

Currently in the Coalition

Updates from the Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition—August 2026

Extreme Heat Readiness: Protecting Health Across the Tampa Bay Region

As summer conditions continue across the region, healthcare and response partners are seeing how heat intersects with everyday operations. Heat can increase emergency department visits, worsen chronic medical conditions, strain staff working indoors and outdoors, affect medication and equipment needs, and create added risk during power outages, transportation delays, sheltering operations, and community events. For TBHMPC members and partners, heat readiness is healthcare readiness.

Track extreme heat in your area. The [CDC Heat & Health Tracker](#) provides local heat and health information so communities can better prepare for and respond to extreme heat events. You can use it to explore how extreme heat affects your county, populations that are at risk, and resources for response.

Member Heat Readiness Reminders:

- **Monitor heat forecasts and alerts.** Assign staff to monitor local heat advisories, HeatRisk information, and weather updates that may affect operations, staffing, transportation, and patient care.
- **Identify high-risk patients, residents, clients, and staff.** Consider older adults, young children, people with chronic conditions, people taking medications that may increase heat sensitivity, outdoor workers, people without air conditioning, and those who rely on powered medical equipment.
- **Review cooling and hydration plans.** Confirm access to air-conditioned spaces, backup cooling options, hydration supplies, electrolytes when appropriate, shaded rest areas, and procedures for outdoor or high-heat work.
- **Prepare for power outages during heat events.** Review generator readiness, fuel plans, vendor agreements, cooling continuity, medication storage, equipment charging, and contingency plans for residents who cannot safely remain without power.
- **Use training and exercises to test heat plans.** Include extreme heat scenarios in tabletop exercises, continuity planning, evacuation discussions, special-needs planning, and after-action reviews.



Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition

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

Key Contacts

Franklin Riddle
Executive Director

Franklin.Riddle@TampaBayHMPC.org
(727) 313-0625

Hunter Zager
Training & Exercise Coordinator
Hunter.Zager@TampaBayHMPC.org
(727) 580-2431

Turea Sheppard
Administrative Assistant
TBHMPC2@gmail.com
(727) 580-1024

Bill Howe
Logistics Chief
William.Howe@TampaBayHMPC.org
(727) 310-1509

www.tampabayhmhc.org

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Upcoming Coalition Meetings

Pinellas County
August 7th

Hardee County
August 19th

Sumter County
August 20th



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Important Updates

ASTHO: Tracking Cyclosporiasis: Understanding the Current Outbreak, Case Investigations, and Prevention Efforts

ASTHO's latest [communications on cyclosporiasis](#) highlight the current outbreak and the public health response as case counts continue to climb. The article explains how health departments are tracing the source of infection, why cyclospora is especially difficult to investigate, and what clinicians and consumers should know about delayed symptoms, specialized testing, and the re-called Taylor Farms iceberg lettuce linked to the outbreak. Read more [here](#).

National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month champions public health every August. This month encourages everyone to ensure their vaccinations are current, protecting against preventable diseases. Make a simple call to your doctor, schedule necessary shots, and safeguard your health and your community's well-being.



Florida's Learning Exchange (FLEX)

The State of Florida's Division of Emergency Management is excited to introduce Florida's Learning Exchange, or FLEX. [FLEX](#) represents FL's future in Training and Education across the State and works to provide a consistent and intuitive instructional platform for both Florida's instructors and learners. **NOTE** SERT TRAC will no longer be available starting on **August 1st**.

TBHMPC Tabletop Exercise Toolkits

TBHMPC has created four tabletop exercise toolkits that you can use to conduct your own tabletop exercises at your organization! These exercises are designed to be easy to conduct within your facility and typically requires 60–90 minutes to complete. Each of these toolkits are available via the links above, or in our website [Resource Library](#).

