

gshcc connect

Granite State Health Care Coalition
Spring 2023 Newsletter

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

With the end of the federal public health emergency ending soon, we all proceed not exactly knowing what is next. For many, COVID-19 defined their daily roles and now we move forward in a period of transition. I have every confidence that the best way to build strength and resilience is to work together, forge, expand, and renew partnerships. The fabric of collaboration and sustained response relied on many strands!

Be safe, be resilient, and take time to care for yourself!

-Scott Nichols
GSHCC Senior Director



Foundation for
Healthy Communities

Thank You

Thank you, members and partners for your continued dedication to your staff, patients, and residents as we continue to navigate operations as we recover from COVID-19 and prepare for upcoming events. We could not do our work without your collaboration and support, and we thank you for your continued guidance as we move forward as a system.

- The GSHCC Team



SCOTT NICHOLS
Senior Director



SHAYLIN LIPMAN
Program Coordinator



VICTORIA PAIGE
Exercise & Training Officer



DAKOTA HAYES
Planner

GSHCC MEMBERSHIP

All partners are valued Granite State Health Care Coalition general members, but part of the mission of the GSHCC is to garner formal support, encourage collaborative approaches to information and resource sharing, and support continuity of health care service delivery. To establish a membership structure, GSHCC is encouraging general members to become supporting members of the Coalition by signing a Letter of Support.

Supporting members are eligible for additional benefits beyond what is extended to general members, including more specific technical assistance, exercise evaluation assistance, and more intensive educational opportunities. Please see the [GSHCC Letter of Support and Member Benefits](#) information. If you would like to become a Supporting Member, please sign the Letter of Support and email to gshcc@healthynh.org.



[Learn more about GSHCC Membership](#)

CONTACT US

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 the GSHCC, contact us at gshcc@healthynh.org

CDC Infection, Prevention, and Control Grant

The GSHCC, in collaboration with the NH DHHS - DPHS - Health Care Associated Infection Program (HAI), are continuing to host a series of regional workshops that provides information and Train the Trainer modules. These workshops are made possible under the CDC's 'Nursing Home & Long-term Care Facility Strike Team and Infrastructure Project'. These activities are designed to build infrastructure, resiliency, and to increase infection prevention and control measures across Long-Term Care, Skilled Nursing, and Residential Care Facilities throughout the state. These workshops include 2 Train the Trainer modules: on how to Fit Test Employees on N95 masks and how to use GloGerm beyond hand hygiene to improve staff knowledge, including facilities being provided their own N95 Fit Test Training and GloGerm Training Kits. Additionally, the educational workshops discuss quality improvement and auditing of infection control programs. Additional information provided during the workshops include: support for CDC's Project First Line, funding for infection control certifications, technology and communication resources, program support for recruiting licensed nursing assistants and personal care attendants, and mentor programs such as Infection Control Amplification in Nursing (ICAN). The goal of these workshops are to gain visibility into all 280+ Long Term Care and Skilled Nursing Facilities within New Hampshire.

Workshop resources include:

- [CDC's Project FirstLine](#)
- [CDC's Infection Control Assessment and Response \(ICAR\) Tool](#)
- [National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center \(NETEC\)](#)
- [NH Needs Caregivers](#)



HPP PLANNING ACTIVITIES & PROGRAM OUTLOOK

Learn about where the Granite State Health Care Coalition will be focusing planning and program efforts in upcoming grant years.

HPP Budget Period 5 (FY 23-24)

In BP5, the HPP Surge Annex requirement centers around chemical surge including determining local risks for chemical events, decontamination assets, a review of CHEMPACK, coordinating training for members, and ensuring coordination with HAZMAT resources. See below for additional resources.

➤ [ASPR Topic Collection: Chemical Hazards](#)

Radiation Emergency Surge Annex

The GSHCC is working on compiling a Radiation Emergency Surge Annex that applies to a surge event involving radiation events in New Hampshire. This Annex will be made available upon its completion. For additional information on radiation surge see the links below.

