



NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2020

Situational Awareness • Information Sharing • Common Operating Picture

****Updates to the National Incident Management System Training Program**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) updated the [National Incident Management System \(NIMS\)](#) for the third time in October 2017. Over the last two years FEMA has been working on updates to its Incident Command System (ICS) training courses. State emergency management agencies have been busy updating their training material and staff to meet the goals and objectives of the updated NIMS ICS. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) released a two-page memo to its *instructors* this past summer with information on the NIMS training revisions including length of time to complete the updated courses and which staff should take the courses. A copy of the memo can be found at this [link](#)

The WEM training calendar with a list ICS related courses can be found using this link <https://www.trainingwisconsin.org/Schedule.aspx>

National Incident Management System Implementation for Healthcare

In 2015 the Assistant Secretary Preparedness and Response (ASPR) issued a document called “*NIMS Implementation for Healthcare Organizations Guidance.*” The document has high level details relevant to all healthcare provider types and could be used as a foundational planning document. This document can be found on the NEW HERC website on the [Governance Documents](#) page

U.S. Health and Human Services Cyber Response Guidance for Healthcare

The [Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center \(HC3\)](#) shared a November 12, 2019 [briefing on Incident Response](#). Computer security incident response has become an important component of information technology (IT) programs. Cybersecurity-related attacks have become not only more numerous and diverse but also more damaging and disruptive. The presentation provides basic level information of development of an Incident Response plan for all healthcare organizations. ([Source](#): ASPR)

ASPR TRACIE The Express – December

The latest issue of “The Express” can be found using this link <https://tinyurl.com/utsrjf2>

Daily EMResources (WITRAC) Reporting

On November 1, 2019, the NEW HERC asked all hospitals in the region to report their Immediate Bed Availability (IBA) in EMResources formerly known as Wisconsin Tracking, Resources, Alerts and Communication (WITRAC), once a day. The goal agreed to was for each hospital to report their IBA by 10:00am each day.



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As of January 1, 2020, the region averages 60% to 100% hospitals reporting daily. The goal set is 75% minimum daily. In a short amount of time the region is meeting its goal around 60% of the month, thank you hospital members! Improvement still needs to occur to reach the daily goal. The statics show that reporting on Saturday and Sunday have averaged 60%, please ensure your IBA is reported *all* seven days in a week.

NEW HERC Meetings rest of Budget Period (2019-2020)

Don't forget the coalition will host Hospital and Medically Vulnerable Population (MVP) focus meetings starting this month at the end of the monthly coalition meetings. Hospital meetings will be open to all Acute Care and Behavioral Health hospitals. MVP meetings will be open to all CMS provider types other than the two mentioned hospital types. The purpose of these meetings are to network with same provider types, share planning and response best practices that relate to the CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule, identify any regional deficiencies and gaps and collaborate to find solutions.

Redundant NEW HERC Communications Tests

Starting this month, through-out 2020 and 2021, the NEW HERC Coordinator will test various communication platforms with all coalition member facilities, partner facilities and primary contacts. The NEW HERC Communication Plan lists several primary, secondary and tertiary devices and systems including but not limited to landline telephone, cell phone, video/audio conference systems, email and text messages. Currently, communications tests are conducted with hospitals via EMResources (WITRAC) and the WISCOM radio system. Tests with these systems and the hospitals will still occur monthly.

The schedule for the communications tests can be found at this link <https://tinyurl.com/wroumep>
These tests are required for continued funding from our federal partner ASPR.

Upcoming Exercises in the NEW HERC – Save the Date

A reminder that the NEW HERC will hold a Highly Infectious Disease Tabletop Exercise on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay. This exercise will focus on Emergency Operations and Information Sharing for all healthcare, public health and public safety.

The week of May 4, 2020 the coalition will hold its annual Coalition Surge Test (CST) Functional Exercise. The exercise will focus on regional hospital evacuation with additional participation from EMS and a few other provider and public safety agencies.



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On July 14 and 15, 2020 the NEW HERC will conduct a Medical and Public Health Coordination Functional Exercise. This exercise will be held during the Democratic National Convention (DNC) and will have some tie in to the event. It will incorporate artificial injects based on mass casualties, regional patient surge and severe weather. The exercise is being written for public health, and various healthcare provider types.

All exercises will start in the morning and continue into the early afternoon. Additional information on all exercises can be found in past and future newsletters and given during the monthly meetings. Registration for the April tabletop exercise will open in early February. Participation agreements for the May and July Functional Exercises will go out at the monthly coalition meetings early in the calendar year.

NEW HERC Multi Year Training and Exercise Plan

At end of the December coalition meeting a seminar was given by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Public Health, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care (OPEHC), to begin a draft of a Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP) for the coalition. A tangible document from that seminar is being work on by OPEHC and will be released to the coalition before March 1. Once the draft MYTEP is released, the Training and Exercise Committee will work on finalizing the document for final approval by the coalition. The final version of the MYTEP will be incorporated into the NEW HERC Preparedness Plan as living document that will be reviewed once a year.

