



NEW JERSEY HEALTHCARE COALITIONS

February 28th, 2025

NJHCC Updates and Upcoming Events

NJHCC 2025 Strategic Planning Meeting Follow Up

Coalition Members,

NJHA's HCC Team would like to thank those of you who were able to join us for the NJHCC Strategic Planning Meeting on Wednesday February 19th, 2025 at Pines Manor in Edison, NJ. The meeting allowed for great collaboration and information sharing between coalition members, the NJHCC EM team, NJHCC Leaders, and key healthcare emergency management and preparedness stakeholders.

In an effort to maintain transparency and drive collaboration, please find below the feedback provided during the breakout rooms of the Strategic Planning Meeting, along with the HCCs' next steps, and presentations given during the event.

[NJHCC Strategic Planning Meeting 2025 Follow Up Materials](#)

OPERATION LIGHTS OUT

VIRTUAL FUNCTIONAL MEDICAL SURGE EXERCISE

Exercise Information:

- Venue: Virtual via Microsoft Teams
- Date & Time: 03/11/2025, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST
- Audience: All healthcare agencies are welcome to participate in this exercise

Contact Our Team by Email at
RHCC@NJHA.com

Registration Closes on 03/02/2025



Operation Lights Out Virtual Functional Medical Response Surge Exercise Registration is Closing Soon!

Exercise Type: Functional

Exercise Venue: Virtual (Via Microsoft Teams)

Exercise Date & Time: 03/11/2025 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM EST

Exercise Participant's Geographic Scope: Statewide (NJ)

This exercise opportunity is open to all NJHCC members, every participant will be able to engage with this exercise's content and test their own activation and response plans, in addition to testing speciality annexes.

While our team is keeping the primary narrative and themes under wraps until the exercise's Situation Manual (SitMan) is released, we'd like to remind participants that this exercise's primary purpose per the Hospital Preparedness Grant (HPP) is to surge medical patients into 10% of the state's licensed acute care beds. To ensure all NJHCC members are able to participate in this exercise the narrative of this exercise will emphasize collaboration across agencies and

healthcare entity types. The exercise will also engage non-hospital-based partners through a variety of curated methods. [ALL NJHCC members](#) will have the opportunity to participate and learn from this exercise regardless of their professional specialty.

[Click Here to Register for the 2025 MRSE Functional Exercise](#)

Current Events in Emergency Management and Healthcare



Texas Measles Cases Rise to 146 in an Outbreak That Led to a Child's Death

(AP Press)

The number of people with [measles](#) in Texas increased to 146 in an outbreak that led this week to the [death of an unvaccinated school-aged child](#), health officials said Friday.

The number of cases — Texas' largest in [nearly 30 years — increased by 22](#) since Tuesday. The Texas Department of State Health Services said cases span over nine counties in Texas, including almost 100 in Gaines County, and 20 patients have been hospitalized.

The child who died Tuesday night in the outbreak is the first U.S. death from the highly contagious but preventable respiratory disease

since 2015, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The child was treated at Covenant Children’s Hospital in Lubbock, though the facility said the patient didn’t live in Lubbock County.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



Call for Cases: Serious Adverse Events after Ceftriaxone Administration

(NJLINCS)

Summary:

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Communicable Disease Service (CDS) is issuing a Health Advisory about multi-jurisdictional cases of serious adverse events reported after Ceftriaxone administration. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with state and local health departments, is investigating reports of serious adverse events, including deaths, following receipt of injectable ceftriaxone from September 1, 2024 to present. To date, reported events have not been associated with a single product manufacturer or lot number, and a definitive causal link to ceftriaxone has not been established. Clinicians and other healthcare personnel should have a low threshold for reporting these serious adverse events to NJDOH as outlined below.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



Could AI be the Future of Emergency Alerts? Here's Why Florida is Hoping to Launch It

(WPTV)

A recent investigation by WPTV's investigative team has exposed what appears to be significant weaknesses in Florida's emergency alert system, particularly evident during the catastrophic tornado outbreak on Oct. 9.

Several residents reported not receiving emergency alerts when they needed them the most, including Amanda Norton, who could see an EF-3 tornado from her backyard but said she never received an alert.

Hussey's months-long investigation uncovered three potential reasons for the failures. The first reason was that competing warnings issued at the same time may have overwhelmed the system.

"The system may not be able to handle that many issued simultaneously," said Craig Fugate, a former FEMA director.

[Click Here to Read More](#)

Kevin H. Tuno Award Nominations Are Now Open (Emergency Manager of the Year)

(NJEPA)

In collaboration with our colleagues at the [New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Association](#) we are honored to amplify the Kevin H. Tuno award's nomination page. Please find more information on nominating an emergency management professional or organization below.

