

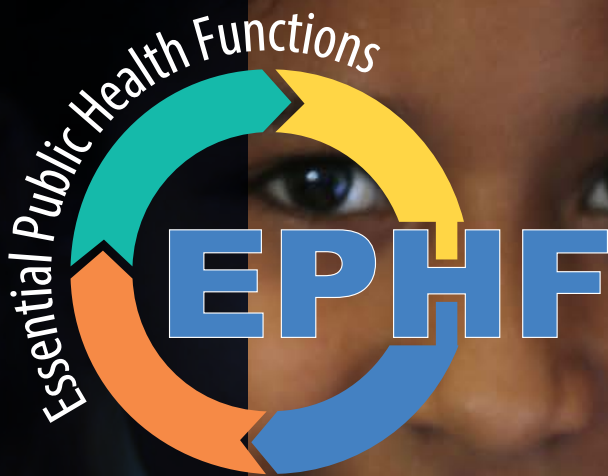


PAHO



Universal health
Access and coverage for all

Webinar series on Essential Public Health Functions



Webinar 1: April 23, 2021,
10:00 – 11:30 AM (EDT)

Assessing access barriers to
achieve Universal health in the
era of COVID-19



Assessing access barriers to achieve Universal health in the era of COVID-19

All over the world and particularly in our region, different population groups have little or no access to comprehensive and quality health services, mainly due to numerous barriers that prevent them from using needed health services. This leads to unnecessary suffering, avoidable illness, and premature death, and it harms our societies and economies.

The goal of Universal health can only be achieved if existing barriers to health needs are identified and addressed. And health system strengthening policies need to be responsive to barriers to health services among population in most vulnerable conditions.

To help countries in the Americas achieve Universal health, the PAHO/WHO launched the Regional Compact on Primary Health Care for Universal Health: PHC 30-30-30, which highlights the central role of PHC and the need to eliminate barriers to access.

About this meeting

Oriented to the academic community from Public Health Schools and PAHO collaborating centers, technical officers from national health authorities and institutions, PAHO and WHO professional staff from Country Offices, headquarters, and regional centers, this meeting aims to:

- Urge the Region's public health leaders to monitor inequities and their relationship with barriers to access to health.
- Ensure that all people can access quality health services when and where they need them.
- Call for strengthening assessment of access barriers to progress towards universal health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Showcase best practices and methodological tools to evaluate access barriers and facilitate health policy development.



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Different country experiences have shed light on effective solutions, critical bottlenecks, and practical lessons to strengthen public health functions and impact health access and outcomes. In an even more challenging context, the COVID-19 pandemic offers a stark reminder and a call for collective actions and protect population in most vulnerable conditions.

To support these efforts, PAHO/WHO promotes a renewed focus on the importance of Essential Public Health Functions (EPHF) in the Americas. This approach offers an opportunity to catalyze political commitment to ensure universal health, global health security, and more significant health equity in the Americas.

Calendar Meetings 2021:

- **04/23/2021:** Assessing access barriers to achieve Universal health in the era of COVID-19.
- **05/17/2021:** Monitoring Universal health in the era of COVID-19.
- **06/23/2021:** Essential public health functions and global security in the era of COVID-19.
- **07/22/2021:** Legislation and policies to strengthen health systems resilience in the era of COVID-19.
- **08/25/2021:** Financing public goods to ensure the essential public health functions in the era of COVID-19.
- **09/22/2021:** Essential public health competencies for human resources in the era of COVID-19.
- **10/21/2021:** COVID-19 and its links to risk factors and healthy environments.
- **11/17/2021:** Social Participation and addressing of social determinants in the era of COVID-19.
- **12/02/2021:** Experiences on strengthening the essential public health functions in the America.



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