

Currently in the Coalition

Updates from the Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition—January 2024

January is National Blood Donor Month

Did you know that every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood? January is National Blood Donor Month and an urgent call for blood donors has been issued by blood centers across the country, including [OneBlood](#), [LifeSouth](#), and the [American Red Cross](#).

When it comes to blood and platelet donations, the winter season is often filled with hurdles as blood drives compete with things such as seasonal illnesses and inclement weather. A donation shortfall over the winter holidays has prompted an emergency call for blood and for platelet donors to give now to prevent a blood shortage from continuing throughout winter and affecting patient care. All blood types are needed. Additionally, there is an increased need for O Negative and O Positive blood, as well as platelet donations.

Both [OneBlood](#) and [LifeSouth Community Blood Centers](#) have collection centers and run blood drives in the TBHMPC region, providing blood products to the hospitals here. Both organizations also offer incentives to blood donors as well.

OneBlood— Every time you donate, you are not just giving hope, you are also earning rewards. These include gift cards, bonus bucks, and other promotions. To learn more, visit OneBlood's website [here](#).

LifeSouth— In January, all blood donors receive a \$20 e-gift card. Platelet and double red donors receive an additional \$20 e-gift card. For more info, visit the LifeSouth website [here](#).

To find a blood drive or blood center near you, click on the images below. Please consider donating today!

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers



Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition

Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk & Sumter Counties

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Upcoming Coalition Meetings

Pasco County Meeting:
January 8th

Hillsborough County Meeting:
January 18th

Manatee CHAMP:
January 24th

Polk County Meeting:
January 25th

Citrus County Meeting:
January 31st

Moving forward, all counties will meet bi-monthly with a virtual option. For more info on attending these meetings, please reach out to the County Chairperson. Contact info is available on [our website](#).

2023-2024 Hazard Vulnerability Assessment & Gap Analysis

Thank you to all who participated in the recent HVA Survey! The final HVA report was released on December 29th and is available on our website under [TBHMPC Plans & Annexes](#).

TBHMPC Top 10 Gaps for 2023-2024

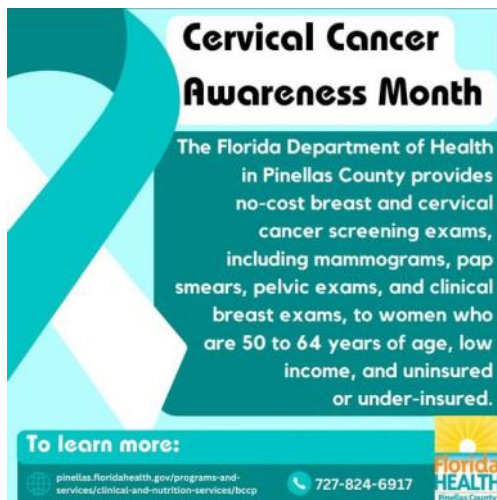
1	Healthcare Staffing & Retention
2	Evacuation & Shelter Support
3	Communications Planning & Equipment
4	Healthcare Mental Health & Resiliency
5	Infectious Disease Control & Response
6	Mass Casualty Incident Response (including Decon)
7	Cyber Security Preparedness
8	Medical Surge Equipment & Supplies
9	Mass Fatality Planning & Response
10	Radiation Incident Planning & Response

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Each year, doctors in the United States diagnose more than 14,000 cases of cervical cancer in women. Congress designated January as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month to bring attention to this important health issue.

This cancer, which forms in the lower part of the uterus, can prove fatal if undiagnosed. That's why early detection through routine screenings and prompt treatment can save lives.

Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County office manages the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which provides vouchers for no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings for low-income women between the ages of 50 – 64 who are uninsured or under-insured. [Click here](#) or call (727) 824-6917 for more information.



Almost all cervical cancer is caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Although nearly all people will be exposed to HPV in their lifetime, there is a safe and effective vaccine which can prevent 90% of HPV related cancers. Nearly 100 million doses of the vaccine have been administered during the past decade, and it is considered both safe and effective. Learn more about this vaccine at [The Power to Protect](#) website.