Emergency Manager of the Year Characteristics:

This award recognizes and honors the individual or program that has demonstrated leadership, partnership, selflessness, and ingenuity in New Jersey emergency preparedness programs by investing time and talent to make positive change in our profession by:

- Providing leadership that inspires other members to excel or make the impossible happen;
- Developing and implementing new, highly effective and creative programs;
- Engaging in collaborative efforts to further emergency management programs and activities;
- Exhibiting dedication to the betterment of the emergency management field in the State of New Jersey as evident by substantially influencing emergency management efforts state-wide;
- Helping individuals grow and achieve goals and objectives as a mentor or leader of volunteers involved in emergency preparedness, response or recovery;
- Working for positive long-term changes within our profession;
- Applying innovative ideas and/or creative techniques that enhance local and regional emergency management programs;
- Managing extraordinary response and recovery efforts to major disasters;
- Demonstrating a significant impact on the emergency management field that sets him or herself apart through remarkable contributions in the professional arena and strong leadership within his/her community.

Eligibility:

Any individual, or group, active in emergency management activities in New Jersey are eligible. The award is open to all who work in the field including planners, public health, NGOs, contractors, PIOs, first responders, etc.

- This award is not restricted to government emergency managers. It is intended to recognize the successful leadership of public or private preparedness and emergency management individuals or programs that have demonstrated leadership, ingenuity and selflessness.
- Individuals may be involved in public or private emergency management, preparedness, response or recovery efforts anywhere in the State.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



Bird Flu Found in Live Poultry Market in N.J. Marking First Domestic Case

(NJ.com)

A case of bird flu was discovered at a live bird market in Union County, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture announced Friday, marking the first positive bird flu case among domestic poultry in New Jersey since 2023.

The case was identified in test samples collected on Feb. 19 that were submitted and tested at the New Jersey Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory as part of routine surveillance.

The live poultry market, which was not identified by officials, has been quarantined and will undergo a thorough cleaning and disinfection to eliminate the virus within the facility, state officials said. The facility will

remain temporarily closed before being restocked and reopened.

“The risk of HPAI to the general public remains low and no poultry were sold to the public that may have been infected,” according to the press release.

[Click Here to Read More](#)



Fed Health Centers Poised to Expand Eye Care, Lose Funding

(Medsc)

Community health centers are well positioned to expand vision care services such as vision testing and screening for glaucoma and retina disease to people who have difficulty getting that care, but they have been severely underused, according to a new analysis. And now they’re facing an unprecedented funding crisis.

The study comes at a time when community health centers known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are entering a climate of uncertainty, first with the Trump administration’s freeze on government funding — which reportedly **forced some facilities** to close or cut staff — and, more recently, with talk of deep cuts to Medicaid, which **accounted for 43%** of the centers’ revenue in 2023. The freeze has been rolled back for now, but the agency that sends grants to FQHCs may lose funding in March if Congress doesn’t renew the spending.

“About 29% of FQHCs have onsite vision services, which is an increase compared to a few years back,” said Aiyin Chen, MD, an associate

professor at the Casey Eye Institute of Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Oregon, and senior author of the new analysis, which appeared in a recent issue of *JAMA Ophthalmology*. "But if you look at the percentage of patients in FQHCs who actually receive that care, it's only 3%, which is clearly not enough."

[Click Here to Read More](#)

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 Training Opportunities

H5N1 Specimen Collection and Submission Webinar

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Date: March 12th

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 PM EST

Registration Link:

www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vYQDs60eRcexh1hcqzpcw

Webinar Overview:

The NJDOH-Communicable Disease Service is hosting an H5N1 Specimen Collection and Submission webinar for local health departments, infection control staff from acute care hospitals, and lab personnel on **Wednesday, March 12 from 1-2pm.**

This webinar features presentations from the NJDOH-Communicable

Disease Service and the NJ Public Health & Environmental Laboratories who will provide instructions about influenza A (H5N1) specimen collection and submission to the state public health lab.

Speakers:

Darby McDermott, DVM, MPH, NJ State Public Health Veterinarian,
Communicable Disease Service

Deepam Thomas, MPH, Foodborne, Waterborne, and Influenza Illness
Unit Coordinator, Communicable Disease Service

Dana Woell, MPH, Virology Program Manager, NJ Public Health &
Environmental Laboratories

This meeting is to update local health departments, acute care facilities
and lab personnel.

No continuing education credits provided. Registration is required to
participate.

Additional Information:

When registering, please include a question for presenters.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing
information about joining the meeting.



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

Location: Middlesex County Fire Academy 1001 Fire Academy Drive
Sayreville, NJ 08872

Dates: March 31st & April 1st, 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](#)



I-200 Training Sessions

Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response

NJACCHO is pleased to sponsor a series of I-200-Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response training sessions for public health officials and others across New Jersey. These workshops are designed to prepare participants with the necessary knowledge to pass the 1-200 exam during the second day of class.

[Register for I-200 Here](#)



An Introduction to Exercises

Location: Virtual

Date: Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM EST

Webinar Overview:

Join All Clear to discover key insights and practical strategies for designing exercises that enhance emergency preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Gain valuable tips on scenario development, participant engagement, and post-exercise evaluation, ensuring your exercises contribute to a resilient and well-prepared community or organization. Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your exercise planning skills and make a lasting impact on emergency management.

[Register for Webinar Here](#)

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 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





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

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Email**

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Website**

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

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