



## NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2019



### **\*\*Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services updates EP Rule**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released a final rule aimed at reducing Medicare- and Medicaid-related regulatory burdens in a range of settings, from hospitals to home health care. The final rule includes provisions related to all 17 provider types. CMS estimates the changes will save providers 4.4 million hours of paperwork time and result in \$800 million in savings annually. Most provisions in the rule went into effect November 29, 2019. A presentation of the changes can be found at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Downloads/CMS-Understanding-the-EP-Final-Rule-Update-BRIII-2019.pdf>

### **ASPR TRACIE Express**

The latest issue of the [ASPR TRACIE Express](#) newsletter includes wildfire, burn, and natural disaster resources, and highlights the last ASPR TRACIE Exchange ([Issue 9: Preparing for and Responding to \(Chemical Incidents\)](#)).

### **\*\*Your Participation is Needed Now – We Appreciate Your Ideas**

Due to poor participation the NEW HERC Multi Year Training Exercise survey will remain open until Friday, December 6, so far, the coalition has had fewer than 20 members take the survey! The Training and Exercise Committee assisted in the build out of the survey and ensured that the courses listed would benefit every member group in the coalition. Anyone at any facility at this time can take the survey at the link below. It will take no more than 5 minutes to complete.

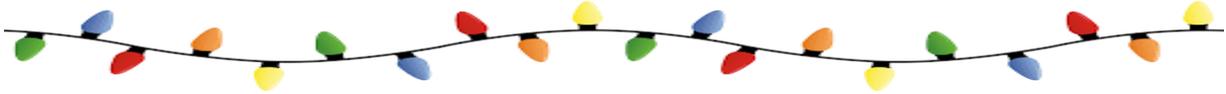
<https://www.surveymzmo.com/s3/5279515/NEWHERC-Training-Priority-Survey>

### **NEW HERC Highly Infectious Disease Tabletop Exercise April 2020**

A date and a list of Draft Exercise Objectives have been developed for the NEW HERC Highly Infectious Disease Tabletop Exercise. The exercise will take place on April 7, 2020 and will be held at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay. An Initial Planning Meeting (IPM) will be held with Brown County Public Health the co-host of the exercise, a few members of the NEW HERC Training and Exercise Committee and the exercise contractor. Once the IPM is done a Exercise Plan will be released to coalition members. The focus of the tabletop will be Medical and Public Health Emergency Operations, Communications and Information Sharing from Public Health to the healthcare and public safety workforce.



## NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2019



### ***Coalition Surge Test***

Preparations are picking up for the annual NEW HERC Coalition Surge Test (CST). This year's CST will focus on the evacuation of three rural hospitals. A [Concept of Operations](#) meeting was held, an Exercise Plan has been developed and was released during the November coalition meeting. The Initial Planning Meeting with the main exercise players will be held later this month.

The NEW HERC is putting together a pre-event Incident Management Team for the exercise. regional medical coordination players will be filling the roles of Incident Command and Operations. Currently volunteers are being sought to fill the role of Logistics, and Admin/Documentation. These two positions can be filled by anyone from healthcare, public health, or public safety. If you are interested in filling one these important Incident Management Team positions or volunteer as an Exercise Evaluator please contact [coordinator@newherc.com](mailto:coordinator@newherc.com) The timeframe for the CST functional test will be early May.

All coalition members please take some time before May to do a quick review of last year's CST After Action Report (AAR) that can be found on the NEW HERC drive at <https://tinyurl.com/tate29p> and this year's CST Exercise Plan using the following link <https://tinyurl.com/r649gwo>

### ***Summer Cyber Tabletop Exercise Cancelled***

The Cyber Tabletop Exercise that was to take place on July 14, 2020 with FEMA's Emergency Management Institute has been cancelled. The exercise would have taken place during the Democratic National Convention. The coalition will need to be on standby during this time and will hold a Medical Coordination Functional Exercise during convention week. More details will follow on this exercise.

### ***ASPR Healthcare Coalition Surge Estimator Tool***

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) recently released the Healthcare Coalition Surge Estimator Tool. Healthcare coalitions need to understand their capacity to accommodate the incident from both the conventional (usual) and contingency or crisis (surge) capacity perspectives. The aggregate of this data can provide critical information about the capacities of the HCC's acute care hospitals and allow prediction about whether a given incident will overwhelm the local beds available and how much outside support may be required.



## NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2019



The Healthcare Coalition Surge Estimator Tool (and accompanying Data Collection Form) concentrate on key measures that represent conventional and contingency capacity, with the understanding that crisis standards of care may be required when these are insufficient.

The information is submitted by each hospital to their HCC for aggregation for use in local, state, and federal planning. Individual hospital data is not submitted to ASPR. (Source: National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians website)

The NEW HERC Coordinator will complete an initial version of this tool and submit it to ASPR this month. In January the tool will be introduced during the Hospital Meeting and updates to the tool will be begin. It is expected this project will take several months to complete as the final version will be a comprehensive. This is the final required objective in the 2019/2020 regional [Work Plan](#)

### ***All Inclusive Communications Test***

Communication tests with all healthcare facilities and public health agencies that are part of the NEW HERC will begin in January. ASPR requires redundant communication drills with all members using various devices and systems. Currently only the hospitals in the region take part in monthly communication drills. The NEW HERC Coordinator will be conducting the tests. The schedule can be found using this link <https://tinyurl.com/uq22plc>

### ***NEW HERC PHEP Committee***

This is the new Public Health member committee that will meet regularly starting on December 16, 2019. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) compliments healthcare preparedness and has been one of the keys to the success of the coalition. This committee will be where best practices are shared, important networking and decisions will be made by the public health Class A member group. The first meeting of this committee will be held at the De Pere City Hall on the second floor, in the Nicolet Conference Room from 9:00am – 11:00am. Don't miss it!