- [Storm Warning: A Healthcare Hurricane & Tropical Weather Tabletop Exercise Toolkit](#), which you can use to conduct a structured, discussion-based exercise at your organization on a hurricane scenario!
- [Practical Incident Command for Ambulatory Health Care Partners](#) This toolkit provides guidance for establishing a simplified incident command and response structure for smaller, non-residential healthcare facilities that provide outpatient medical services. The
- [Healthcare Workplace Violence Tabletop Exercise Toolkit](#), designed to assist organizations in preparing for and managing situations involving unpredictable or disruptive visitors. It includes detailed guidance, practical checklists, and scenario-based exercises to help staff respond effectively and safely. By utilizing these resources, teams can increase their readiness, improve communication strategies, and ensure the well-being of everyone involved during such incidents.
- [Measles Identification & Response Tabletop Exercise Toolkit](#) that healthcare organizations can use to evaluate their internal procedures and response processes. This discussion-based exercise allows facilities to walk through a realistic patient scenario and examine key operational considerations, such as identification of measles, airborne isolation, patient movement, staff exposure management and communication with public health partners.



SAVE THE DATE



MAY 5–6, 2027



St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater
12600 Roosevelt Blvd. North
St. Petersburg, FL 33716



Training & Exercise Opportunities

2026 Coalition Contract Challenge – August 4th, 2026

On Tuesday, August 4th at 10am, we will hold our next quarterly drill—**The Coalition Contract Challenge**—asking all participants to confirm their disaster plan contracts and agreements! This drill will kick off at 10am, take place at your own organization, and allow you to reach out to all companies that provide services within your emergency plans (ranging from transportation to food and fuel and more). Once those efforts are complete, you will complete a simple survey to include your info in our Coalition-Wide Drill After Action Report. [Register here!](#)

Downtime Operations Webinar Series with TBHMP & Jensen Hughes

The Sixth Session: The Strength in Numbers (Regional Coordination & HCC)- Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 1pm Or Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 10am

The webinars are designed to provide valuable insights and practical strategies for managing downtime events effectively within various operational environments. Each session will focus on a different downtime topic, and will feature industry experts from Jensen Hughes, who will share their knowledge and answer participant questions. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in interactive discussions, learn about best practices, and gain resources that can help minimize disruptions and improve overall operational resilience.

Training from the Center for Domestic Preparedness for Florida HCCs

The Florida Health Care Coalitions have partnered to bring key virtual instructor-led courses from the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL to our members and partners. Below are the upcoming classes. Links are available in weekly training updates (on an attached flyer).

- **Healthcare Facility Preparedness** on Monday, August 24th from 1pm – 2:15pm
- **Healthcare Facility Mass Fatality Management** on Thursday, September 10th from 10am – 11:15am
- **Special Needs Population Considerations During Emergency Response** on Tuesday, September 22nd from 12pm – 1pm

FLHCC and BOLDplanning Monday Webinar Series, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

All healthcare facilities and organizations in Florida can utilize this platform for your Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) or Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) at no cost to you, paid for by the Florida Health Care Coalitions! To request access to the platform complete the [access request form](#). **The platform is scheduled to cease operations in August 28, 2026. Stakeholders are advised to make necessary preparations and download any required materials.** [Click here to join either webinar below.](#) Registration is NOT required.

- **Orders of Succession & Delegation of Authority** – Monday, August 3rd from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST
- **Communications & Alert Notifications** – Monday, August 17th from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST



Nursing Home Incident Command System (NHICS): Operational Leadership Workshop

Please join us on August 27, 2026 at Hawthorne Brandon, 851 W Lumsden Rd, Brandon, FL 33511 from 8:30am—4pm. This class will help nursing home and residential facility leadership team members build skills and confidence to lead and coordinate responses to emergencies that impact their facility! 6.5 CEUs will be offered from FHCA.

[Register HERE](#)

CISA Active Shooter Preparedness

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is offering two-hour **Active Shooter Preparedness Webinars** designed to enhance your organization's readiness and resilience in the event of an active shooter incident. There are multiple of these being offered – August 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th. [Register here.](#)

Center for Domestic Preparedness On-Campus Courses Open for Registration!

There are multiple on-campus courses at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama that are open for registration. Click on the below courses for more info!

