

# SWC Healthcare Preparedness Advisory Coalition (HPAC) Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2019

## Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health / West Conference Room

**Present at meeting:** Crystalynn Kuntz, Kalen Ost, Janessa Vogel, Doris Weiss, Becky Worden, Becky Ternes, Neil Johnson, Kathy Seidel, Erica Reiner, Rochelle Schaffer, Jeff Strange, Mary Senger, Jean Bon, Vanessa Raile, Jane Schumacher, Gary Stockert, Tom Doering, Daren Repnow, Kendra Roeder, Shannon Lennie.

**Via IVAN:** Tricia Steinke.

### **AGENDA**

#### ➤ **Spring Flooding**

##### Plans

Overall, everyone is concerned with the potential for flooding this spring. There is a map provided by the state that has projected water levels at <https://ndram.swc.nd.gov/>. Emergency managers agreed the most problematic thing that can happen in the spring is ice jams, as by the time they happen, it is too late to respond. Long Term Care facilities in the region may not have displaced residents this spring, but the likelihood that they may take on residents from outlying flooded communities is good. Due to this, written agreements must be in place prior to the event in order for displaced residents to stay at area LTCs. All but two area facilities have this paperwork already completed.

##### Triage Tags and Scanning

Kalen Ost provided a brief presentation outlining the use of HC Mobile. The group agreed they would like to have a hands-on activity involving HC Mobile, and we will contact the State about getting devices for the January meeting.

#### ➤ **HIPPA During an Emergency**

##### PowerPoint and Group Discussion

Crystalynn Kuntz provided a PowerPoint presentation on HIPPA In An Emergency. Discussion during the presentation centered on what can be shared with organizations that may not be affected by HIPPA including entities such as the Red Cross or faith-based organizations. A HIPPA flow chart is available online that the group found useful. The flow chart is located online at: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/special/emergency/emergencyprepdisclose.pdf>

#### ➤ **Communicable Disease**

##### Current Updates

**Influenza** – There are 44 cases of influenza reported in North Dakota for the week ending Nov. 9. Last year at that time there had been 50 reported cases. The cumulative cases for the season is 140, whereas last year at that time there had been 358. Nationally, states are already beginning to report high levels of flu. The Influenza B virus has predominated

so far this season, although it is too early to tell if this will be the predominant strain overall.

**Legionella** – Over the last month there have been four new cases in Cass, Burleigh and Ward counties. In 2018, 10 cases of Legionellosis were reported to NDDOH. People can get Legionnaires’ disease when they breathe in a mist or small droplets of water in the air that contains the bacteria. The bacteria grow best in warm water, like the kind found in hot tubs, cooling towers, hot water tanks, parts of the air-conditioning systems and the water distribution systems of large buildings provide ideal conditions for the proliferation of the bacteria. Household exposures to humidifiers or CPAP machines have also been associated with infection. Person-to-person spread does not occur. Outbreaks occur following the exposure of many individuals to a common source of the bacteria in the environment, such as places like hotels, hospitals, and other large buildings, when the water supply becomes contaminated.

**Pertussis** – So far in 2019, there have been 21 cases reported to the NDDOH. If pertussis is suspected, the patient should be treated appropriately and excluded from school/childcare and other group activities until five days after the start of effective antimicrobial treatment.

**Hepatitis A** – Minnesota is experiencing an outbreak of hepatitis A. The county with the most reported cases is Hennepin, with 16 cases, though 49 cases have been reported, overall, as of November 15.

➤ **Roundtable Sharing**

- Recently there had been an evacuation of a Long Term Care facility in Mohall due to flooding. Additional facilities throughout the state have requested assistance from the State for generators, but presently Mohall is the only location to be evacuated. The spring LTC convention will be May 5-8 in Bismarck.
- Burleigh and Emmons County are experiencing water issues. The hospital in Linton completed a tabletop and full scale exercises last month.
- A facility had to evacuate recently when a heating motor began smoking and filled part of their facility with smoke. Everyone was evacuated safely, but the event prompted conversation on where patients could stay in the event they couldn’t return in the first 24 hours.
- A facility experienced telephone outages recently and essentially got to do a loss of communication exercise for real.
- CHI is planning a tabletop in January for an active shooter, with the full scale to follow in February. They will be looking for volunteers as they get closer to the exercise dates.
- Jean Bon will be retiring from Kidder County District Health Unit at the end of January. Tricia Steinke will be her replacement.
- A facility recently needed to evacuate areas of their facility due to some melted plastic that set off smoke detectors. This experience prompted the organization to look at not only what

was needed for residents, but to also consider the health needs of staff and to ensure they can safely be evacuated from the facility.

- Morton County flood meetings will begin in January or February. A facility contacted Tom Doering about doing a shooter full scale exercise and that will take place in the Summer of 2020.
- A facility reported they experienced an evacuation just after the policy was written. While most of the event went smoothly, they did find communication outside the facility was difficult.

➤ **Next Meetings:**

- January 15, 2020, 9 a.m., Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health's West Conference Room. Planning for exercise.
- March 18, 2020, 9 a.m., Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health's West Conference Room. Tabletop exercise.
- May 20, 2020, Time TBD. Full scale exercises at your facilities.