



Immunization Community of Practice and Sentinel Network Information Guide

Overview

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) serves as the voice of the country's over 3,300 local health departments (LHDs). These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal health departments work to protect and improve the health of all people and all communities. NACCHO provides capacity-building resources that support LHD leaders in developing and implementing public health policies and practices to ensure communities have access to the vital programs and services that protect them from disease and disaster. Additionally, NACCHO engages with federal policymakers on behalf of LHDs to ensure adequate resources, appropriate public health legislation, and sensible policies are in place to address the many public health challenges communities are facing. With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NACCHO invites local health departments (LHDs) to apply for participation in a *Community of Practice (CoP)* focused on increasing capacity for educating about fall respiratory season recommendations and emerging infectious diseases. This CoP, which will run December 2025 through July 2026, will engage up to fifteen LHDs to cross-train LHD Immunization Program staff on best practices for immunization education. Participating LHDs will benefit from technical assistance, capacity-building opportunities, and peer-to-peer learning facilitated by NACCHO. In addition to the COP, NACCHO is also seeking up to fifty interested LHDs to participate in a *Sentinel Network* designed to provide insight into local immunization practices, priorities, and challenges. Applicants selected to participate in the COP will automatically be included in the Sentinel Network. The Sentinel Network will operate from January 2026 through July 2026. The COP is not a standalone opportunity; however, applicants interested in the Sentinel Network only may apply to that opportunity using the same application. **Please apply by completing this [form](#) by Tuesday, December 16, 2025, by 11:59pm PST.**

LHDs in the sentinel network will contribute to an increased understanding of current LHD immunization programs and practices, including local immunization priorities, challenges, and needs in vaccinating populations with low vaccination coverage. The sentinel data collection is intended to quickly capture and track trends in public health immunization that will educate NACCHO and guide us to opportunities to assist our members and better target our work. Findings will also be shared with CDC and relevant national partners on a rolling basis to increase their understanding of local public health needs.

Rapid engagement will be through a situational awareness report template to serve as a series of pulse checks with a broad range of health department members. These reports will include open and closed-ended response fields so we can measure key areas of interest while also being exploratory and avoiding assumptions of what is the highest priority for our participants. In addition to regularly scheduled pulse checks, there may arise a need for ad hoc information requests during the project period.

Project Information

Community of Practice

Objectives:

1. Increased peer-to-peer collaboration.
2. Improved capacity to address fall respiratory disease season, maintenance of routine vaccination coverage, and emerging vaccine preventable diseases.
3. Established plans to take direct action for ways to improve immunization coverage among populations with lower vaccination coverage.

Benefits and Expectations:

- Ongoing technical assistance provided by NACCHO.
- Engage in valuable peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, foster collaboration, and share best practices.
- Demonstrate active engagement through consistent attendance, thoughtful preparation, and meaningful contributions to discussions.
- LHDs selected for the Community of Practice are also expected to participate in a new immunization Sentinel Network.
- Participate in an in-person meeting with CoP members and NACCHO at the NACCHO360 conference in Louisville, Kentucky in July 2026. CoP members will receive a scholarship to attend NACCHO360, and travel expenses will be covered by NACCHO.

Estimated time commitment:

- Maximum two hours per month (January–July 2026), includes one-hour virtual calls every month and completion of a needs assessment and an end-of-project evaluation.
- Selected applicants will attend a one-day, in-person convening at the NACCHO360 conference in July 2026.

Eligibility:

- LHD staff working on immunization projects and programs, community communications, and/or outreach.
- One application per LHD.
- NACCHO seeks to collaborate with LHDs representing diverse levels of immunization experience and departmental resources; applications will be reviewed and selected based on responses to the questions. In addition, reviewers will consider geographic distribution, type

of setting, size of population, previous engagement on NACCHO immunization projects, and health equity to ensure diversity in demonstration sites selected.

Application Questions:

1. **CoP:** Briefly describe your area of expertise as it relates to immunization and please list any topics you would be interested in presenting or sharing with the group, if selected.
 2. **CoP:** What immunization topics would you like to learn more about during this Community of Practice? Briefly explain why/how these will improve your capacity to address challenges.
 3. **CoP:** Briefly describe your experience and any lessons learned from implementing and/or evaluating vaccination communications campaigns in your communities, related to promoting fall respiratory or emerging vaccine-preventable diseases.
 4. **Sentinel Network:** Which type of immunization programming are you responsible for at your local health department? Select all that apply.
 - a. leadership, decision-making, project planning, project implementation, communication, community outreach, external partnerships.
 5. **Sentinel Network:** Briefly describe how your LHD's experience could uniquely contribute to the national dialogue on immunization programs and practices.
 6. **Sentinel Network:** Briefly describe your experience amplifying and communicating about programmatic needs, successes, and/or lessons learned to a broader audience or to decision-makers, such as reporting to funders, advisory boards, communicating to LHD leadership, participating in workgroups, or presenting on webinars, etc.
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Sentinel Network

Objectives:

- Increased understanding of current LHD immunization programs and practices, including local IZ priorities, challenges, and needs in vaccinating populations with low vaccination coverage.
- The data gathered from the sentinel network is intended to quickly capture and track trends in local immunization that will guide NACCHO to opportunities to assist its members and better target its work.

Benefits and Expectations:

- Contribute front-line experiences and expertise in real-time to inform technical assistance provided by NACCHO.
- Engage in valuable knowledge exchange, sharing priorities, challenges, and best practices with NACCHO and other national partners.

Estimated time commitment:

- Maximum 1 hour per month (January – July 2026), includes a 1-hour virtual kick-off call in January and completion of at least two data collection pulse checks via Qualtrics.

Eligibility:

- LHD staff working on immunization projects and programs and with experience communicating about program needs, successes, and/or lessons learned.
- One application per LHD.

Application Questions:

1. **Sentinel Network:** Which type of immunization programming are you responsible for at your local health department? Select all that apply.
 - a. leadership, decision making, project planning, project implementation, communication, community outreach, external partnerships.
2. **Sentinel Network:** Briefly describe how your LHD's experience could uniquely contribute to the national dialogue on immunization programs and practices.
3. **Sentinel Network:** Briefly describe your experience amplifying and communicating about programmatic needs, successes, and/or lessons learned to a broader audience or to decision makers (Ex. reporting to funders, advisory boards, communicating to LHD leadership, participating on workgroups, or presenting on webinars, etc.).

If you have any questions, please contact immunization@naccho.org.