- Emergency Medical Operations for CBRNE Incidents (EMO PER-267) - <https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/course/PER-267>
- Intermediate Hands-On Training for CBRNE Incidents (HOT-I PER-900) - <https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/course/PER-900>
- Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) - Operations (EHTER OPS PER-309) - <https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/course/PER-309>
- Barrier Precautions and Controls for Highly Infectious Disease (HID PER-321) - <https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/course/PER-321>
- Framework for Healthcare Emergency Management (FRAME AWR-900) - <https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/course/AWR-900>

Additionally, the CDP training calendar has been updated and is available through the end of the calendar year on their website. All classes have available seats for immediate registration. <https://cdp.dhs.gov/training-calendar>

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

- [Monday, Aug 03, 2026 - Tuesday, Aug 04, 2026](#) -MGT-345 Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems at Hillsborough Public Safety Operations Complex
- [Wednesday, Aug 05, 2026 - Friday, Aug 07, 2026](#) E/G/K-2300 Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions at Pinellas County Public Safety Complex
- [Wednesday, Aug 05, 2026 - Friday, Aug 07, 2026](#) G-300 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents at Hillsborough Public Safety Operations Complex
- [Tuesday, Aug 11, 2026](#) FL-680 Individual Assistance: The Local Role at Polk County Emergency Operations Center
- [Wednesday, Aug 19, 2026](#) AWR-232 Mass Fatalities Planning and Response for Rural Communities at Hernando County EOC

HHS/ASPR Project ECHO Clinical Readiness Rounds

Tuesday, August 11, from 12:00 - 1:15 PM ET, for the HHS/ASPR Project ECHO Clinical Readiness Rounds session, "Clinical Preparedness for Complete Power Outages in Health Care Settings." **Important registration update:** The Clinical Readiness Rounds sessions will no longer be hosted on iECHO, and all future sessions, will be hosted exclusively through Zoom. [Please register once through Zoom](#) to access all upcoming sessions in the series. *If you were previously registered through iECHO, you will need to re-register in Zoom.* After registering, you will receive a unique Zoom link by email, along with calendar invite options and automated reminder emails.

NURSING HOME INCIDENT COMMAND (NHICS) COURSE

Building the skills and confidence to lead and coordinate response in nursing home emergencies.

DATE: AUGUST 27TH

LOCATION: HAWTHORNE BRANDON
851 W Lumsden Rd,
Brandon, FL 33511

Limited Seating
REGISTER HERE
Register today to ensure your spot!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
Administrators, nurses, department leaders, and key staff who may assume an incident command role during an emergency.

BE PREPARED, BE LEADER READY.
Strengthen leadership. Safely communicate.

REGISTER TODAY!
Secure your spot and be ready when it matters most. Limited seating available - Register now!

GENERAL AGENDA

- 8:30 AM Sign In
- 9:00 AM Start
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch Break
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Resume Course
- 4:00 PM Conclude

6.5 CEUs WILL BE OFFERED

Florida Health Care Association

- FHCA provider CEUs for:
 - 10 Board of Nursing/Healthcare Administration
 - 10 Board of Nursing
 - 10 Board of Emergency Therapy
- 10 Board of Social Workers
- 10 Board of Family Therapy
- 10 Board of Counseling

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FDEM)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Coalition Highlights

FHCA 2026 Annual Conference & Trade Show

FHCA's Annual Conference & Trade Show is the Southeast's largest and leading long-term care conference. Below are highlights from the event, including Executive Director Franklin Riddle's presentation, Risk to Resilience: Continuity Strategies for Effective Emergency Preparedness.



St Petersburg Fire Rescue

St. Petersburg Fire Rescue hosted another successful life jacket event at Gladden Park Recreation Center! Community members received valuable water safety resources, including free life jackets, CPR vouchers, Water Watcher badges, books, and more.

A special thank you to Pinellas County Emergency Management for their continued support and supply of life jackets, and to our valued community partners [Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital](#), [Suncoast Safe Kids Coalition](#) and [Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County](#) for helping us work toward a shared goal of keeping our families safe. Read more [here](#).



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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.