# Currently in the Coalition

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

## National Preparedness Month - Americans Stand Ready

This year's theme connects to FEMA broader approach to disaster response. Just as FEMA empowers state and local governments to lead their own response and recovery efforts when disaster strikes, FEMA's Ready Campaign empowers individuals to take charge of their own readiness. When Americans take steps to prepare for disasters and keep their families safe, every neighborhood and community is more resilient. Throughout National Preparedness Month in September, FEMA will celebrate and encourage American resourcefulness and civic responsibility.

**What You Can Do**

- **Make a plan** for your household, including your pets, so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves during a disaster. Consider the unique risks where you live and the needs of your family. Know **where you'll go** if you need to leave your home and learn **your evacuation routes** so you can get there safely.
- **Be in the Know.** Sign up for your community's warning system. disasters can happen suddenly, so it's important to have multiple ways to get alerts. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.
- **Build a kit.** We know how to keep our loved ones safe when things go wrong, but do you have what you need to stay safe and comfortable until help arrives? Visit ready.gov/kit for a list of items to include and how to tailor your kit to meet your family's needs.
- **Take the next step**. When communities work together, there's nothing they can't do. If you want help your community be more resilient, consider taking a training course through FEMA's Training and Education Program, the American Red Cross, or your local emergency management agency to build or gain skills to protect yourself, family, friends and community.

Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition
Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk & Sumter Counties

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## Upcoming Coalition Meetings

**Manatee County**
**September 9th**

**Pasco County**
**September 14th**

**Hillsborough County**
**September 15th**

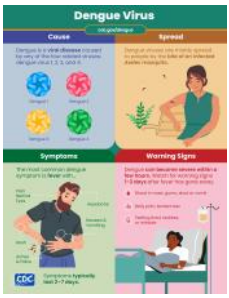
**Polk County**
**September 24th**

**Citrus County**
**October 1st**

Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition

## Important Updates

### Dengue and Mosquito-Borne Illness Resources



Florida has more than 70 locally-acquired cases of dengue virus so far in 2026, many of which are in the Tampa Bay area. The Florida Department of Health has provided the attached resources regarding dengue and other mosquito-borne illnesses. We are sharing this information with our healthcare partners throughout the region for situational awareness and to support organizational preparedness, prevention, and public education efforts.

Please review the materials and share them, as appropriate, with clinical staff, infection prevention personnel, emergency preparedness teams, organizational leadership, and others who may benefit from this information. For more information, visit our website and read more here.

### National Recovery Month

National Recovery Month which started in 1989, is a national observance held every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible. SAMHSA aims to increase public awareness surrounding mental health and addiction recovery. Read more here.

### 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 Training Resources - Tampa Bay Health & Medical Preparedness Coalition

- **Storm Warning: A Healthcare Hurricane & Tropical Weather Tabletop Exercise Toolkit**
- **Practical Incident Command for Ambulatory Health Care Partners**
- **Healthcare Workplace Violence Tabletop Exercise Toolkit**
- **Measles Identification & Response Tabletop Exercise Toolkit**

### 2027 Hazards & Healthcare Conference Call for Presentations

The 2027 Hazards & Healthcare Conference is inviting presentation proposals from professionals with practical insights, innovative strategies, and real-world lessons to share. This is an opportunity to help advance preparedness, safety, and resilience across healthcare—submit your session idea for consideration. 2027 Hazards & Healthcare Conference: Call for Presentations – Fill out form

# Training & Exercise Opportunities

## 15 'til Surge Medical Surge Initiative

Strengthening hospital medical surge readiness across HHS Region IV! Join us on September 10th or September 17th at 11:00 a.m. ET to learn about the 15 'til Surge Medical Surge Initiative and how your hospital, healthcare system, or Healthcare Coalition can participate.

## 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.

- **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.
- **Patient Management: Receiving a Highly Infectious Disease Patient (HIDV3)** on October 14, 2026 from 10-11:45am.

## Hotel2Hospital Project Training

**What is the Hotel2Hospital (H2H) Project?** In response to federal and NDMS discussions around catastrophic medical surges (e.g., handling 1,000 casualties a day for 100 days during large-scale combat operations), the University of Colorado received a Defense Health Agency (DHA) grant to design a rapidly deployable solution.

Their team spent three years researching, developing, and successfully testing a model that can transform a standard 150+ room hotel into a functional, temporary hospital wing (complete with ICU and med-surg capabilities) in just four weeks. They are now taking this concept on the road to share their findings and get feedback from regional experts to validate the model. Join us on **October 22, 2026 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Hampton Inn Tampa Downtown Channel District - 1155 E Kennedy Blvd in Tampa.** https://www.eventcreate.com/e/h2htrainingfl**.** If you have any questions regarding the training, please reach out to ElainaH@AllClearEMG.com.

## 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
- Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents (HERT PER-902) - https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/course/PER-902

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

## Coalition Highlights

# Pinellas CHAMP Visits Evara Health

Last month, Pinellas CHAMP gathered at Evara Health, a federally qualified health center serving communities throughout Pinellas County. During the meeting, attendees learned how Evara is expanding access to high-quality, affordable care and preparing to open its 20th health center.

With locations stretching from 22nd Street South to Tarpon Springs, Evara delivers care across 13 service lines, including prenatal care, OB/GYN, pediatrics, family medicine, geriatrics, chiropractic care, podiatry, and mental health services. The organization supports approximately 65,000 patients through about 260,000 visits each year. Its three mobile health centers further extend services into the community, while three FoodRx centers operated in partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay assist patients experiencing food insecurity and nutrition-related health challenges.

Attendees also learned about the Evara Health Institute, which prepares future medical assistants, dental assistants, X-ray technicians, and other healthcare professionals through affordable, grant-supported training. During disasters, Evara works to reopen its facilities quickly and deploy mobile health centers, helping maintain access to care and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments.

The meeting concluded with an invitation to tour one of Evara's mobile health centers, giving attendees a firsthand look at this important community resource.

# Nursing Home Incident Command System Course in Brandon

The TBHMPC team delivered the Nursing Home Incident Command System (NHICS) course, helping long-term care professionals strengthen emergency preparedness, coordinated incident response, and communication.

Thank you to the Hawthorne Center for Rehabilitation and Healing of Brandon for hosting the session and to every attendee for their participation and engagement.

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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.