➤ [ASPR TOPIC COLLECTION: RADIOTOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR](#)

➤ [RADIATION INJURY TREATMENT NETWORK](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 GSHCC Conference

Rediscovering Readiness:

A Year in Transition



[Register here](#)

Grappone Conference Center (and virtual)- Concord, NH

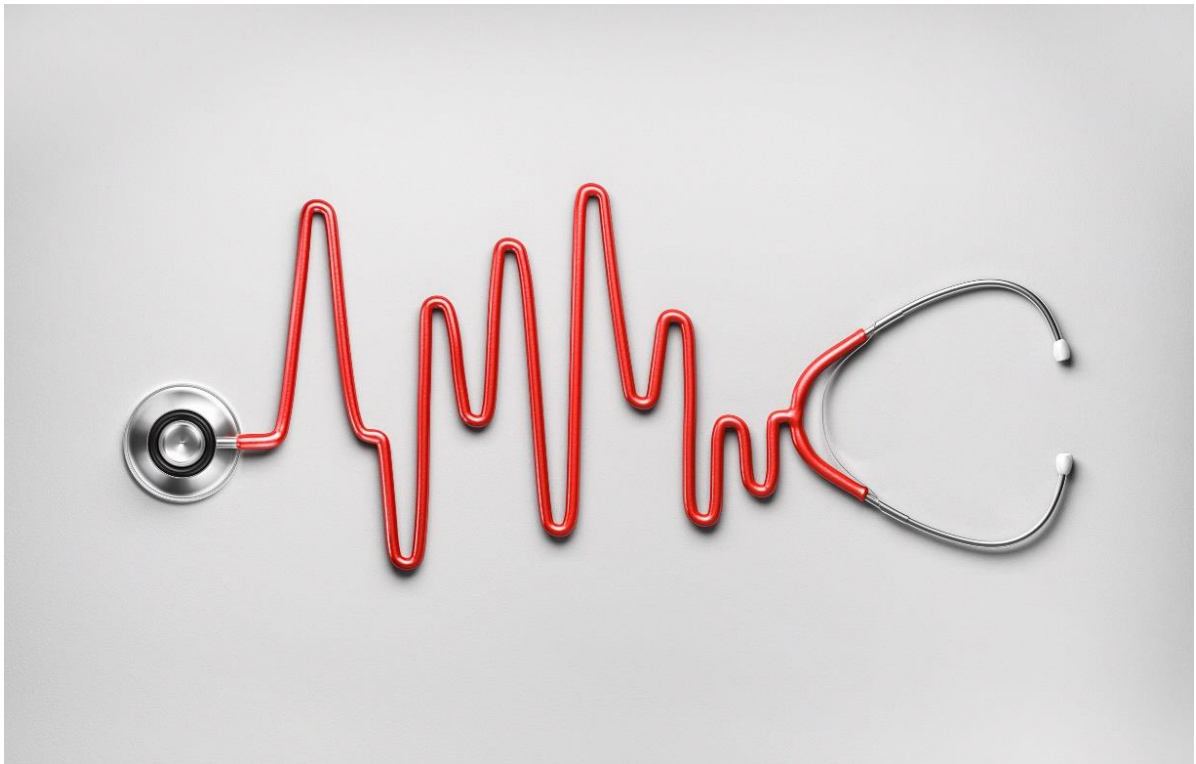
May 11, 2023

8:30am – 4:15pm

Registration for the 2023 GSHCC Conference is open! A virtual option will be made available for plenary sessions only. There is no cost to attend this conference. While CEUs will not be offered, contact hours will be made available upon request. All partners from across the healthcare, public health, EMS, and emergency management landscape in New Hampshire.

Breakout Sessions:

In-person attendees will have the opportunity to select a first and second choice breakout session to dive deeper into emerging topics of interest including NH Air National Guard Civil Support Team, Mindful Leadership, Cyber and Physical Security, and Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility Services.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 GSHCC Conference

Rediscovering Readiness:

A Year in Transition

Plenary Sessions

2023 GSHCC Conference attendees will be provided with the opportunity to participate in the following plenary sessions. A virtual option will be made available. Please note, while sessions will not be recorded, some materials will be made available with speaker permission.

Up the Waterspout: Tragedy, Resiliency, and Hope in Healthcare

Tanya Lord, Chief Innovation Officer, ATW Health Solutions

Healthcare is full stories of tragedy, resiliency, and hope. It is within these stories that we can identify problems and innovate solutions to improve and transform the experience of delivering and receiving care. Public distrust, ready access to misinformation and competing experts has made engaging with each other and those we serve more important than ever before. This session will explore an effective method, Experience Based Co-Design, to engage patients, families, clinicians and staff. Come prepared to have a little fun and do a little singing!

