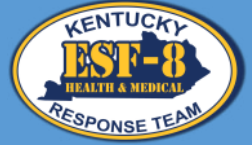




# COALITION CORNER

Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter  
JANUARY 2024



## Announcements & Updates

**Water Step:** The Bluegrass Healthcare Coalition and the Kentucky Healthcare Preparedness Program continues our partnership with Water Step located in Louisville, KY. Recently, Water Step was given more than 700 Coleman 5-gallon water storage containers to support response efforts in areas impacted by water shortages or in need of clean water. These containers will be another asset in helping our health and medical partners respond to emergencies and disasters during which a clean and available water supply is critical. Our coalition's Water-on-Wheels cart was constructed by Water Step and is used to purify water when these events occur. Thank you to Steve Hosch from the HERA Coalition who ventured with Dave to Louisville to bring the water jugs back to the Frankfort warehouse for forward placement around the state.



**Disaster Preparedness 101:** We intend to have a training soon designed to give attendees an introductory level of understanding of what is involved in emergency and disaster preparedness. Topics will include Planning, Training, and Exercises. Our target audience is primarily members of our Senior Living Communities - Long-Term Care, Assisted Living, Memory Care - as we continue to try to engage with these agencies while promoting our coalition and the benefits of membership participation. Other agencies needing a refresher on some of the more general preparedness concepts and strategies are also welcome. This training is tentatively scheduled for March 19th in Lexington. More details and registration info to come.

**ReadyOp Patient Tracking:** The November bus crash on I-70 in Ohio that claimed the lives of 6 individuals and injured 18 others was yet another stark reminder of the challenges that come with mass casualty incidents, especially regarding patient tracking and family reunification. German Township Fire Chief Tom Holman said that "in the chaos, reunification was difficult" and something they needed to conduct better training for - "Plans are great, but the truth is, you rise and fall by your training." As our coalition continues to encourage Hospitals and EMS agencies to practice patient tracking during monthly Triage Tuesdays, we want to also encourage these members to reach out for additional ReadyOp Patient Tracking training, if needed. JT will be making contact with members to offer this training, but please don't hesitate to call or email him if this is something you and your organization needs.

### **Epi Updates:**

- ⚙️ Capital - Seeing COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCs; investigating a legionella HAI; completed overseas Malaria investigation; continuing to see Type-B Flu though no outbreaks or deaths at this time.
- ⚙️ Bluegrass - Continuing to see an increase in respiratory disease (COVID-19, Flu, RSV)
- ⚙️ Lexington-Fayette - Flu trending downward since late-Dec.; Type-B Flu has hit central KY earlier than usual this season and comprises ~45% of cases; most cases are from individuals who were not vaccinated this season and >25% are children aged 1-10; 6 Flu deaths so far from unvaccinated individuals aged 46-101.

## Important Dates

**February 6th**

February Triage Tuesday

**February 22nd**

BGHCC Mtng.

**February 27th**

EKU DEAL Day  
(asset demo)

**March 5th**

March Triage Tuesday

## Upcoming Trainings & Exercises

**February 15th**

CBRNE TTX @ UK EOC

**March 14th**

NDMS Bed Reporting Exercise

**March 19th**

Disaster Preparedness 101

**March 21st**

Q3 Essential Elements of  
Information Drill

## Contacts

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