

Director's Message

Greetings to all,

We find ourselves surging to all things pumpkin, apples, and the promise of change for a brighter tomorrow. Each fall we witness the gradual end of a season as we prep and prepare for what is next, unsure of the path ahead. For many, the fall season can be spectacular, for others, the promise of winter activities that lie ahead motivates them, while for some, it is the perseverance to get through to the next beach season. During these transitions, it is normal to have the highs and lows, and as people we all have our favorite seasons. Within our health care coalition, we too have highs and lows. Lots of great projects continue with good energy and promise of better outcomes. We continue to expand our membership as we work to provide value, and help you help us, in not only your times of need, but when we experience those blue-sky days and need to continue to prepare.

Although there are a myriad of current and potential hurdles to achieving our goals, as a group we are strong and continuously show that we can work through all obstacles - together.

Thank you for your dedication and passion, and please remember if you do not take care of yourself, you may not be able to take care of others,

-Scott Nichols
GSHCC Senior Director



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Foundation for
Healthy Communities

Thank You

Thank you members and partners for your continued dedication to your staff, patients and residents. We could not do our work without your collaboration and support. We thank you for your continued guidance as we conduct preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for the healthcare and public health system.

- The GSHCC Team



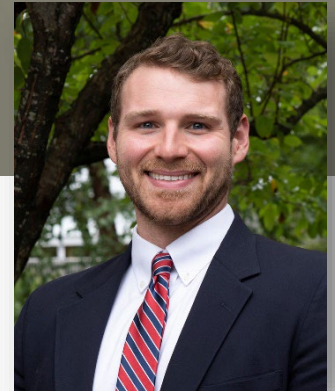
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Senior Director



SHAYLIN LIPMAN
Director



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 GSHCC mission 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, the GSHCC encourages 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

HPP PLANNING ACTIVITIES & PROGRAM OUTLOOK

2025 GSHCC Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)

The GSHCC HVA is an annual deliverable conducted to inform GSHCC planning priorities, identify gaps, and enhance training and exercise planning. A survey was disseminated to over 1000 partners to assist the GSHCC team in identifying mitigation strategies as well as priority actions to build and sustain preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities across the state.

The GSHCC recently conducted its annual Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) Meeting virtually on September 17th. The meeting is an important part of the HVA process where results from the survey are presented, discussed, and validated before the information is incorporated into a final report. This year's HVA meeting saw 49 attendees from more than three dozen facilities across the healthcare continuum participate in discussing potential vulnerabilities across the seven identified priority hazards, determine actions to build and sustain preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities, as well as identify activities to pursue GSHCC mitigation strategies. These results will inform GSHCC planning priorities, identify gaps, and enhance training and exercise planning.

HPP PLANNING ACTIVITIES & PROGRAM OUTLOOK

2025 GSHCC Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA)

GSHCC 2025 HVA Outcomes**2025 rankings updated

Likelihood of Occurrence (over the next 1-5 years)	Human Impact	Property/ Infrastructure Impact	Business Operations Impact	Planning in Reducing Risk
Most to Least Probable	Most to Least Catastrophic			(High to Low Priority)
Extreme Winter Weather	Pandemic/ Infectious Disease Event	Hurricane/Tropical/Post-Tropical Cyclone	Cyber Attack	Pandemic/ Infectious Disease Event
Cyber Attack**	Extreme Winter Weather	Extreme Winter Weather	Pandemic/ Infectious Disease Event	Extreme Winter Weather
Pandemic/ Infectious Disease Event**	Armed Assailant/ Active Threat	Cyber Attack	Armed Assailant/ Active Threat	Cyber Attack
Armed Assailant/ Active Threat*	Cyber Attack	RDD/Radiological Incident	Hurricane/Tropical/Post-Tropical Cyclone	Armed Assailant/ Active Threat
Hurricane/Tropical/Post-Tropical Cyclone*	Chemical Incident*	Armed Assailant/ Active Threat	Extreme Winter Weather	Chemical Incident
Chemical Incident	RDD/Radiological Incident	Chemical Incident	RDD/Radiological Incident	Hurricane/Tropical/Post-Tropical Cyclone
RDD/Radiological Incident	Hurricane/Tropical/Post-Tropical Cyclone*	Pandemic/ Infectious Disease Event	Chemical Incident	RDD/Radiological Incident

Several hazards likelihood of occurrence and impacts have been updated from the 2024 HVA. These changes are denoted by asterisks. Additionally, Property/ Infrastructure and Business Operation Impacts are new to the 2025 HVA.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 GSHCC General Membership Virtual Meeting



November 5, 2025

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

8:30am-12:30pm

[Register Here Today](#)

All members, partners and stakeholders are invited to attend the virtual meeting.

