet Explorer if Chrome does not work)

- [OSHA Respiratory Training Videos](#)
- [Optimizing Healthcare Supply of Personal Protective Equipment – CDC Page](#)

#### Considerations for Healthcare Personnel & Infection Control

- [CDC Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for COVID-19 Patients](#)
- [What Healthcare Personnel Should Know about Caring for COVID-19 Patients](#)
- [Return-to-work Guidance and Risk Assessment Matrix for Healthcare Personnel](#)

#### Considerations for Food Supply and Drug Safety

- [Food and Drug Administration COVID-19 Guidance Resources](#)

#### More Information

- [American Industrial Hygiene Association Back to Work Safely Resources](#) (NEW!)
- [OSHA COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- [FEMA COVID-19 Response Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#) (NEW!)
- [Public Health Recommendations from CDC for Community Exposure](#)

## Important EHOPAC Updates

### Career Development:

The **Continuing Education Summary Template** was reviewed for 2020 and there were no significant changes. The latest version should be posted to the EHOPAC website in the near future, along with the latest version of the **Career Progression Milestones**.

### Readiness:

On March 20, 2020, CCHQ granted a 90-day extension for **APFT, BLS, and PHU readiness requirements** expiring between the April 1 and June 1 readiness checks. CCHQ is now working to extend officer readiness waivers beyond June. EHOs are encouraged to check RedDOG Self-Service and the Officer Secure Area dashboard for the latest information and ways to complete waived readiness requirements, if possible. Please note that Retention Weight Standards are not included in the waivers issued by CCHQ, so officers should continue to progress toward achieving their retention weight standards.

On April 2, 2020, CCHQ issued [Personnel Operations Memorandum \(POM\) 821.76](#) which outlines **Procedures for Deployment** of officers in the Corps and implements previously issued CCD 121.02 “Deployment and Readiness” and CCI 241.02 “Deployment of Corps Officers” policies. The POM defines Mission Critical (MC) Designation, details changes to “on-call” and “backup” scheduling that are likely to shake-up existing Tier 1, 2, and 3 teams and rosters, and establishes “General Orders” for conduct on deployments. All EHOs are encouraged to be familiar with this POM, as changes underway now will impact current and future deployments.

### Marketing and Recruitment:

If you are stationed near one of the schools below or visit the area periodically, please consider applying to become an **Adopt-a-School** representative of the EHOPAC Marketing and Recruitment Subcommittee. We are looking for an Officer to 'adopt':

- Baylor University – Waco, TX
- Fort Valley State University – Fort Valley, GA
- Mississippi Valley State University – Itta Bena, MS
- Ohio University – Athens, OH
- Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY

Officers who volunteer (e.g., adopt a particular school) are expected to serve as a point-of-contact for that institution, routinely communicate with key faculty and staff, and provide periodic recruitment representations and outreach support. If you are interested, please contact LCDR Dustin Joplin ([Dustin.Joplin@ihs.gov](mailto:Dustin.Joplin@ihs.gov)).

The EHO **JRCOSTEP application window** will be open from June 1, 2020 until September 30, 2020 for JRCOSTEP opportunities during the summer of 2021! Interested students should [submit an application](#).

Please reach out to interested students and accredited programs to share this opportunity. Students must have completed at least two years of study in an accredited baccalaureate program and be returning to school in the fall of 2021.

For more information visit our [JRCOSTEP student website](#) and the [EHOPAC's Resources website](#). Specific questions should be directed to [costep@hhs.gov](mailto:costep@hhs.gov).

If you are interested in becoming a JRCOSTEP Preceptor in 2021, please reach out to the JRCOSTEP Workgroup. For more information, please see the [Benefits of Hiring a JRCOSTEP brochure](#) and the [JRCOSTEP Preceptor Guide](#)

## **Mentoring and Orientation:**

The Mentoring and Orientation Subcommittee is excited to announce **the March Officer Basic Course (OBC) graduation** of 2 new EHOs! See next section for names. Although M&O Subcommittee representatives were unable to welcome the graduates in person due to the COVID-19 response, the welcome packets were emailed to these new officers.

## **Commissioned Corps Headquarters (CCHQ) Updates**

CCHQ recently released updated COVID-19 Protection Measures Guidance. Check your eCMCS Messaging Inbox for the message dated June 10. A brief summary follows:

All Officers remain on **"deployment alert" status**. Visit [Deployments Readiness Updates](#).

**Award submissions** are suspended until 30 days after a new Awards Program Policy.

Corps Care Program has many COVID19 resources for you. Visit [CCMIS Corps Care Page](#).

**Delta Dental** will no longer mail explanation of benefits after June 30, 2020. Officers can sign up for online notification following directions in the eCMCS message.

Stay tuned for **CCHQ Training** on deployments and responses. You can view info sessions on recent policies on the [USPHS Training Page](#).

Inform Medical Affairs Branch if you or a close contact have **tested positive** for COVID-19.

**A reminder for EHOs to check and update** their Self-Service deployment information. The [EHOPAC Readiness Subcommittee page](#) has readiness and deployment guidance information.

