



# NEW JERSEY HEALTHCARE COALITIONS

## New Jersey Healthcare Coalitions Newsletter

December 27th, 2024

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### IV Solution Shortage

#### Summary:

On September 29th, Baxter, a major IV Solution manufacturer, announced their North Carolina-based production plant would be temporarily closed as a result of flooding related to Hurricane Helene.

Baxter's plant accounts for 60% of domestically produced IV Solution in the U.S. Healthcare providers are encouraged to review medical supply rationing plans, inform staff of the ongoing disruption, and contact other IV Solution vendors.

As of writing, Baxter's North Carolina plant is seeking to be fully operational again by the end of the year. In the interim, federal and private industry partners have continued to support increased IV Solution production, more information can be found below in our most recent [IV Solution Shortage messaging](#).

#### What the Coalitions Are Doing:

The NJ Healthcare Coalitions are continuing to survey all HCC members across the state to better understand how this disruption might impact patient care. Additionally, the Coalitions have been in close contact with emergency management staff at the NJ Department of Health and other partners across the country. All information obtained by the EM Support Staff will continue to be shared with NJHCC members via our typical communication channels.

We encourage you to review the linked resources below and to reach out to your municipal/county offices of emergency management (OEM) if you're facing an emergency due to a supply shortage. Click [here](#) to access the NJOEM County Coordinator directory.

## Recent Updates from Baxter:

Current as of 12/19/2024

- Baxter is providing periodic updates regarding its progress to restore operations at its North Cove, N.C., site following Hurricane Helene. The Dec. 19 update will be the company's last post for 2024. [Baxter's next update is expected to be posted in early 2025.](#)
- Baxter is making continued strong progress at North Cove and have now restarted 8 of the 10 manufacturing lines at the site, which represent ~85% of the site's total pre-hurricane capacity.
- While the recently restarted lines will require time to ramp up, some of the earlier lines to restart are operating near pre-hurricane levels.
- Baxter currently expects to be producing at pre-hurricane levels across the plant early in the first quarter of 2025.
- Note that it will take some time for product to flow through the distribution channels. To that end, Baxter currently expects that North Cove's recovery to full production will translate to removal of allocations for the related product groups during the first quarter of 2025.
- Baxter communicated additional allocation increases for several IV product groups to U.S. customers and distributors, effective in phases beginning Dec. 16 and Dec. 30.
- Effective Dec. 16, Baxter has increased product allocations for specific peritoneal dialysis (PD) solutions. These allocations have been communicated directly to their provider partners.
- In connection with Baxter's global response and temporary importation authorization from FDA, they have imported 4 million bags of PD solutions to supplement U.S. supply and support continued patient care. Baxter has shipped more than 110,000 Customer Readiness Packets to patients and providers to guide their use of these globally supplied products.

[Access Baxter's Hurricane Helene Page](#)

**NJHCC Updates and Upcoming Events**

**NJHCC 2025**

## Strategic Planning Meeting (In-Person Event)

Be part of charting the course of future preparedness and response! The New Jersey Healthcare Coalitions (NJHCC) invite you to participate in a Strategic Planning Symposium **Wednesday, February 19th, 2025**, to discuss the future needs and goals of New Jersey's healthcare coalitions. New Jersey's Commissioner of Health, Dr. Kaitlan Baston, and her team will present on areas of focus that align with the strategic focus for the day.

This meeting will be held at **Pines Manor, 2085 Lincoln Hwy, Edison, NJ 08817**, from **9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Reserve your seat today to be part of this interactive event! The registration link is below. Seats will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We look forward to having you join us for this important discussion.

Instructions on how to register for this event can be found [here](#).

[Register for the 2025 NJHCC Strategic Planning Meeting Here](#)

### NJHCC 2024 Statewide HVA Aggregated Data Summaries

All three of New Jersey's Healthcare Coalitions recently conducted an annual Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) at our bi-monthly in-person HCC meetings across the state. The purpose of the HVA is to identify regional vulnerabilities so that NJHCC members and staff can prioritize and organize disaster planning, mitigation, and recovery education and training opportunities at the regional level. The NJHCC 2024 HVA template can be accessed [here](#).

We encourage all NJHCC members and partners to regularly conduct HVAs in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and partners. Additionally, we'd like to encourage you to look into the [ASPR RISC Toolkit 2.0](#). The RISC Toolkit 2.0 allows for a greater level of analysis and vulnerability assessment for single facility and network-wide organizations. In addition to a traditional HVA, the RISC Toolkit 2.0 allows emergency management staff to analyze specific elements and visualize them in a variety of formats.

[Access the North HCC HVA Data Summary Here](#)

[Access the Central HCC HVA Data Summary Here](#)

[Access the South HCC HVA Data Summary Here](#)

[Access the Statewide HVA Data Summary Here](#)

## NJHCC Orientation Packet 2024-2025 1st Edition

Following several months of development, feedback, and resource vetting we are pleased to announce the first edition of the NJHCC Orientation Packet is now available via digital download.