There is no fee to attend. Registration closes *October 31st*.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

GSHCC Conference



Spring 2026

The GSHCC is currently in the planning stages for the GSHCC Spring Conference, tentatively schedule for May 2026, date TBD. Planned session topics include leveraging AI within the healthcare setting, cyber threats and defenses within healthcare and public health, and conflict prevention and de-escalation strategies and armed assailant preparedness. Additional information to come.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)

The GSHCC has developed a Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) training for hospital leaders. HICS was created by California Emergency Medical Services with Kaiser Permanente to assist hospitals in responding to emergency incidents. This training will review the scope and objectives of the HICS model of incident command operations including HICS materials (Incident Action Plan, Job Action Sheets; etc.). The course will also provide a hands-on activity to practice the HICS concepts. The course is recommended for hospital leadership and staff that would fulfill the Incident Command roles. Partners can request the training by emailing the GSHCC team at gshcc@healthynh.org.

Nursing Home Incident Command System (NHICS)

The GSHCC has developed a Nursing Home Incident Command System (NHICS) Training for Long-Term Care, Skilled Nursing and Home Health Care Facilities. NHICS was created by California Emergency Medical Services with Kaiser Permanente to assist health care facilities in responding to emergency incidents. The training reviews the NHICS model of roles and responsibilities of each person during an emergency and NHICS documents (Incident Action Plan, Job Action Sheets; etc.). The course provides hands-on activity to practice the incident command system. Partners can request the training by emailing the GSHCC team at gshcc@healthynh.org.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW Exercise Fundamentals

The GSHCC has developed an Exercise Fundamentals training for partners. Exercise Fundamentals will review FEMA's Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP) concepts of how to conduct an exercise. The concepts include how to overview of Discussion-Based and Operations-Based exercises, evaluating an exercise, and After-Action Report Improvement Plan (AAR/IP).

The course is recommended for hospital emergency management coordinators, public health, long-term care, and skilled nursing emergency management staff that would fulfill the emergency management duties. Partners can request the training by emailing the GSHCC team at gshcc@healthynh.org.



COALITION EXERCISE INFORMATION

Granite State Health Care Coalition Exercise Calendar

The GSHCC is tasked to draft and finalize all exercise After-Action Reports (AARs) within ninety days of an exercise date. The Coalition requests participation of partners from various sectors including emergency management, public health, EMS, hospitals and other healthcare partners. Below you will find the updated timeline of GSHCC exercises for this five-year period of performance.

Additional exercises may be added to support health care partners and their exercise requirements as applicable.

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

Granite State Health Care Coalition Exercise Calendar

Exercise	Timeline	Description	Participating Partners
BP2 (July 2025 – June 2026)			
Medical Response & Surge Exercise (MRSE)	Spring 2026	Functional Exercise to validate the <i>GSHCC Coordination Plan</i> , and corresponding Plans and Annexes, in response to a medical surge event.	GSHCC members and partners
BP3 (July 2026 – June 2027)			
Medical Response & Surge Exercise (MRSE)	Spring 2027	Functional Exercise to validate the <i>GSHCC Coordination Plan</i> , and corresponding Plans and Annexes, in response to a medical surge event.	GSHCC members and partners
Patient Movement Exercise	Spring 2027	Functional Exercise to validate the NH Patient Movement Plan	GSHCC members and partners

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 and tools to support partners in conducting evaluation and improvement planning. The portal follows all six components of the National Preparedness System (NPS) which ensures exercises meet 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 an all-hazards approach for health care 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 an electrical event, telephony denial of service/telephone scam, network outages, winter storm, rain event, infectious disease event and others! Each template follows the FEMA 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.

NH DHHS, DPH, BUREAU OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, & RECOVERY UPDATE

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services [Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery](#) (EPRR) is grateful for the continued partnership and engagement of our healthcare community. Your collaboration helps keep New Hampshire strong and ready for whatever challenges come our way.

In 2025, EPRR supported responses to several emergencies—each one a reminder of how vital our shared preparedness, strong relationships, and open communication are to protecting the health and safety of our communities. As we continue advancing preparedness initiatives and strengthening response capabilities, your ongoing participation and insight remain essential to our collective success.