### ***DHS OPEHC Explains Password Resets in EMResources (WITRAC)***

At the November coalition meeting there was a question or concern raised about the number of times a hospital needs to update their password in EMResources (WITRAC). Specifically, some staff at the hospitals are being asked to update their account passwords every 60 days. The NEW HERC coordinator reached out to the state EMResources (WITRAC) coordinator Eric Anderson from the WI Department of Health Services Division of Public Health, Office of



## NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2019



Preparedness and Emergency Health Care for clarification. In quick summary the answer is basic good cyber hygiene and privacy. Eric's answer follows;

“EMResource passwords don't expire. However, because EMTrack is built to meet the HIPAA HITECH requirements for Private Health Information (PHI), the passwords for EMTrack expire every 90 days. Therefore, if a user has access to both EMTrack and EMResource, they will get the reset requirement, while just having EMResource will not prompt the system to clear your password.”

I hope this helps.

Eric Anderson - Hospital and Healthcare Systems Coordinator -Wisconsin Department of Health Services

### ***Highly Infectious Disease Task Group***

The NEW HERC is excited to pull together experts from around the region to assist the coalition in making smart planning and funding decisions in preparedness, response and recovery to highly infectious diseases. The kickoff meeting for this new Task Group will be Monday December 16, 2019. The Healthcare Coalition has several objectives and goals it needs to meet in its required funding guidance in this area. Hopefully this will be a great platform for the coalition to have to explore healthcare plans, share best practices and identify any regional gaps for highly infectious disease outbreaks. A meeting agenda will be sent out after Thanksgiving.

Please share the agenda with Infection Control Officers, Infection Preventionist's, Healthcare and Public Health Epidemiologists, Healthcare and Public Health Laboratory managers and supervisors. Typically, these staff members do not attend monthly coalition meetings but we want to hear from them!!

### ***Malware Attacks on Hospitals about to get Worse***

Trojan malware attacks targeting hospitals and the healthcare industry rose significantly over the course of this year as hackers increasingly look to exploit a sector often viewed as an easy target. Figures in The State of Healthcare Cybersecurity report from Malwarebytes say there's already been a 60 percent increase in trojan malware detections in the first nine months of 2019 compared with the entirety of 2018. The rise has been particularly significant in the third quarter of this year, with an 82 percent increase in detections when compared with the previous quarter. (Source: Emergency Management and Response - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) – The Infogram)



## NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2019



### ***Hospital Data Breaches could be Killing Patients***

The University of Central Florida analyzed breach data for 3000 hospitals from 2012-2016 in an attempt to estimate the relationship between breach remediation efforts and care quality. Department of Health and Human Services breach data and Medicare Compare's public data on hospital care measures provided the data sources. What they found was shocking: an increase in 30-day mortality rate for heart attacks that translated to 36 additional deaths per 10,000 heart attacks per year. Mortality rates apparently continued to rise for about three years after a breach before tapering off. (Source: Emergency Management and Response - Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) – The Infogram)

### **Upcoming Coalition, and Committee Meetings**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
NEW HERC Board/Coordinator Update	December 11, 2019	10:00am – 11:30am	Virtual
NEW HERC Public Health PHEP Committee Meeting	December 16, 2019	9:00am – 11:00am	De Pere City Hall 2nd floor - Nicolet Conference Room
NEW HERC Highly Infectious Disease Task Group	December 16, 2019	1:00pm – 2:30pm	De Pere City Hall 2nd floor - Nicolet Conference Room
NEW HERC Monthly Coalition Meeting	December 18, 2019 - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds, before Christmas and News Years	8:30am – 11:30am	St. Vincent's Hospital Heritage Conference Rm C 3rd Floor
NEW HERC Multi Year Training and Exercise Seminar	December 18, 2019 – after the Dec Coalition Mtg	10:00am – 11:30am	St. Vincent's Hospital Heritage Conference Rm C 3rd Floor
NEW HERC Training and Exercise Committee Meeting	December 19, 2019	9:00am – 11:00am	Bellin Building 2020 Webster Av. Just north of the Allouez Cemetery



**NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2019**

NEW HERC Monthly Coalition Meeting	January 22, 2020 – <b>Hospital Mtg – Last half of Coalition Mtg</b>	8:30am –11:30am	<i>St. Clare’s Memorial Hospital Oconto Falls, Assisi Rm A</i>
NEW HERC Monthly Coalition Meeting	February 26, 2020 – <b>Medically Vulnerable Populations – Last half of the Coalition Mtg.</b>	8:30am –11:30am	St. Vincent’s Hospital Heritage Conference Rm C 3rd Floor

**Upcoming Training & Exercises**

Course Name	Course Dates	Location
Patient Decontamination Awareness Training for Hospitals	Currently Open - Online	Please contact Shawn for more details <a href="mailto:coordinator@newherc.com">coordinator@newherc.com</a>
Advanced Burn Life Support Provider Course - FULL	Wednesday December 4, 2019	Aurora Bay Care Sports Medicine - Green Bay
<a href="#">Wisconsin 2020 Health Emergency Preparedness Conference</a>	Wednesday and Thursday January 22 – 23, 2020	Stevens Point Holiday Inn – Convention Center
Healthcare Incident Command System (HICS) Students attending this course should take <a href="#">IS 700</a> , <a href="#">ICS 100</a> , <a href="#">ICS 200</a> , and <a href="#">IS 201</a> prior to attending this course. Please contact Shawn <a href="mailto:coordinator@newherc.com">coordinator@newherc.com</a> if you have questions	Wednesday February 4, 2020	Holy Family Memorial Hospital Registration will open in mid-December.

