

# Currently in the Coalition

Updates from the Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition—*January 2025*

## National Blood Donor Month

Every January, we celebrate National Blood Donor Month, a time to honor the selflessness of blood donors and raise awareness about the critical need for blood donations. In the United States, nearly 7 million people selflessly give blood every year, serving as a lifeline for countless individuals in need.

One in seven patients entering a hospital requires the availability of blood for various medical reasons. This includes trauma victims, patients battling sickle cell disease or Thalassemia, as well as those who require organ or bone marrow transplants. Additionally, a staggering 25 percent of all blood donations are used for cancer patients, and blood transfusions are essential in one out of every 83 newborn deliveries in America today.

The need for blood is urgent and constant. Every two seconds, someone in our country requires blood, and on any given day, an average of 42,000 blood components are used by patients. That amounts to more than 15 million red blood cells, platelets, and plasma transfused last year alone.

Despite this high demand, only three percent of all Americans choose to donate blood. To compound the issue, there has been a significant 60% drop in donations from 16–18-year-olds and a 31.9% decrease in donations from 19–24-year-olds in 2021 compared to 2019. This decline can largely be attributed to the restrictions imposed on blood drives during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on school campuses.

It is crucial to address this shortage by not only increasing short-term blood donations but also cultivating a younger and more diverse donor pool for long-term sustainability.

As medical professionals, we recognize and emphasize the importance of ensuring a sufficient blood supply when it is needed most. We are immensely grateful to all the blood donors who play a vital role in saving lives with their generous contributions.

Join us in commemorating National Blood Donor Month. We express our deep gratitude to America's voluntary blood donors while encouraging more people to make this lifesaving difference to give. Together, we can ensure that blood remains readily available for every patient who relies on it.



**ONE DONATION**  
**can help save**

**MORE THAN ONE LIFE**



Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition

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

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## Upcoming Coalition Meetings

Manatee CHAMP:  
January 8th

Pasco County HMPC:  
January 13th

Hillsborough Health  
Care Coalition:  
January 21st

Polk County Coalition:  
January 23rd

Citrus ESF-8 WG:  
January 29th

For more info on attending these meetings, please reach out to the County Chairperson. Contact info is available on [our website](#).

## Important Updates

### TBHMPC Project Funding Announcement

Following last year's hurricane season, TBHMPC identified several areas for improvement within our communities. Based on data collected for TBHMPC's regional after-action report, we have secured funding to address gaps in equipment and supplies related to internal and external communications, evacuation and patient movement, and sheltering in place and patient surge.



If you attended your December county-level coalition meeting, you were introduced to equipment and supply options that may assist in these areas and made aware of this funding opportunity. For those counties meeting in January, we will have the same discussion.

Please be sure to attend your county-level meeting or review the minutes from your past meeting to take advantage of this grant funding. Grant project acceptance and guidance documentation can be found [here](#).

### American Hospital Association (AHA): 8 out of 10 Baxter Manufacturing Lines Restarted

After incurring damage from Hurricane Helene on September 27, Baxter reports that as of December 19, 8 out of 10 of its manufacturing lines in its North Cove, N.C., facility have been restarted. The producer of IV and peritoneal dialysis solutions says that the lines represent 85% of the site's total pre-hurricane capacity.

Baxter officials say they expect production across the plant to rise to pre-hurricane levels early in the first quarter of 2025. Access the full press release [here](#).

### CDC Confirms First Severe Case of H5N1 Bird Flu in the United States

The CDC confirmed that a patient has been hospitalized with a severe case of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus infection in Louisiana. This marks the first instance of severe illness linked to the virus in the United States. While an investigation into the source of the infection in Louisiana is ongoing, it has been determined that the patient had exposure to sick and dead birds in backyard flocks. Access the full [news release](#) to learn more.



### National Radon Action Month Information

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 21,000 Americans each year. In fact, the EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools and other buildings for radon. Read more [here](#).

