



# Coalition Surge Test (CST) Overview

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# Coalition Surge Test: General Info

- Beginning July 1, 2017, the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) grant requires Coalitions to conduct an annual Coalition Surge Test (CST).
- The CST will be conducted each year of the grant (5 times before 2022).
- The CST is an exercise that helps healthcare coalitions identify gaps in their surge planning.
- The CST is designed to be challenging and is intended to support continuous improvement.

# Coalition Surge Test: Materials

Tools provided by ASPR:

- Coalition Surge Test Manual for Trusted Insiders and Peer Evaluators
- Coalition Surge Test Tools (Excel):
  - LEAD Tool: Excel tool for LEAD Assessor
  - EVAC Tool: Excel tool for EVAC Assessor(s)
    - Tool contains step-by-step instructions for Assessors

# Coalition Surge Test: Overview

- Annual exercise requirement for the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Grant
- Tabletop exercise with Functional elements
- “Low/No-Notice” Exercise:
  - Low Notice: Coalition members are notified that an exercise will occur within a two-week window.
  - Facilities will **not** know ahead of time whether they are the “evacuating” or “receiving” facility.

Simulated evacuation of at least 20% of the Health Care Coalition acute-care bed capacity

# Coalition Surge Test: Design

The Coalition Surge Test is broken into 2 phases:

- Phase 1:
  - Tabletop Exercise with Functional Elements (90 min)
  - Facilitated Discussion (~120 min)
- Phase 2:
  - After Action Review (30-45 min)

# Coalition Surge Test: Phase 1

- Tabletop Exercise with Functional Elements (90min)
  - Assessment team notifies facility of impending evacuation (60 min before Start Exercise)
  - Evacuating Facility: Command Center activated
  - Receiving Facilities: At least one staff member with authority to respond to patient placement requests
  - Exercise is complete once the time has reached 90 min or all patients are placed.

# Coalition Surge Test: Phase 1

- Exercise Objectives:
  - Place patients at appropriate facilities (e.g. verbal or written agreement from the receiving facility)
  - Identify appropriate transportation assets
  - Communications

# Coalition Surge Test: Phase 1

- Facilitated Discussion\* (~120 min)
  - Conducted via web-based platform
  - Includes all coalition members
  - Objectives:
    - Capacity of receiving hospitals
    - Transportation planning
    - Patient tracking
    - Continuity of Operations
    - Additional Topics

\*Can have a break (up to several hours) before starting Facilitated Discussion portion of Phase 1



# Coalition Surge Test: Phase 2

- After Action Review\* (30-45 min)
  - Conducted after the CST
  - Objectives:
    - Assessment of Strengths
    - Assessment of Weaknesses
    - Corrective Action Planning

\*Can be postponed to a later date to maximize healthcare executive participation. Must occur within 30 days of the Coalition Surge Test.

# Health Care Coalition Regional Response

- The Health Care Coalition should play in the Coalition Surge Test as they would during a real evacuation
- The regional command center should participate if they would have a role in a hospital evacuation (e.g. coordinating the Coalition Command Center, communicating with facilities, etc.)

# Coalition Surge Test: Required Resources

- Resources required to conduct the Coalition Surge Test:
  - Personnel:
    - Trusted Insider: Health Care Coalition point of contact responsible for recruiting Assessors, obtaining necessary information and permissions to conduct the Coalition Surge Test
    - Lead Assessor: Lead Controller stationed at the regional coordination center. Manages the exercise.
    - Evacuation Assessor: Controller stationed at the evacuating hospital(s). Response for managing the exercise at the evacuating hospital.

# Coalition Surge Test: Required Resources

- Resources required to conduct the Coalition Surge Test:
  - Equipment:
    - Assessors need a laptop to operate the Excel tool provided
  - Space:
    - Physical location for the facilitated discussion with access to a web-based platform.

# Coalition Surge Test: Performance Measures

- Time (in minutes) for evacuating facilities in the Health Care Coalition to report the total number of evacuating patients
- Time (in minutes) for receiving facilities in the Health Care Coalition to report the total number of available beds
- Time (in minutes) for the Health Care Coalition to identify an appropriate mode of transport for the last evacuating patient
- Percent of patients at the evacuating facilities that are identified to be (a) discharged or (b) evacuated to confirmed receiving facilities
- Percent of evacuating patients with an appropriate bed identified at a receiving facility within 90 minutes
- Percent of evacuating patients with acceptance for transfer to another facility that have an appropriate mode of transport identified in 90 minutes

# Questions?

# CST: Initial Planning Meeting

# Initial Planning Meeting (IPM)

- Exercise Scope
- Exercise Objectives and Capabilities
  - Test Relevant Plans, Policies, and Procedures
- Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities
- Anticipated Participation and Extent of Play
- Exercise Scenario
- Next Steps



# Exercise Scope

The focus of the exercise is to identify bed space in different facilities to cover the needs of the evacuating facility(s).

There is no physical transfer of patients. Patient transfer is **simulated**.

Exercise is not intended to interfere with patient care.

# Exercise Objectives and Capabilities

| 2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities | Exercise Objectives                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Medical Surge                                                | Assess the ability of an evacuating facility and its coalition partners to rapidly shift into disaster mode                                                 |
| Health Care and Medical Response Coordination                | Determine if an evacuating facility knows who to contact during an evacuation                                                                               |
|                                                              | Assess the coalition members' ability to communicate and coordinate quickly to determine available beds and transportation resources for evacuated patients |
|                                                              | Test the coalition's ability to perform a simulated evacuation with existing on-site staff during a low/no-notice event                                     |

# Exercise Assumptions & Artificialities

- The exercise is not intended to assess individual performance or compliance with federal or other requirements.
- The exercise scenario is plausible, and the events occur as they are presented.
- Patient movement is simulated; players should react as if the incident was real.

# Participation & Extent of Play

Which facilities in Region TSA-E are interested in participating in the 2018 Coalition Surge Test?

- Extent of Play for 2018
  - Update Bed Availability via EMResource only
  - Participate as an Evacuating or Receiving Hospital
  - Participate as an Evacuating Facility Assessor
  - Participate as a Notional Transport Agency
- Bed Capacity

# Exercise Scenario

- The CST does not require development of a scenario
- Coalitions can create a scenario to support the exercise objectives

# Coalition Surge Test: Excel Tool Overview

# Next Steps

- ~~Initial Planning Meeting: January 19, 2018~~
  - Complete Survey Monkey by January 26, 2018
- Mid-Term Planning Meeting: February 6, 2018
- Final Planning Meeting: March 6, 2018
- Coalition Surge Test: TBD
- After Action Review: TBD
  - CST After Action Report
  - Coalition After Action Report/Improvement Plan

# Questions?





Thank You