



**MSDH MEHC BP05 QUARTER 02 2023-2024**

**MS EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE COALITION (MEHC) HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM I(HFP) INFORMATIONAL MEMO**

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS QUARTER'S MEMO:

- Available Trainings
- HCC Activity
- New Product Tools

### HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM PREPARED. TRAINED. INFORMED.

The purpose of this memo is to provide specialized information to the Mississippi ESF8 Healthcare Coalition (MEHC) audience. Informational memorandums can be a great way to build awareness for coordination, information sharing and utilizing a platform for training and exercise efforts.

**As a MEHC member, please share any pertinent information for next quarter's memo.**

#### Available Training:

Individuals can access training and register for courses offered by MEMA by visiting the following link: [my.msema.org](http://my.msema.org). If you have not previously registered, there is a registration link with instructions on how to register for access to the site. Another way to access the site is through this link: Training – MEMA ([msema.org](http://msema.org)).

#### Incident Command System Forms Review:

Virtual Delivery via Microsoft Teams, January 9, 2024; 9a-4p

#### Save the Date:

North MEHC Forum, Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> at Oxford Convention Center. Other dates tba.

#### New Product Tools:

Mississippi's Office of Emergency Planning & Preparedness (OEPP) focuses on preparing for, and responding to, events that pose a substantial risk to the health of the state's residents. Our purpose is to provide information, resources, and expertise to our partners to ready Mississippi for health threats, emergencies, and disasters. When disaster strikes, the timely and effective sharing of information within and across jurisdictions, disciplines, and organizations is critical to an effective public health emergency and disaster response.

The state of Mississippi is offering free access for the MEHC community to several preparedness systems centered on information sharing to ensure critical information is made available. Routinely utilizing these systems outside of an emergency response improves the familiarity and functionality should an emergency happen. These tools are available to hospitals, long term care facilities, EMS agencies, first responders, public health, dispatch centers, emergency management directors, and other health care partners. A description of each of the products being offered is below.

**EMResource** – A tool that allows hospitals to alert and communicate with each other and with their emergency response partners. It optimizes communication and expedites patient care. EMResource assists Mississippi's OEPP with hospital and emergency response information sharing. Data requested in EMResource is used to provide real-time updates of health care capabilities on a local, regional, and statewide level and is not for public consumption. Through EMResource, partners can send time-sensitive alerts, review hospital diversion statuses, determine bed availability, share available resources to assist hospitals in need.

**EMTrack** – A secure platform available to EMS agencies, first responders, hospitals, public health, and other emergency management partners. It is a tool that emergency response partners use to trace the movement of a patient from an initial encounter through the health care system. Through EMTrack, health care facilities, public health, emergency management, and first responders can track patients, receive alerts, and allocate resources in a variety of scenarios, including: daily EMS transports, mass casualty incidents, facility evacuations, and family reunification efforts.

**eICS** – A secure incident management tool to guide and support response partners through the entire preparedness cycle. All actions and data input into an eICS event are archived and timestamped for future reference and documentation needs. eICS capabilities include: plan development/maintenance, incident response guide development, incident action plan development, formal/informal information sharing, resource request management, Incident Command System position activation/deactivation, Job action sheets assignments, Demobilization process guidance, After action report process support, and Improvement plan corrective action assignments.

**If you are interested in learning more about EMResource, EMTrack or eICS or need to request access please contact Tabitha Ballard by phone at (601)720-8111 or via email at [tabitha.ballard@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:tabitha.ballard@msdh.ms.gov).**

### Health Care Coalition (HCC) Activity Highlights:

#### Decontamination Capabilities and Resource Assessment Survey

This survey is being distributed by the MS Emergency Health Care Coalition Council (via MHA) to all of the hospital facilities in order to provide a statewide overview of our decontamination capabilities and resources.

If your hospital has not completed, please do so at this link (right click, open hyperlink): [Decontamination Capabilities and Resource Assessment Survey \(office.com\)](http://Decontamination Capabilities and Resource Assessment Survey (office.com))

#### The primary purpose of the Mississippi ESF-8 Healthcare Coalition (MEHC)

is to facilitate two-way communications and information sharing between state-level partners in order to identify any unmet needs and to propagate a current, accurate, common operating picture during emergency responses. The MEHC membership is comprised of state agencies, state associations, the military and others.

The MEHC is activated whenever the MSDH Public Health Command Center is activated during an emergency response or when preempting a potential threat that impacts public health and medical services. During such events, the MEHC conducts an informational conference, as utilized during recent Severe Weather March 24-25, 2023.

The MEHC serves to connect public health and medical services (ESF-8) agencies and partners through an effective statewide Healthcare Coalition. Members of the MEHC are top tier decision-makers for all-hazard management within their organization.

**Role of the MEHC** Promote understanding of every healthcare coalition (HCC) member's specific roles and responsibilities in the health care delivery system's emergency response.

Enhance preparedness by sharing information regarding plans, resources, education, and processes.

Support response by facilitating communication regarding evolving events (situational awareness) and enable feedback from local and regional partners.

Participate in education and setting priorities for resource gaps and mitigation strategies.

Complete emergency operations and continuity of operations plans and exercises and coordinate with the MEHC for technical assistance.

#### MSDH supporting Mississippi's ESF8 Coalition Partners:

MSDH: [www.healthymys.com](http://www.healthymys.com)

MEHC: new website coming soon

[toni.richardson@msdh.ms.gov](mailto:toni.richardson@msdh.ms.gov)

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