

### A Message from the Director

November 2018

Greetings and welcome to GSHCC Connect! The energy that we share with our partners is amazing and we have accomplished much, but these accomplishments are just a sliver of the capability this coalition has! As we expand across the state and learn about our different partners, I am constantly reassured that the knowledge of many is greater than the few. Only through consistent value and outreach will this coalition have true impact now and into the future. Reach out and see the difference we can make, together!

**Scott Nichols**  
Director



**Shaylin Deignan**  
Program Coordinator



### Partnering with the Granite State Health Care Coalition

Partnering with the Granite State Health Care Coalition (GSHCC) means engaging in a collective effort to advance healthcare system emergency preparedness in New Hampshire. If you are interested in becoming a member, we invite you to contact us today to learn more about getting involved. As a commitment of your partnership, we're asking all members, current and new, to sign the attached **Granite State Health Care Coalition Letter of Support** by scanning the signed letter and emailing it to [sdeignan@healthynh.org](mailto:sdeignan@healthynh.org). The letter may be signed by any **authorized representative of your organization** by placing the content of the letter within your organization's letterhead, or simply add your organization's logo, and fill in the highlighted sections. This letter helps provide CMS with additional documentation indicating that your organization is partnering with the coalition and working with local stakeholders.

The GSHCC is always seeking new members and has partnered with state and local public and private organizations across the continuum of care. To become a member or to learn more, contact Shaylin Deignan at [sdeignan@healthynh.org](mailto:sdeignan@healthynh.org) or (603) 415-4263.

**SAVE THE DATE : MAY 9, 2019**

### Inaugural Granite State Health Care Coalition Conference

Planning is currently underway for the inaugural Granite State Health Care Coalition Conference! The conference will be held On May 9, 2019 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH. The Granite State Health Care Coalition Conference Planning Committee has carefully selected outstanding speakers to speak on healthcare emergency preparedness. Please mark your calendars and look out for more information.

***We look forward to hosting you in May 2019!***



## Interested in Volunteer Service? Join the Medical Reserve Corps!

If you or someone you know is interested in an engaging volunteer experience, consider joining the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) – your local MRC is currently looking for both medical and non-medical volunteers. For additional information please visit [\*\*\*NH Responds\*\*\*](#) today.

For additional information on the MRC please see the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) link located here: [\*\*\*https://mrc.hhs.gov/HomePage\*\*\*](https://mrc.hhs.gov/HomePage)

## FEMA COOP Planner's Workshop

The *Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning Workshop*, a two-day workshop held in August at the Foundation for Healthy Communities, outlined the COOP planning process for healthcare organizations as an integral part of the emergency planning process. Instructors reviewed essential functions, risk management, orders of succession, delegations of authority, continuity facilities, continuity communications, training and exercising, devolution and reconstitution. For additional information please see the links below.

- FEMA provides a [\*\*\*Continuity Planning Template for Non-Federal Entities and Community Based Organizations\*\*\*](#) that can be adapted to fit your needs.
- There are also resources within the [\*\*\*ASPR Topic Collection: Continuity of Operations \(COOP\)\*\*\*](#) that you can review.

For a greater understanding of **COOP**, you can enroll in the following online FEMA ICS Courses. These are free to all and can be taken at your leisure. However, you must first register for a FEMA Student ID (SID) number, if you do not already have one which you can do [\*\*\*here\*\*\*](#).

- [\*\*\*IS-546.A: Continuity of Operations Awareness Course\*\*\*](#). This course serves as an introduction to continuity concepts.
- [\*\*\*IS-547.A: Introduction to Continuity of Operations\*\*\*](#). This course outlines the process for continuity of operations planning.

For technical assistance and COOP templates, please reach out to Scott Nichols, GSHCC Director at [\*\*\*snichols@healthynh.org\*\*\*](mailto:snichols@healthynh.org) or Shaylin Deignan, GSHCC Program Coordinator at [\*\*\*sdeignan@healthynh.org\*\*\*](mailto:sdeignan@healthynh.org).

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We are actively seeking new members from state and local public and private organizations across the continuum of care. To become a member or to learn more about GSHCC, contact Shaylin Deignan: [\*\*\*sdeignan@healthynh.org\*\*\*](mailto:sdeignan@healthynh.org) or (603) 415-4263.



## ASPR TRACIE Webinars:

### ***Healthcare Challenges after Radiological Incidents***

This webinar outlined the science and modeling of nuclear detonation and the subsequent care of radiation-injured patients. The webinar also outlined the exposure vs. contamination assessment, healthcare impact and triage of casualties, and the role of the Radiation Injury Treatment Network (RITN). The full presentation can be found [here](#).

### ***Healthcare System Readiness for Highly Pathogenic Infectious Diseases***

This webinar focused on managing patients with highly infectious diseases based on the regional, tiered approach established during the response to Ebola in West Africa. The webinar also touched on the current outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as an opportunity to highlight updated processes and resources. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

---

## 2018 – 2019 Influenza Season Outlook

Last season, the U.S. had record-breaking levels of influenza illness, hospitalization rates, and deaths in children last season (180 pediatric deaths). However, flu vaccination continues to be first and most important step in protecting against influenza and its potentially serious complications. There are many benefits to vaccination, including reducing the risk of flu illness, doctor's visits, hospitalization and even death in children. During the 2016–2017 season, **vaccination prevented an estimated 5.3 million illnesses, 2.6 million medical visits, and 85,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations**. Flu vaccination is an especially important preventive tool for people with chronic health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes. Vaccinating pregnant women helps protect them from flu illness and hospitalization and has been shown to help protect the baby from flu infection for several months after birth, before the baby can be vaccinated. Visit the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) online for more detailed information on [flu vaccine benefits](#).