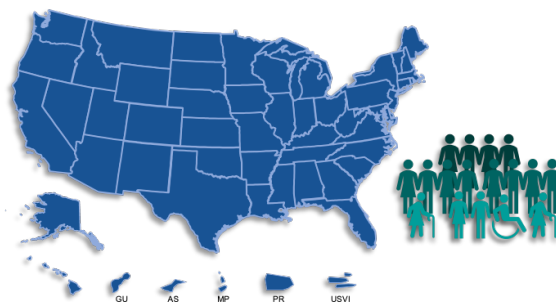
The purpose of this resource is to introduce new and existing emergency managers, healthcare preparedness staff, and other partners to the purpose behind the Coalitions, in addition to providing a compendium of preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery resources.

We'd like to emphasize that this is the first edition, this resource is a living document, and we encourage all forms of feedback as we continue to regularly update and tailor it to benefit all NJHCC members.



The graphic for the 2024-2025 NJHCC Orientation Packet features a dark blue background with a white geometric shape on the right side. Inside this shape are several overlapping images: a meeting room, a newsletter titled 'New Jersey Healthcare Coalitions Newsletter', a calendar titled 'Upcoming Dates' with 'HCC Meetings' listed, a meeting with a whiteboard, and a table titled 'EM' with columns for 'EDC Status', 'Facility Status', 'Facility Commercial Power Status', and 'Facility'. Below the images, the text reads 'NEW JERSEY HEALTHCARE COALITIONS (NJHCC) ORIENTATION PACKET'. A QR code is provided with the text 'Reading this packet in person?' and 'Scan here for a digital copy!'. At the bottom, contact information is listed: '1-800-457-2262', 'www.NJHCC.org', and 'RHCC@NJHA.com'.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



HHS emPOWER and SVI Data

In the interest of increasing situational awareness in regard to specialty patient populations and enhancing the understanding of health nuances in your local communities, the Coalitions are continuing to share the most recent EMPOWER and SVI data for your region.

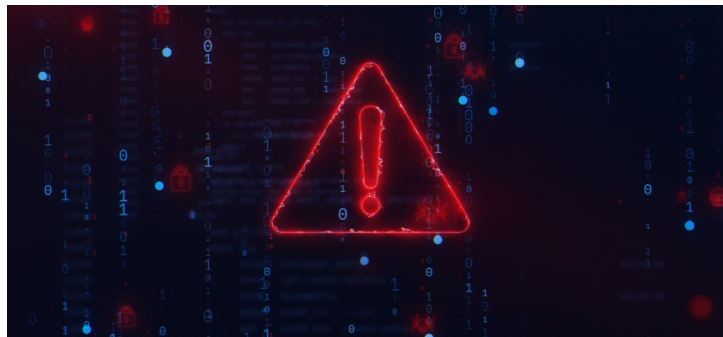
The NJHCC EM Support Team highly encourages you to look into this data and incorporate it when possible, into your preparedness and response plans, in addition to exercises and real-world responses.

**emPOWER  
Dataset**

**2022 SVI  
Dataset**

**2022 SVI Data  
Definitions**

## Current Events in Emergency Management and Healthcare



### **Cybersecurity Response: Not Just an IT Issue But an Emergency Preparedness Priority**

**(NextGov)**

At times, some leaders of federal agencies view cybersecurity threats and attacks from a purely technical perspective, focusing on the important issues related to IT protection and challenges. Unfortunately, such an approach can ignore or de-prioritize the very real impacts and dangers of cyberattacks felt well beyond the IT department.

These impacts, at a minimum, may be similar to the disruption we all felt with the recent CrowdStrike/Microsoft outage. While not due to a cyberattack, that incident still resulted in air travel disruptions and other impediments felt beyond IT departments. In worse cases, the impacts of cyberattacks could be the equivalent of the destructive consequences of a natural disaster, such as a hurricane.

Given the stakes, cybersecurity threat response requires a different mindset that views attacks as resulting in the same “whole of

society” consequences as a natural disaster or physical attacks that have endangered lives. Such a response requires agency leadership to ensure that all stakeholders in their agencies, including those not working in technology organizations, begin to consider cybersecurity as an emergency response and preparedness mission — not merely an IT resilience discussion.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



## **RSV Vaccine: A Breakthrough in Protecting Infants and Expectant Mothers**

(NETEC)

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a leading cause of respiratory illness in infants and adults ages 60 and older. As an obstetrician, I frequently meet with expectant parents who are anxious about how to protect their newborns from infections. The recent introduction of the RSV vaccine offers expectant mothers a way to safeguard their newborns from severe RSV. As a health care provider, I can help to demystify the RSV vaccine, address concerns about vaccine hesitancy, and counsel patients on the best course of action. Here are my key takeaways for health care providers speaking with patients about the RSV vaccine.