The Work of Trauma Stewardship

Rik Cornell, VP of Community Relations, The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester

Working in the mental health field since 1973, one witnesses many changes in how therapists are cared for by their employers. Additionally, many therapists, healthcare workers, public health workers, EMS providers, and emergency management professionals have yet to take the time for self-care. As we all hopefully leave a world of COVID, there could be no better time to address these issues than now. Caring for ourselves to better care for others is of such importance that without it, the risks are great for burnout, depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, and even suicide. Along with these detrimental injuries, there is the cost of poor patient care. This can lead to ethical issues we must discuss if we are to conduct ourselves as health care providers. Rik Cornell will speak on the work of Trauma Stewardship as it relates to his own and potential participant experiences. This will lead to a conceptual structure to help participants care for themselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2023 GSHCC Conference

Rediscovering Readiness:

A Year in Transition

Plenary Sessions (continued).

Developing an Incident Response Team in The Coalition

Jessica Layne Picanzo, Director, Enterprise Emergency Operations & Medical Transport, HCA Healthcare

Malachi Fisher, Market Director of Trauma and Neurosciences, HCA New Hampshire Market

Neil Moore, Trauma Program Manager, Trauma Department, Parkland Medical Center, HCA Healthcare

In 2020, HCA conceptualized and developed an all-hazards incident response team in support of the 180 + facilities nationwide. The purpose of the team was to strengthen HCA's ability to effectively respond to an interruption in business, with leaders skilled and trained in incident management, incident response, austere environment operations, mass transport operations and leadership support. While this team was built for a private healthcare entity, the concept can be shifted to any healthcare coalition. If a healthcare coalition adopted this model, it would allow them to effectively pivot in a response to provide expert support to facility patients and colleagues by strengthening their own response model.

Innovations in Healthcare, Technology, and Beyond

Dean Kamen, Founder, DEKA R&D and FIRST

DEKA Research and the Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI) work to positively impact healthcare, education, and workforce development. This plenary session will share, through Dean Kamen's experience and eyes, some of the current healthcare initiatives, what lies ahead, and how innovation may make a difference or impact the work you do today.

TRAINING INFORMATION

COMING SOON!

The GSHCC team continues to provide free training to our members. A web-based training and exercise calendar is currently under development. Offered trainings may include Incident Command System (ICS), Introduction to Emergency Management, N95 Fit Testing Train – the – Trainer, Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) writing, MedSled, Juvare EMResource, and Juvare eICS. The GSHCC team continues to review additional training opportunities for our members and will be sharing information soon! Please contact the GSHCC team gshcc@healthynh.org with questions regarding your training needs.

Continuity of Operations (COOP) Planning Training

[FEMA EMI- IS- 1300- Introduction to Continuity of Operations](#)

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has a free online course to provide knowledge to participants on continuity planning. The course objectives include, defining the importance of continuity planning for organizations and communities, description of key elements of a continuity program, and the whole community approach to continuity planning.

Public Information Officer (PIO) Training

[FEMA EMI- IS-29.A- Public Information Officer Awareness](#)

This course is designed to familiarize participants with the concepts underlying the PIO role. This course can provide a basic understanding of the PIO function for those new to the position. Additionally, it can provide those in executive level roles the necessary knowledge of PIO roles and responsibilities during an emergency.

[E0105: Public Information Basics](#)

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) has an in person three-day course that provide participants with basic skills of communications, understanding and working with the media, techniques to perform effectively as a PIO in times of an emergency response.

ONLINE TRAINING

[FEMA Emergency Management Institute](#)
(Independent Study Program)

[Center for Domestic Preparedness \(CDP\)](#)

[National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center \(NETEC\)](#)

NH TRAINING

[NH HSEM](#)

[NH Fire Academy & EMS](#)

[STEP Calendar](#)

COALITION EXERCISE INFORMATION

Medical Response & Surge Exercise (MRSE)

The MRSE is an annual requirement for the GSHCC. Core partners across the healthcare and public sectors will be requested to participate in this operations-based exercise. The exercise is designed to stress the healthcare system in New Hampshire through the event of a sudden surge of patients. The exercise scenario will test the functional surge capacity in the state of New Hampshire and identify gaps in the process of coordinating patient movement in a high stress event. On October 11th and 12th 2022,

2022 GSHCC MRSE Lessons Learned

the GSHCC team and core partners conducted the MRSE annual exercise. Core participants included hospitals, NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (EPRR), Regional Public Health Networks (RPHNs), Long Term Care (LTC), Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), NH HSEM, and Department of Safety (DOS). The exercise objectives and scope included evaluation of emergency preparedness plans and procedures for state agencies, healthcare facilities, and the GSHCC team, as well as assess the GSHCC capabilities to respond to a medical surge event, the GSHCC ability to properly communicate to core members during a medical surge event, and the GSHCC ability to source data resources to core members during a surge event.

