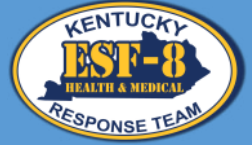




COALITION CORNER

Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter
SEPTEMBER 2024



Announcements & Updates

📢 **Senior Living Communities Education Day** - We will be having an education day for our Senior Living Communities agencies, and others interested, on November 12th from 9:00am-3:00pm at Friendship Towers of Sayre Christian Village. On the agenda will be a presentation by Neil Napier with Landmark of Laurel Creek to discuss his facility's real-world evacuation, a patient-tracking overview and update by our Western KY Coalition coordinator, Vickie Seidel, and a tabletop exercise facilitated by our KDPH Exercise Program Coordinator, Steve Davis. To register, please follow this [link](#).

📢 **Budget Allocation** - Our HPP budget allocation has been determined for the upcoming fiscal year which runs from July 1st, 2024 through June 30th, 2025, the first year of our new 5-year grant funding cycle. Most of the funding from ASPR has remained static for Kentucky and we only saw a marginal increase, but this did not result in an increase to our coalition budget for this year. In Budget Period 2 (BP2), Ken Kik has informed us we will possibly see an increase in funding. We also had unspent funds from our last fiscal year due to unspent funds from our internship program and trainings. Budget considerations are in the process of being reviewed by our Executive Committee. We are planning to move toward utilizing this funding for operational purposes and for regional response "mission-ready packages" as opposed to equipping individual agencies. We also continue to explore supplemental funding opportunities through donations to our coalition as a 501c3 non-profit organization.

📢 **HVA** - Currently reviewing our regional Hazard Vulnerability Analysis and identifying any necessary changes to risk probabilities and severity, as well as our region's mitigation capabilities. Our executive team has proposed updating our regional HVA at an increased frequency of every two years. We will soon be requesting all coalition members to once again share their agency's HVA results so that we may update and improve the accuracy of our regional HVA. Preliminary discussions have included adjusting our pandemic and cybersecurity/cyberterrorism vulnerability scores.

📢 **Coalition App and Website** - The BGHCC Executive Team has been piloting our coalition braded app and have been testing out the various features and capabilities. At this time, no additional changes or updates are planned for the app. Therefore, it is ready to begin rolling out to all our coalition members after we determine the best method for onboarding our members who opt-in to using the app. We will share additional details during our upcoming October coalition meeting, including how you can download the app and get enrolled. We are also working toward updating our coalition website. The developers of our current website have moved to a new development platform which should provide us with an updated and improved website that provides the same informative detail of our coalition mission and capabilities while better showcasing our efforts.

📢 **WaterStep Water-on-Wheels Cart** - Dave and I attended an all-day training with WaterStep during which we practiced using their newest version of the water-on-wheels cart (WOW Cart). The newer carts are more user friendly with fewer valves which makes setup and running the cart more intuitive. WaterStep will also be updating our region's WOW cart, and those held at the state warehouse, to this newer model. Dave and I may eventually offer training for others on setting up and operating the cart.

Important Dates

October 1st

October Triage Tuesday

October 7th-8th

2024 KY Primary Care Association Conference

October 24th

Bluegrass Healthcare Coalition Meeting @ Beaumont Branch Public Library in Lexington

November 12th

Senior Living Communities Subcommittee Meeting

Upcoming Trainings & Exercises

October 28th-30th

ICS 300 @ Bluegrass Airport ARFF Training Center

November 14th

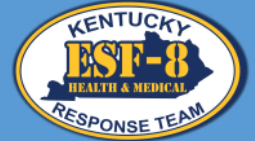
NDMS Bed Reporting Exercise






COALITION CORNER

Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023



Epi Updates -

-  Capital Region - Seeing a spike in COVID-19 and flu cases; currently have 4 outbreaks at LTCs for COVID-19; no deaths due to flu reported to date; cases of whooping cough reported in schools and university in fully immunized children and young adults; we all attended a CDC immunization conference last week which was very informative.
-  Lexington/Fayette - Same issues as the Capital Region, though pertussis (whooping cough) cases have been decreasing in our area.
-  Bluegrass Region - Experiencing the same issues as the other regions including several COVID-19 cases in LTCs across the region.

News to Know



States of Emergency being declared in Kentucky due to Hurricane Helene remnants

Several Kentucky counties and cities have declared a State of Emergency due to issued caused by the high winds and heavy rains from the remnants of Hurricane Helene. Governor Beshear announced the communities that have issued the declarations:

- Counties: Boyd, Breathitt, Clark, Clay, Lee, Letcher, Magoffin, and Wolfe
- Cities: Ashland, Catlettsburg, Clay City, and Winchester

Updating on social media, the governor said "Power outages continue to be our biggest challenge, and power companies are planning for a multiple day response. Those seeking alternative shelter to power medical devices should contact their local emergency manager. Minor flooding continues in low-lying areas, but the flash flooding risk has diminished."

As of 2:30 Saturday afternoon, [poweroutage.us](https://www.poweroutage.us), showed just over 105,000 Kentucky customers without power. The majority of those are in eastern Kentucky. ([More](#))



Senators introduce cybersecurity bill with standards for hospitals

Two U.S. senators introduced a bill Sept. 26 that would create minimum cybersecurity standards for hospitals and require them to undergo "stress tests." The Health Infrastructure Security and Accountability Act would require HHS to develop the standards for providers, payers and clearinghouses and provide \$800 million in funding for safety-net hospitals and \$500 million for all hospitals to improve their cybersecurity. "With hacks already targeting institutions across the country, it's time to go beyond voluntary standards and ensure healthcare providers and vendors get serious about cybersecurity and patient safety," bill co-sponsor Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., said in a Sept. 26 statement. ([More](#))



Free COVID-19 tests are back!

On Sept. 26th, the U.S. government began offering another round of free COVID tests. "U.S. households will be eligible to order 4 free COVID-19 tests at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.COVIDTests.gov)," according to the Department of Health and Human Services. "The COVID-19 tests will detect current COVID-19 variants and can be used through the end of the year." More than 900 million such tests have already been distributed to help folks get tested and treated earlier, and to perhaps keep them from spreading COVID to others.



COVID-19 reinfection ups risk of long COVID, new data show

A [new survey study](#) reveals that people who had two COVID-19 infections were more than twice as likely—and those who had three or more COVID-19 infections were almost four times more likely—to report long COVID as those with one infection. The study involved 3,382 global survey respondents and was conducted by researchers with the Patient-Led Research Collaborative on long COVID. It was published this week on Research Square, which is the preprint service of the Nature Portfolio. It has not yet undergone peer review. ([More](#))

Contacts

Dave Carney, MS, MEP

Healthcare Preparedness Coordinator

DavidN.Carney@ky.gov (502) 905-9969

Tara Long, MBA, OTR/L

Healthcare Coalition Chair

Tara.Long@bhsi.com (859) 625-3193

JT Moore

Readiness and Response Coordinator

Jordan.Moore@ky.gov (502) 229-8962