ASPR TRACIE Resource Spotlight: Innovations in Health Care Capacity Management

The articles in [this issue](#) of The Exchange (Issue 18) focus on the experiences and lessons learned by health care facilities and systems during the early phases of the pandemic and beyond, to include the “triple-demic” (respiratory syncytial virus, influenza, and COVID-19) that affected children in the state of Washington and across the U.S. during the winter of 2022-2023. We examine the history and evolution of the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council with a focus on their efforts to load patients during mass casualty incidents and public health emergencies. Subject matter experts from California discussed the unique characteristics and challenges faced by Imperial County and how tents and the use of an alternate care site bolstered patient care. Our final article highlights the experiences of a Navajo Area Indian Health Service hospital working around the clock to locate appropriate receiving facilities and provide care in place while simultaneously managing staffing shortages.



ASPR Supports Communities Responding to Mass Shootings

ASPR helps the country prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies and disasters. ASPR routinely responds to severe weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes and to disease outbreaks such as COVID-19 and mpox. Less routine, but increasingly more frequent, ASPR provides support during responses to and recovery from a mass shooting event. ASPR recently responded to the mass shooting incident in Lewiston, Maine. That response highlights how we support communities to respond to and recover from these horrific events. Here is the full [blog post](#) from ASPR.

Updated TBHMPC Funding Requirements

TBHMPC has updated the requirements for members to receive funding from the Coalition. The new criteria are listed below, and you can learn more at a county Coalition meeting soon!

- Have a current MOA on file
- 50% attendance of county level meeting in person or virtual (camera on to receive virtual credit)
- Participate in at least 2 drills or exercises provided by TBHMPC (fiscal year)
- Participate in the TBHMPC Communications Drill (June/December)
- Participate in the TBHMPC Regional HVA process
- Timely submission of CEMP
- Be a good community partner (bonus points)



Seniors in Care Facilities Have More Protection Available This Year: CDC Encourages Vaccination Against Flu, COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

New research finds that most nursing home residents haven't received an updated COVID-19 vaccine or the new RSV vaccine. This year, for the first time, vaccines are available to protect older adults in the United States against all three fall and winter respiratory illnesses: influenza, COVID-19 and RSV. Older Americans who are not vaccinated are at greater risk of serious illness. Leading up to this virus season, and throughout the fall, CDC has worked with other federal agencies, state and local health departments, and health care partners to address vaccine access issues and encourage vaccine uptake. Health care providers can continue to do their part by offering recommended vaccinations to residents. Nursing homes are encouraged to collaborate with state, local, and federal public health, and long-term care pharmacy partners to address barriers contributing to low vaccination coverage. Vaccination is a key way to prevent severe disease, hospitalization, and death from flu, COVID-19, and RSV. Read the full media statement at [Seniors in Care Facilities Have More Protection Available This Year: CDC Encourages Vaccination Against Flu, COVID-19 and RSV](#).



Upcoming Trainings & Events

An Update on Long COVID from Emory University Serious Communicable Diseases Program (SCDP) - We are excited to invite you to our upcoming ECHO session—An Update on Long COVID on Thursday, January 18th from 11am—12pm EST. The goal of this webinar is to provide an update on the most current understanding of the pathophysiology of Long COVID. Participants of the live ECHO session may obtain no-cost CME/CNE for this activity. [Register here](#).

Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) Training - We have HERT classes being offered through Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital (JHACH) and Baycare. See below for registration info and/or who to contact.

- January 11th at Bartow Regional Medical Center – Contact Timothy.Allen@baycare.org
- January 18th at Baycare Hospital Wesley Chapel – Contact Dirk.Palmer@baycare.org

Emergency Management Training – Registration on [SERT TRAC](#).

- [Jan 17, 2024 - Jan 19, 2024](#), G-300 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents at the Pasco County EOC in New Port Richey

Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals & Healthcare Organizations from TEEEX

Pasco County Emergency Management will be hosting MGT 341 - Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals & Healthcare Organizations on January 24-25, 2024 at the Pasco EOC in New Port Richey. This course introduces the various natural, technological, and civil hazards, to which hospitals and healthcare organizations may be vulnerable, and the potential impacts of those hazards. Federal guidelines and legislation that serve to aid in the preparedness for, and response to, incidents involving these hazards are discussed, as are current emergency management standards for the hospital community. Participants review response and recovery issues that should be addressed by medical facilities and organizations in preparation for a large-scale incident, including identification of critical resources necessary for response and recovery. [Registration is live currently on SERT TRAC](#).