The GSHCC identified key takeaways and lessons learned from the exercise. The involvement and collaboration of LTCs and VNAs was identified as a strength during exercise play. The support and coordination of state agencies was a success. Lessons learned from the MRSE include the ability to identify locations where patients will be located or relocated during a medical surge event and to identify the coordination of patient transportation.

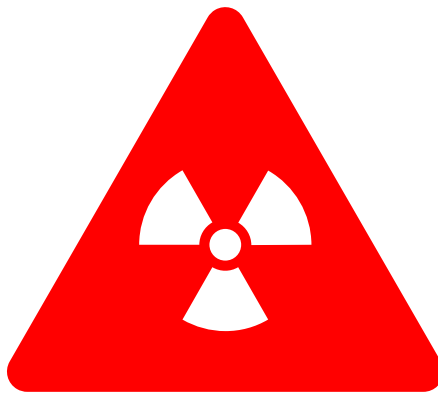
Please contact Victoria Paige, vp Paige@healthynh.org for additional information about the MRSE.



COALITION EXERCISE INFORMATION

Radiation Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise (TTX)

The Radiation Emergency Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise will be held in June of 2023 with support from core partners. GSHCC is currently developing the exercise with core members and subject matter experts to validate the information within the NH GSHCC Radiation Emergency Surge Annex. The Exercise will address pre-hospital response, patient movement, and reunification during a radiological event. Please contact Victoria Paige, vp Paige@healthynh.org for additional information.



Chemical Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise (TTX)

The Chemical Surge Annex is a new annex that is currently under development. The annex will address risks for community chemical events, coordination of decontamination of patients in the hospital and EMS settings, mobilization of chemical countermeasures (CHEMPACK), reception center plans with public health partners, and the involvement and coordination of regional HAZMAT resources.

The Chemical Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise will be conducted in 2024. The GSHCC will partner with core members and subject matter experts to develop the exercise. The exercise will test a sudden surge of patients that require chemical countermeasures, reception center plans, HAZMAT resources, and patient movement.

Please contact Victoria Paige, vp Paige@healthynh.org for additional information.

COALITION EXERCISE INFORMATION

Granite State Health Care Coalition Exercise Calendar

The GSHCC is tasked to draft, exercise, and revise all annexes prior to June 30th of each budget period. The Coalition requests participation of partners from core membership sectors (emergency management, public health, EMS, hospitals) in addition to other healthcare partners. Below you will find the latest 2023 timeline of GSHCC exercises. Additional exercises may be added to support healthcare partners and their exercise requirements.

Please [contact](#) the GSHCC team with any questions or concerns.

Exercise	Timeline	Description	Participating Partners
BP4 (July 2022 – June 2023)			
Crisis Standards of Care CONOPS Tabletop Exercise	April 19, 2023	Requirement to validate the Crisis Standards of Care Guidance for New Hampshire CONOPS before the end of BP4 (June 30 th)	DHHS Hospitals EMS Emergency Management Other core partners
Radiation Emergency Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise	June 2023	Discussion Based Exercise to validate the NH GSHCC Radiation Emergency Surge Annex	Core Partners, Others TBD
BP5 (July 2023 – June 2024)			
Medical Response and Surge Exercise	TBD	Annual requirement – MRSE Functional Exercise	Core Members, TBD
Chemical Surge Annex Tabletop Exercise	TBD	Discussion Based Exercise to validate the GSHCC Chemical Surge Annex	Core Members, TBD

COALITION EXERCISE INFORMATION

Exercise Resources and Assistance

FEMA PrepToolkit

Have you scheduled your required exercise but not sure where to start? The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an online portal that provides tools to support exercise design and development, conduct, evaluation, and improvement planning. The portal follows all six components of the National Preparedness System (NPS) which ensures your exercise meets requirements.

 [FEMA PrepToolkit Online Portal](#)

ASPR TRACIE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE), has a technical resource reference page with lessons learned, templates, and after-action reports (AAR) to utilize for your planning and exercise conduct needs. These templates encompass the all-hazard approach for healthcare needs with scenarios including but not limited to, active threat, cybersecurity, severe weather, utility failure, patient surge events, and public health emergencies.