While there are many different flu viruses, flu vaccines protect against the 3 or 4 viruses that research suggests will be most common. Flu vaccines for this season have been updated to match circulating viruses. For the upcoming 2018-2019 influenza season, there are many vaccine options, including high dose and adjuvanted vaccine for people 65 and older and nasal spray vaccine. CDC recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older who have no contraindications with any licensed, age-appropriate flu vaccine with no preference expressed for any one vaccine over another. A list of 2018-19 influenza products and age ranges is available [here](#).

CDC recommends vaccinating by the end of October, but to continue to offer flu vaccine throughout the flu season while supply is available, and the influenza is circulating in the community. Complete CDC guidance for the 2018-2019 season is published and available: [Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#).

**Take 3 (a three-pronged strategy to fight flu):** provide influenza vaccination to all persons age 6 months and older, educate about everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs, consider antivirals to treat influenza.

Visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) for more information.



## 2018 Granite State Health Care Coalition (GSHCC) Coalition Surge Test (CST)

The Coalition Surge Test (CST) is an annual health care coalition exercise requirement of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) designed to test the overall healthcare system and its ability to identify strengths, gaps, and areas for improvement related to surge planning statewide. The CST was held on May 2, 2018 to test the health system's ability to coordinate patient placement and transport in a simulated evacuation of 20% of the state's acute care bed capacity (512 beds). Elliot Hospital, Catholic Medical Center and Monadnock Community Hospital participated as evacuating facilities for this no-notice exercise, opening their internal Incident Command Centers and successfully identifying simulated transportation for all patients within a 90-minute window. In addition, 24 NH acute, critical access and specialty hospitals participated as receiving facilities. Non-hospital partners included the City of Manchester Emergency Operations Center (EOC), State of NH EOC, EMS, behavioral health providers, long-term care, VNA providers, and law enforcement agencies. A major strength identified was the engagement of these 27 hospitals and various additional non-hospital partners. An identified area for improvement was an interest in utilizing a single healthcare incident management system platform. The GSHCC is currently in the process of planning for the 2019 CST.

## What is the GSHCC Working On These Days?

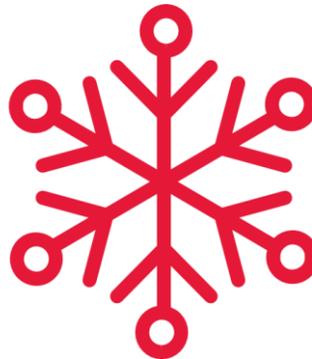
### Long-Term Care (LTC) and Public Health Network (PHN) Exercise Workgroup

A group of Long-Term Care representatives, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinators, state representatives, and New Hampshire Health Care Association (NHHCA) representatives have been working together to design tabletop and functional exercise templates to meet the pressing needs of healthcare facilities, considering the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness Rule exercise requirements. If you are interested in utilizing these state approved templates please reach out to GSHCC Program Coordinator, Shaylin Deignan at [sdeignan@healthynh.org](mailto:sdeignan@healthynh.org).

If you are interested in working with your local Public Health Network representatives, you can find contact information for your local area here: <https://nhphn.org/>

## Winter Emergency Preparedness

The winter season is on the horizon and it's time we all start preparing for winter emergencies. Make sure your family emergency plan is up to date, your emergency kit is fully stocked, and your winter emergency vehicle supplies are ready to go! You can find additional information at <https://www.readynh.gov/disasters/winter-storms.htm>



## A Focus on the Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) provides standard guidance on exercise program management including design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. Exercises play a key role in preparedness and allow for the testing of capabilities, plans, policies, and procedures. Moreover, HSEEP allows for improvement planning and Corrective Action Planning. HSEEP guidance is appropriate for all levels of government and all types of organizations.

### HSEEP Guidance

### HSEEP Policy and Guidance Toolkit (including templates)

If you are interested in receiving an HSEEP certification, please see the online course information listed below, including prerequisite information.

### HSEEP Prerequisite: IS-120.C

### Course Details

### FEMA Emergency Management Institute Training Schedule: (search: HSEEP)

Participants still need to apply to the course as they would to attend other EMI courses and submit to JoAnn Beaudoin ([Joann.Beaudoin@dos.nh.gov](mailto:Joann.Beaudoin@dos.nh.gov)) at New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management (NH HSEM). The application procedures can be found here: <https://training.fema.gov/apply/>

## CMS Proposed to Lift Regulations, Relieve Burdens on Providers

On September 17, 2018 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a *proposed rule* to relieve the burden of *some elements* of the CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule Requirement. **Please note this proposed rule has not yet passed. Please also note this change proposal does not pertain to Joint Commission standards or NH State Healthcare Licensing standards. While this information may be helpful, please continue to research developments and requirements for your facility type.**

### Proposed Rule: CMS Proposes to Lift Unnecessary Regulations and Ease Burden on Providers

### Press Release: CMS Proposes to Lift Unnecessary Regulations and Ease Burden on Providers

### Fact Sheet: Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Proposed Regulatory Provisions to Promote Program Efficiency, Transparency, and Burden Reduction

*The Granite State Health Care Coalition is an initiative of the Foundation for Healthy Communities, a non-profit organization that engages in innovative partnerships to improve health and health care in New Hampshire by addressing quality of care, access to care and community prevention.*