The maternal RSV vaccine, approved for use in pregnant individuals to prevent RSV in infants, represents a significant milestone in maternal and infant health. Administered to expectant mothers between 32 and 36 weeks of gestation, it passes protective antibodies to the baby during pregnancy. Protection for the baby lasts approximately six months after birth, when infants are most vulnerable to severe infections. Two to three out of every 100 infants under 6 months are hospitalized with RSV every year; the RSV

vaccine significantly reduces that risk in the first six months of life and is most effective within the first three months.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

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## LTC Emergency Preparedness Rule Could be Imminent

(McKnight's Long-Term Care News)

The Biden administration has unveiled its Fall 2024 [Unified Agenda](#) of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions, which details rules it plans to propose or finalize across every federal agency in the fiscal year that started Oct. 1.

The Department of Health and Human Services plans to advance 153 rules, 37 through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. While those include annual payment updates and routine changes to Medicare program requirements, others might be viewed as more political in nature and could be felled by the change in presidential administration.

For now though, CMS priorities include proposing a new and long-awaited emergency preparedness plan for providers, including nursing homes, as soon as this month.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

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## Florida Unveils New Artificial Intelligence-Driven Emergency Messaging System

(The Gainesville Sun)

The Florida Division of Emergency Management, with assistance from the University of Florida, unveiled a new program on Wednesday that uses artificial intelligence to deliver real-time messaging before, during and after a disaster strikes.

The Broadcast Emergency Alerts and Communications Operations Network, or BEACON, pulls relevant information from the local, state and federal levels and converts that information from text to voice to deliver over the airwaves in minutes what could previously take hours.

"BEACON combines new technology with the reliability and power of broadcast radio to deliver messages directly to the communities that need them the most through AM radio, FM HD channels and the BEACON mobile app," said FDEM Director Kevin Guthrie, speaking from UF's College of Journalism and Communications. "In the state of Florida, we have never lost a radio broadcast tower with all of the storms that have hit here."

[Click Here to Read More](#)

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### Additional Readings and Resources

[Weekly Vector-borne Surveillance Report \(NJDOH\)](#)

[Weekly Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report \(NJDOH\)](#)



[National Preparedness Report \(FEMA\)](#)

[Guidelines for the Control of Respiratory Virus Outbreaks in Long-Term](#)

[Care and Other Institutional Settings \(NJDOH\)](#)

[Nursing Home Incident Command System \(NHICS\) \(CAHF\)](#)

## Webinars and Independent Training Opportunities



### L0146 - Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

**Location:** Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC) Schwarzkopf Drive Ewing Twp., NJ 08628

**Dates:** March 6th & 7th, 2025 (2 Days)

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

#### **Course Overview:**

This 2-day course is designed to introduce participants to the fundamentals of exercise design. Emergency managers, emergency services personnel, and individuals who are part of the emergency preparedness communities at all levels of government, private sector, or volunteer organizations need to be able to use the fundamentals of exercise simulation and design as an integrated system of resources and capabilities.

This course is designed to develop exercising skills in the following areas:

- Components of the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)

- Exercise process application
- Comprehensive exercise program (exercise program management) application
- Exercise design steps application
- Major accomplishments in designing and implementing an exercise
- Purpose and application of various exercise documents
- Tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises
- Exercise design applications for tabletop, functional, and full-scale exercises

### Additional Information:

Class duration is two days, 16 hours. A student must attend both days to receive credit for the L0146 course.

[Access the NJOEM Training Flyer Here](#)

[Register for the HSEEP Course Here](#)



### NEMA EMPowerment Webinar Series:

**Navigating Crisis Communication: Lessons from North Carolina's Response to Hurricane Helene**

**Location:** Virtual

**Date:** Thursday, January 16th, 2024

**Time:** 2 PM to 3 PM

### Webinar Overview:

On Thursday, January 16th, join Kevin Sur, Communications Director at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security, for

an insightful discussion featuring Sarah Lewis Peel, Communications Project Manager for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and Brian Haines, Senior External Affairs Specialist at the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. Together, they'll share firsthand stories and strategies from North Carolina's response to Hurricane Helene, focusing on the critical role of messaging in times of crisis.

### **Additional Information:**

Please find the registration link below.

[\*\*Register for the Site Protection Through Observational Techniques Course Here\*\*](#)

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### **Additional Webinars and Training Resources**

[LSU NCBRT/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education -](#)

[World Cup Training](#)

[New Jersey Learning Management Network Upcoming Courses](#)

[FEMA Region 2 Preparedness Recorded Webinars](#)

[NJHCC Training Opportunities Page](#)

## **Help Us Improve the NJHCC Newsletter**

**We want to hear from you!**

We appreciate you taking the time to read our bi-weekly newsletter. Our team is always looking for ways to improve our resources, if you have two minutes, we'd appreciate it if you shared your feedback.

Please click the button below to access our newsletter feedback form.

[\*\*Click Here to Access Our Newsletter Feedback Survey\*\*](#)

## **Additional Resources**



NEW JERSEY  
COVID-19 Information Hub



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**If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the HCC  
EM Support Team**

**Contact us via  
Email**

**Contact us via 24/7  
Hotline**

**Visit our  
Website**

New Jersey Regional Healthcare Coalitions | 760 Alexander Road | Princeton, NJ 08540 US

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