*****Serious Flood Concerns in the NEW HERC Region***

Regional flooding and its effects on healthcare facilities will be a reoccurring item to the NEW HERC monthly meeting agendas. Serious concerns raised at the December coalition meeting regarding the spring forecast and time will be given at the next several meetings for discussion from all members and partners of the NEW HERC on flood preparedness, response and recovery. Another great reason to attend the monthly coalition meetings!

NEW HERC Coordinator Phone

As of January 1, 2020, the NEW HERC Coordinator has been assigned a work cell phone. The phone is property of the NEW HERC and will remain with the present and future coordinators. The phone number is 920-413-1998 please use this number for any NEW HERC needs.

Liability Protection for Public Health Partners in SNS Dispensing

Private or public organizations can play a key role in a large-scale public health emergency by assisting public health in the distribution and/or dispensing of medical countermeasures, such as antibiotics to employees, employee families, contract staff, clients and/or the general public.



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The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has provided a [fact sheet](#) which provides information about liability issues that are a common concern that employers have expressed when asked to distribute or dispense medical countermeasures on behalf of public health. ([Source](#): ASPR)

Ransomware Resources for Home Health and Hospice Organizations

We have been made aware of a ransomware incident that could impact home health and hospice organizations. Recognizing that most of the community relies on 3rd party digital service providers to support operations and/or patient care, below are some resources to help reduce the risks:

1. The affected organizations should reached out to their [Medicare Administrative Contractor](#) (MAC) to get guidance on how to accelerate payments.
2. [Ransomware Prevention and Mitigation Guide](#): Developed by the HHS Health Sector Cybersecurity Coordination Center, this guide provides information on what to do to prevent being infected by Ransomware malware and a number of steps that providers can take if infected.
3. [Health Industry Cybersecurity Supply Chain Risk Management Guide](#): Developed by the Private Sector Coordinating Council, this document will help health care providers establish a risk management program as it relates to 3rd party service providers. It also includes templates for service provider risk assessment, cybersecurity requirements and language for contracts, and service provider risk management policy.

(Source: Sector Specific Agency (SSA) for Healthcare and Public Health Sector critical, ASPR's Critical Infrastructure Protection for the Healthcare and Public Health Sectors)

ASPR TRACIE Webinar: Healthcare Challenges in Chemical Incidents

Join TRACIE on January 14, 2020 from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM ET to hear from speakers discussing the potential effects of a chemical incident. We will discuss recent guidance and lessons learned in assessing, triaging, and treating patients, including considerations for novel nerve agent treatment. [Register now](#) space will be limited.



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Upcoming Coalition, and RTAC Meetings

| Meeting | Date | Time | Location |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  RTAC Quarterly Meeting | January 15, 2020 | 5:00pm – 7:00pm | Aurora BayCare Sports Medicine Center |
| NEW HERC Training and Exercise Committee | January 16, 2020 | 10:00am -12:00pm | Brown County EOC 3030 Curry Lane Green Bay, WI 54311-4875 |
| NEW HERC Monthly Coalition Meeting | January 22, 2020 | 8:30am –11:30am | <i>St. Clare's Memorial Oconto Falls, Assisi Rm A</i> |
| NEW HERC Hospital Meeting | January 22, 2020 | At end of the coalition meeting | St. Clare's Memorial Oconto Falls, Assisi Rm A |
| NEW HERC Medically Vulnerable Populations Meeting | February 26, 2020 | At end of the coalition meeting | St. Vincent's Hospital Heritage Conference Rm C 3rd Floor |



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Upcoming Training & Exercises

| Course Name | Course Dates | Location |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Patient Decontamination Awareness Training for Hospitals | Currently Open – Online | Please contact Shawn for more details coordinator@newherc.com |
| Incident Command for Healthcare – Basic More information on page 7 | February 4, 2020 | Holy Family Medical Center Manitowoc |
| Psychological First Aid | February 6, 2020 | All Saints Hospital - Racine Room 3801 Spring Street Racine – DNC related training |
| Biological Incidents Awareness NCBRT AWR 118 | February 20, 2020 | Waukesha Communications Center, Waukesha, WI – DNC related training |
| Biopreparedness: Identify, Isolate, Inform with the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC) | April 20, 2020 | Aurora BayCare Sports Medicine Center – Registration will open in February |



Incident Command for Healthcare Basic

February 4, 2020

8:30am – 4:30pm

Manitowoc

Register on Eventbrite

At

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/incident-command-for-healthcare-basic-tickets-87398576495>

Recommend students attending this course take [IS 700](#), [ICS 100](#), [ICS 200](#), and [IS 201](#) prior.