#### Five Things You Can Do During National Radon Action Month

1. **Test your home** - EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes in the U.S. be tested for radon. Testing is easy and inexpensive.
2. **Attend a National Radon Action Month event in your area** - Look for radon events in your community.
3. **Spread the word**
4. **Spend time during National Radon Action Month encouraging others to learn about radon and test their homes.**
5. **Buy a radon-resistant home** - Read more about radon-resistant new construction, "[Building Radon Out: A Step-by-Step Guide to Build Radon-Resistant Homes](#)"



Test Your Home. Protect Your Health.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL  
RADON ACTION MONTH

## Upcoming Trainings & Events

### 2025 TBHMPC Great Tornado Drill

The 2025 TBHMPC Great Tornado Drill will take place on Wednesday, February 5th, 2025 at 10am. This is a community-based drill, and all actions will take place at your individual organization/facility. You will receive a prompt on the exercise day to shelter-in-place due to a potential tornado and will play out the exercise at your facility/organization (at whatever level you wish).

[Register here.](#)

### Florida Healthcare Coalitions & The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP)

The following Virtual Trainings are available to any Coalition member/partner in Florida!

- Patient Management: Receiving a Highly Infectious Disease Patient (HIDV3)- January 14th. [Register Here](#)
- Patient Management: Management of a Highly Infectious Disease Patient in a Healthcare Facility (HIDV4) - February 6th. [Register Here.](#)

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

Pasco County is hosting **PER-211 Medical Management of CBRNE Events** at the Pasco County Emergency Operations Center on [Tuesday, Jan 14, 2025 - Wednesday, Jan 15, 2025](#) PER 211, Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Events answers these questions and more as you learn how to distinguish between different agents of concern that could be used in a major incident. This course is a combination of facilitated discussions, small-group exercises, Human Patient Simulator hands-on scenarios and traditional classroom discussions. Exercises are conducted in CBRNE scenarios using both adult and pediatric Human Patient Simulators to reinforce classroom lectures and interaction.

- G-300 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents at Citrus County Emergency Operations Center . [Tuesday, Jan 21, 2025 - Thursday, Jan 23, 2025](#)
- G-300 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents at Pasco County Emergency Operations Center. [Tuesday, Jan 21, 2025 - Thursday, Jan 23, 2025](#)
- G-400 Advanced Incident Command System for Complex Incidents [February 11th and 12th](#) at Citrus County Emergency Operations Center
- L-146 Homeland Security Exercise & Evaluation Program (HSEEP) on [February 18th and 19th, 2025](#)

### CEMP and COOP Development with BOLDPlanning

The Florida Health Care Coalitions have partnered with BOLDPlanning to provide access to their Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and Continuity of Operations Plan platforms for all health care organizations in Florida at NO COST to you! The CEMPs generated meet relevant state and federal requirements. To request access to the platform, just reach out to Turea Sheppard at the Tampa Bay Health and Medical Preparedness Coalition at [tbhmpc2@gmail.com](mailto:tbhmpc2@gmail.com) or complete the [access request form](#). And make sure you've joined as a member by [completing this form](#), to ensure you get all the benefits of this and other programs provided by TBHMPC! **We are planning out the Workshop schedule for 2025, so dates will be announced in upcoming Training Update emails.**

## 2025 GREAT TORNADO DRILL



WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 5TH, 2025  
AT 10AM

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:  
STEP 1: SIGN UP BELOW.  
STEP 2: PRACTICE YOUR PLAN.  
STEP 3: SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION OF PARTICIPATION.

**REGISTER HERE**

Questions? Contact [Hunter.Zager@TampaBayHMPC.org](mailto:Hunter.Zager@TampaBayHMPC.org)



# Coalition Highlights



The TBHMPC staff, along with several members of our Board of Directors, attended the 2024 National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference in Orlando from December 10-12. The conference provided a unique opportunity for networking and sharing best practices in emergency management and healthcare preparedness. Attendees engaged in various workshops and discussions aimed at enhancing collaboration among healthcare providers and emergency response teams.

TBHMPC was also well-represented in the conference program! Erinn Skiba with Tampa General Hospital, Chief Christopher Shipp with Tampa Fire Rescue and Major Eric DeFelice gave an excellent keynote presentation on the Ybor Mass Shooting Incident. TBHMPC Preparedness Coordinator Hunter Zager presented a session on Virtual Drills and Progressive Exercises. Tampa Fire Rescue also brought their ambibus to the conference, to allow conference attendees to tour its mass patient transport features.



**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](mailto:TBHMPC2@gmail.com).