TBHMPC Ambubus Rally at Hillsborough Public Safety Operations Complex

TBHMPC and First Line will be hosting a training on our Regional Ambubus Capabilities at the Hillsborough County Public Safety Complex in Tampa on February 29th and March 1st, 2024! This all-day event will encompass training from FirstLine on the various types of ambubus kits, in addition to hands-on experiences with the ambubuses in the region. We are requesting ALL ambubuses in the Coalition region to attend, and bring their teams! (This will be a requirement for any future ambubus enhancement projects through TBHMPC funding.)

A promotional graphic for the TBHMPC Ambubus Rally. It features a blue background with the text "TBHMPC AMBUBUS RALLY" in large, white, bold letters. Below the text are three circular images: the left one shows the interior of an ambulance, the middle one shows an ambulance at night with its lights on, and the right one shows the interior of an ambulance. At the bottom, it says "Thursday, February 29th, 2024" and "FIRST LINE TECHNOLOGY" with a logo consisting of a red cross, a blue caduceus, and a green cross. The Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition logo is also visible in the top left corner of the graphic.

Florida Week at CDP—April 14-20, 2024

Join state, local, and tribal responders and other healthcare partners from across Florida at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. This week-long event includes a variety of advanced all-hazards trainings that will ultimately culminate into an Incident Capstone Event (ICE) full-scale exercise. The CDP Travel Office arranges each student's airfare, ground transportation, on-site accommodations, and meals to ensure a positive, seamless experience.

The deadline to apply for [Florida Week 2024](#) is **January 31, 2024**. The four available courses are:

- [Barrier Precautions and Controls for Highly Infectious Disease \(HID\)](#)
- [Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Operations \(EHTER\)](#)
- [Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents \(HCL\)](#)
- [Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents \(HERT\)](#)



FLORIDA WEEK AT CDP
April 14-20, 2024

Join state, local, and tribal responders and other healthcare partners from across Florida at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Alabama. This week-long event includes a variety of advanced all-hazards trainings that will ultimately culminate into an Incident Capstone Event (ICE) full-scale exercise.

COURSE OFFERINGS:

Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) Operations PROMO CODE: 118FLEHTEROPS	Hospital Emergency Response Training (HERT) for Mass Casualty Incidents PROMO CODE: 121FLHRT
Barrier Precautions and Controls for Highly Infectious Disease PROMO CODE: 124FLHID	Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents PROMO CODE: 119FLHCL

APPLY HERE:
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/apply>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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Coalition Highlights

Prosthetic Upcycling Program

Disability Achievement Center is accepting used limbs with the intent to launch a program to provide properly fitting and functioning prosthetic sockets along with major components and necessary follow-up visits for amputees who lack coverage and cannot afford out-of-pocket expenses with the goal of improving the person's quality of life and improving their independence.

You can help us by spreading the word that we are accepting the following prosthetic items:

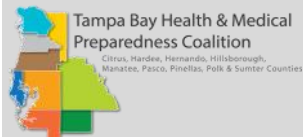
- Prosthetic knees
- Prosthetic feet
- Prosthetic elbows
- Prosthetic hands
- Prosthetic liners (new, Prosthetic socks (new)



These are the major components necessary for prosthetic limbs, covering both lower limb and upper limb needs. Each item plays a vital role in enhancing mobility, functionality, and quality of life for individuals with limb loss. For more information, please visit [Prosthetic Upcycling Program | Disability Achievement Center | Florida \(mydacil.org\)](#)



Bridging awareness and inclusivity at CFCOA! Sada, Kevin, and Stephanie recently had the honor of presenting for the incredible staff at Central Florida Community Action Agency (CFCOA) on disability awareness and CIL programs. The engagement and enthusiasm from their team were truly inspiring as we explored ways to enhance CFCOA's accommodation for individuals with disabilities.



We want to hear from you! If you would like to share a highlight or from your organization in a future Coalition newsletter or publication, please email it to Turea at TBHMPC2@gmail.com.