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On May 11, the **Office of the Surgeon General** issued the [New Public Health Report](#). There are a variety of public health topics and areas of research discussed throughout this report, from eSports to HIV transmission to drug injection and much more.

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CCHQ issued an email on May 15 reminding all officers of our ongoing responsibility to maintain the integrity of our federal duties as we work through COVID19. There might be **ethics-related concerns** when officers or family members are invested in companies providing COVID-19 response supplies. Officers should review this email and contact ethics coordinator or supervisor if there is any uncertainty as to whether you need to take action.

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CCHQ recently released **three new policy updates**. CCHQ developed [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) and a [webinar](#) for each to help Commissioned Corps officers understand these policies:

[Commissioned Corps Directive \(CCD\) 129.01, "Board for Correction,"](#)

*CCD 129.01 establishes the procedures for officers to apply for the correction of records or removal of an injustice, for CCHQ to consider these applications, and for the Commissioned Corps to settle claims or determine monetary benefits.*

**Highlights** for this policy are:

- Delegating Board administration authority Program Support Center (PSC);
- Updating current names of responsible organizations; and
- Updating procedures for Board activities.

[Commissioned Corps Directive \(CCD\) 161.01, "Travel and Transportation Allowances."](#)

*CCD 161.01 outlines the Joint Travel Regulations which implements policy and laws establishing travel and transportation allowances for the uniformed services.*

**Highlights** for this policy are:

- Identifying official travel;
- Specifying the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR);
- Identifying standard allowances;
- Clarifying allowable reimbursements; and
- Identifying the Secretarial Process.

[Personnel Operations Memorandum \(POM\) 821.78, "Return to Service."](#)

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*POM 821.78 provides guidance on non-Health and Human Services (HHS) agency returns.*

**Highlights** for this policy are:

General guidance on the process for the return of officers detailed to non-HHS agencies;  
Reasons for a Public Health Service officer to be returned to service;  
Officer requirements when notified of a return to service;  
Failure to find a suitable assignment; and  
Separation from active duty.

\*The EHOPAC is gathering inquiries and feedback related to the “Return to Service” POM. After reviewing the information, including FAQs and webinar, please send questions or comments on the “Return to Service” POM to CDR Eva McLanahan ([yjp8@cdc.gov](mailto:yjp8@cdc.gov)).

## Welcome Aboard!

Please welcome the following **new Environmental Health Officers** who attended the March Officer Basic Courses (OBC):

LTJG Shannon McClenahan (IHS)  
LTJG Samuel Rivera (IHS)

Welcome aboard!!

## Upcoming Events

### SAVE THE DATE: EHOPAC Virtual Training Week, September 2020

The EHOPAC is hosting its inaugural 2020 **EHOPAC Virtual Training the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. The training week will include consecutive days of training on a range of environmental health topics. The annual State of the Category and State of the EHOPAC speeches will also be presented, as well as a virtual award ceremony for our 2020 EHOPAC Awards Winners. Please stand by for more details!

### Joint Safety and Environmental Symposium

The Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center is excited to announce that session recordings from the **28th Annual Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium (PDS)** are now available.

Most sessions from the April 6-10 PDS were recorded to allow participants more opportunities to further their professional development and earn continuing education units (CEUs). Use the link below to access the recordings. Remember to bookmark the link to afford easy access over the next several months.

2020 PDS Recordings: <http://jointpds.adobeconnect.com/pds2020schedule>

## Organization of the Month

**Johns Hopkins University (JHU)** was founded in 1876 and is considered the first research university in the United States. In 1916, JHU founded the first US school of public health and continues to lead the global community in public health research. JHU experts have been at the forefront of many national and international public health issues, including COVID-19.

JHU offers several free tools and courses for public health professionals or those interested in learning about COVID-19 or a variety of topics. The website is frequently updated with new research, trends, and analyses. The following resources can greatly expand your toolkit as we EHOs respond to COVID-19 and other public health challenges.

### Courses:

[Contact Tracing](#)

[Understanding the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

[An Introduction to the US Food System for Public Health](#)

[Community Change and Public Health](#)

[Outbreaks and Epidemics](#)

### Tools:

[Global COVID19 Case Tracker](#)

[US COVID19 Case Tracker](#)

You can find [Additional Courses](#) on a variety of public health topics. Visit the [University Home Page](#) to learn more about JHU.

## About EHOPAC News

**Do you have a news story to share?** Submit your *EHOPAC News* stories or questions for inclusion in a future edition to LT Matthew Kozler at [matthew\\_kozler@nps.gov](mailto:matthew_kozler@nps.gov) and LCDR Tyler White at [tyler.j.white@uscg.mil](mailto:tyler.j.white@uscg.mil)!

## For More EHOPAC Information:

Visit the [EHOPAC Website](#)

Check out our FACEBOOK pages:

[EHO Closed Facebook Group](#)

To join, please log in, and click the green "Join Group" button.

[EHOPAC Open Facebook page](#)

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please visit the [EHOPAC Listserv page](#).