

Granite State
Health Care Coalition

YEAR IN REVIEW

2020-2021



Foundation *for*
Healthy Communities

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Granite State Health Care Coalition team has been working to support partners throughout the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The GSHCC team will continue to provide support to partners as response efforts continue and integrate pandemic considerations into programmatic requirements. Some of these response activities include:

- Assisting hospitals with required **federal and state reporting** through Juvare EMResource. When needed, the GSHCC team has actively identified gaps in reporting and collaborated with healthcare partners on reporting mechanisms to create and implement active solutions.
- Facilitating the **purchase of equipment** that supports responder safety and ongoing operations. The Coalition facilitated the purchase of PAPR/CAPR systems for hospitals and electrostatic sprayers for EMS, Long-Term Care, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)/Community Health Centers (CHCs). The GSHCC has also purchased portable tents to support Regional Public Health Network operations.
- Training partners on Juvare platforms, such as **EMResource and eICS** to aid in emergency planning, response coordination, and recovery.
- **Distributing information** to members and partners regarding the latest COVID-19 response resources, opportunities for national collaboration, and continuing education.
- **Facilitating workgroups**, including plain language emergency alerts, joint hospital and public health network meetings, and other emerging needs to support the implementation of promising practices statewide.
- Developing and delivering **training and education** with long-term care and other sectors as needed,

GSHCC ACTIVITIES

In addition to a commitment to support partners throughout the COVID-19 response, the GSHCC successfully completed all programmatic activities required by the US HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting an annual **Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)**. The GSHCC revamped the HVA process for 2020-2021 and will update progress using the same methodology in 2021-2022. Pandemic, extreme winter weather, and cyber attacks were identified as the top three hazards for prioritized planning efforts. Opportunities to participate in this year's process are on the horizon.
- Completing the **Infectious Disease Surge Annex** that elaborates on the role of the Granite State Health Care Coalition in a medical surge event involving an infectious disease. Real-time lessons learned from COVID-19 response have been included and considered while writing and reviewing this annex.

The GSHCC team and partners are also making substantial progress on the required deliverables for 2021-2022. These activities include:

- Developing the **GSHCC Burn Surge Annex** which focuses on the GSHCC response to burn surge mass casualty incidents in New Hampshire.
- Completing a **Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan**. This plan focuses on the continuity of services and operations for the GSHCC team.
- Designing, conducting, and evaluating a **GSHCC Pediatric Surge Annex tabletop exercise**. This exercise will be conducted in December 2021 and will include participation from applicable partners from hospitals, EMS, and other state partners.
- Planning for and conducting the **GSHCC Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE)** that replaces the annual Coalition Surge Test (CST).
- Save the date for the **GSHCC Conference!** The conference is scheduled for April 19, 2022 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH.

ESF-8 UPDATES

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

In early 2021, the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery was formed under the leadership of the Division of Public Health Services. The group is responsible for the execution of a range of preparedness, response, and recovery activities related to public health.

The BEPRR absorbed the functions of the former Emergency Service Unit, as well as management of the Regional Public Health Networks (PHN), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program, and the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP).

DPHS developed a new organizational structure and staffing model for the Bureau and divided programmatic responsibilities across two Sections to manage the expanded scope of responsibility.

The team also continues to engage in COVID-19 response efforts including activities related to logistics, testing, vaccination, and other needs.

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