Planning Initiative Updates

In June 2025, New Hampshire published the Medical Operations Coordination Center (MOCC) Concept of Operations (ConOps) plan, incorporating feedback from local, state, and regional partners. The state is among the few nationally with a MOCC plan! As we move toward a more detailed Patient Movement Plan, your continued engagement ensures MOCC processes and infrastructure remain practical and supportive to your organization. To get involved, contact Stephen.J.Belmont@dhhs.nh.gov.

The State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC) charter is drafted, providing a multi-disciplinary approach to recommendations during emergencies that impact conventional healthcare delivery. As part of the [NH Crisis Standards of Care](#) (CSC) framework, SDMAC offers legal, ethical, and clinical analysis and guidance that healthcare organizations may adopt. For more information, contact Carole.Totzkay@dhhs.nh.gov.

The High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) workgroup convened in October 2025 to begin improvement planning at the state and local level. The group focuses on EMS capacity and training, response plan updates, developing a robust training program, and creating regional equipment caches to support HCID response. To participate, email Stephanie.Locke@dhhs.nh.gov.

NH DHHS, DPH, BUREAU OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, & RECOVERY UPDATE

CHEMPACK Program Update

The New Hampshire CHEMPACK program continues to strengthen statewide readiness for chemical emergencies. Over the past year, efforts have focused on improving coordination among cache sites, EMS, hospitals, and partners, updating guidance documents, and maintaining container readiness through monitoring, medication replacement, and equipment updates. Exercises and real-world container moves have further refined processes and communication.

Looking ahead, CHEMPACK will continue enhancing training, communication, and quick-deployment guidance to ensure assets are ready for rapid use and that healthcare partners across New Hampshire are prepared to respond effectively.

For more information about the CHEMPACK program, please contact SNS@dhhs.nh.gov.

Grant Opportunity: Fully Funded Bed Availability Integration for NH Hospitals

The CDC's Hospital Bed Capacity Connectivity Initiative is offering a fully funded, three-year grant to help New Hampshire hospitals and health networks implement real-time bed availability dashboards through Juvare's BedSync™ platform.

This initiative will:

Enhance coordination across hospitals, long-term care, emergency response, and public health.

Improve patient safety through better visibility and faster, data-driven decisions.

Optimize resource use with automated 15-minute awareness of bed availability and system capacity.

Reduce costs and staff strain by minimizing the time spent locating available beds and improving load balancing.

Align facilities regionally with a common operating picture and standardized data sharing.

NH DHHS, DPH, BUREAU OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, & RECOVERY UPDATE

Bed Availability Integration (continued)

Through BedSync™, hospitals can automate hourly bed and resource reporting directly to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)—eliminating manual data entry, improving accuracy, and easing the regulatory burden on already stretched clinical and administrative teams.

This opportunity also directly supports our collective work around the MOCC—streamlining patient movement, improving system-wide awareness, and ensuring every facility has the tools it needs to manage surge and maintain safe, high-quality care.

Early participation ensures access to current funding and helps position your hospital to meet future reporting requirements with less burden and greater efficiency.

Important:

Projects may be funded through this grant until July 14, 2028. New projects will begin on a rolling basis until all funds are committed. To get started, simply submit your [hospital's interest form](#) to begin onboarding. Need more details? Join one of the Juvare's [Technical Office Hours](#)—held every Tuesday and Thursday at 1:00 PM ET (30 minutes).



NH DHHS, DPH, BUREAU OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, & RECOVERY UPDATE

Training and Exercise Opportunities Available

A wide range of public health, healthcare, and emergency management trainings – both virtual and in-person – are available, many at no cost. Explore the [Statewide Training and Exercise Calendar](#) for current offerings, updated regularly. For questions or specific training needs, please contact Adnela.Alic@dhhs.nh.gov.



NH DHHS, DPH, BUREAU OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, & RECOVERY UPDATE

State of New Hampshire ESF-8 Health and Medical Contact Information

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), Division of Public Health (DPH), Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (EPRR) serves as the Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF-8) Health and Medical lead and continues to work with the Granite State Health Care Coalition to support partners through various emergency preparedness initiatives.

As a reminder, support during surge, emergencies, and other urgent healthcare needs is available 24/7/365 by calling the **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) ESF-8 desk at (603) 223-3729**. Staff members are available to assist with urgent needs and resource coordination.





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.

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Please visit us online to view past editions of the Granite State Health Care Coalition semi-annual newsletter.

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