 [ASPR TRACIE](#)

Tabletop Exercise Templates

The GSHCC has created an array of discussion-based tabletop exercise templates for use at your facility. These templates may assist facilities looking to meet annual exercise requirements per regulatory authorities. Discussion-based exercises are built for a four-hour timeframe allowing for a scalable and flexible response to a myriad of hazards which include electrical event, telephony denial of service/telephone scam, network outages, winter storm, rain event, infectious disease event, and others! Each template follows the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines. If you are interested in receiving a copy of these exercise templates, please reach out to the GSHCC team at gshcc@healthynh.org.

GET THE COVID-19 BOOSTER TODAY!

Getting the booster helps keep you protected from serious illness, especially if you are over 50 or have health conditions like diabetes, heart disease or obesity that put you at higher risk.



ONLY FOR A LIMITED TIME THE BOOSTER WILL COME TO YOU

Schedule a Free:

- In-home visit for homebound residents
- Vaccination clinic for your organization or business

Schedule Now!

Call **603-826-6500**
or visit **VACCINES.NH.GOV**



ANYTIME FIND VACCINE RESOURCES NEAR YOU AT **VACCINES.NH.GOV**

HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

Find Out About Treatment

- Talk to a health professional right away about treatment options
- Treatment is most effective when taken early and may reduce severity of COVID-19 if you are over 50 or have health conditions that put you at higher risk
- Ask about getting medication sent to your home or pharmacy

ONLY FOR A LIMITED TIME
FREE TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT
CALL 7 DAYS A WEEK 800-816-5803

ANYTIME
FIND TREATMENT RESOURCES AT
COVID19.NH.GOV

The preparation of this poster was financed under a contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, with 100% federal funds, as awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



NH DHHS PPE and COVID-19 Test Kit Availability

Free COVID-19 Over the Counter Antigen Test-Kits

NH DHHS is offering a temporary delivery program for Over-the-Counter (OTC) COVID-19 antigen tests. Test kits can also be picked up at the DHHS warehouse by appointment only.

DHHS is increasing access to **free** over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 antigen tests to ensure New Hampshire citizens have access to tests at home. To order tests to support your organizational needs or to distribute to community members, please order tests [here](#). All organizations are eligible.

For more information about this new OTC COVID-19 antigen distribution program, please email dhhs.epr@dhhs.nh.gov.

Free personal protective equipment (PPE) for non-profit entities

NH DHHS is offering free PPE for *non-profit entities* for delivery or pickup at the NH DHHS warehouse. To request PPE, order [here](#). For additional information contact dhhs.epr@dhhs.nh.gov.



Flooding Preparedness Tips

Flooding Preparedness Tips

Flooding is the most common natural disaster in the United States. Protect yourself by following the following protective measures:

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. Depth of floodwaters can be deceiving.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Follow instructions from local officials whether it be evacuation or sheltering-in-place.
- Move to higher ground .
- Understand hazards of avoiding injury from debris, contaminated flood water, carbon monoxide, poisoning, electrocution, and damaged buildings and infrastructure.
- Seek professional damage assessment/inspection before entering buildings that have been flooded.
- Know animals, insects, and rodents may have entered you through floodwater.
- Follow protective actions- learn more about how to prepare before, during, and after this hazard.
- Know your risk. Is your home located in a flood zone?
- Purchase flooding insurance if applicable.



Spring Preparedness Tips

Spring is a time of renewal, cleaning, and a time to prepare for the season ahead. Spring preparedness tips include:

- Test your smoke alarms and replace batteries where necessary.
- Test and/or install Carbon Monoxide detectors.
- Review/ assemble your family emergency plan and communications plan.
- Rotate supplies and restock your emergency preparedness kit.
- [Prepare for spring weather.](#)





Foundation *for* Healthy Communities

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.

The preparation of this newsletter was financed under a contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, with funds provided in part by the State of New Hampshire and/or such other funding sources as were available or required, e.g., the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Please visit us online to view [past issues of the Granite State Health Care Coalition semi-annual newsletter.](#)

Granite State Health Care Coalition
c/o Foundation for Healthy Communities
125 Airport Road
Concord, NH 03301

 healthynh.org
 gshcc@healthynh.org
 603.415.4263