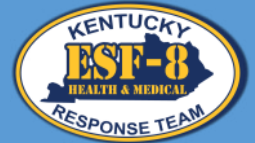




COALITION CORNER

Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

MAY 2024



Announcements & Updates

Mock Bus Crash Drill - On Monday, May 20th, Mercer County Schools held a mock bus crash drill recognizing the anniversary of the 1988 Carrollton bus crash that claimed the lives of 27 individuals. Many ESF #8 partners participated in this exercise, including Ephraim McDowell James B. Haggin ED Director and BGHCC Executive Team member Kelli Griffin. Kelli can be seen in this picture discussing with volunteers and observer how a response to this kind of incident would progress shortly before she returned to her hospital to lead her team as they received the mock patients.



MRSE - The BGHCC Medical Surge Response Exercise was conducted on May 16th and a number of coalition hospitals participated. Hospitals practiced triaging of paper patients and utilizing ReadyOp for patient-tracking. If the patient needs dictated a higher level of care than the receiving hospital could provide, participants were also able to exercise load-balancing and transfer to other participants. Strengths and gaps were identified and will be shared in an After-Action Report with participating hospitals.

Cybersecurity TTX - On Monday, May 20th, Dave joined other HPP coordinators and IT support staff from various hospitals across the Commonwealth in a Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise as part of the 95th Annual KHA Convention. Speaker and Facilitator was Mr. John Riggi who serves as the National Advisor of Cybersecurity and Risk. The exercise provided opportunity for both technical and non-technical leaders to test incident response plans, identify gaps, and elicit strategic decision making skills under simulated adversarial conditions. During the next HPP 5-year grant cycle, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) has placed emphasis on regions to sharpen planning and mitigation steps to build resiliency against cyber threats which may threaten the healthcare system.

Epi Updates

Capital Region: Respiratory virus activity in Kentucky remains low. (www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/Pages/RespiratoryDiseases.aspx); Currently 1 respiratory outbreak in an LTC for COVID; Capital region also has 2 cases of whooping cough; School is closing soon, so now is the time to review your child's vaccination status; Doctors are recommending Tdap as scheduled for older adults; Summer is the time for enteric illnesses as travel and summer gatherings increase. (Please wash hands and do not eat raw egg...); H5N1 is a virus that causes what is known as the "bird flu." People can get sick with the bird flu when they come into contact with infected birds or animals. (www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm). Currently NO cases of bird flu in Capital region as we prepare and follow CDC guidelines; Several states are experiencing measles outbreaks. In Capital region we are preparing with our community and hospital partners to prepare if any case shows up... (www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html)

Lexington-Fayette: Continuing to see a decline in the number of flu cases as the 2023-2024 flu season comes to an end after May. However, we are seeing an uptick in other respiratory diseases; Currently have an outbreak of pertussis, mainly in our 13-18 year old, school aged children. Our epidemiology team continues to investigate to discover a potential link between cases; Have also seen an increase in legionella cases. These cases do not seem to be linked; In recent months, UK has implemented a new routine testing program. This has led to an increase in non-acute Hepatitis positive labs in our lab reporting system.

News to Know

 [Measles Preparedness and Prevention in Healthcare Settings](#) - KHREF Emerg. Preparedness Update

Important Dates

June 4th

June Triage Tuesday

June 10th

BG Medical Reserve Corp Subcommittee Mtng.

June 27th

BGHCC Mtng. @ Eastside Public Library in Lexington

Upcoming Trainings & Exercises

June 12th

Final CSEPP Exercise

June 28th

NDMS Full-Scale Exercise

July 16th

Pediatric Surge TTX - hosted by the Pediatric Pandemic Network

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