



Best Practices and Lessons Learned from Implementing a **Shelter Surveillance** Program and Conducting a **Tabletop** **Exercise**

Ashley Conley, MS, CPH, CHEP

City of Nashua, NH Division of Public Health and Community
Services

Greater Nashua Public Health Region

PHP Capability 7: Mass Care

- **Function 4: Monitor mass care population health.**
- **Task 2: During an incident, conduct surveillance at congregate locations to identify cases of illness, injury, and exposure within mass care populations.**

Shelter Surveillance in NH

1. Guidance document

- Three forms
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Communications

2. Training Curriculum

- Trained >90 volunteers and Health Officers

3. Partnerships

Guidance for Conducting Health Surveillance in Shelters

New Hampshire Department of Health and
Human Services



June 2013

Version 1.0

Best Practices

- **Creating guidance that will work for different types of shelters**
- **Training volunteers to assist**
- **Building a system so emergency managers in small towns don't feel overburdened**
- **Getting the message out about surveillance in shelters through multiple venues**

Healthy NH Shelters Tabletop

- Test the **communication pathways** between shelters and the emergency operation systems and **evaluate** the guidance document
- **After Action Report:**
 - Interviewing Training
 - Strike Team
 - Communications

Lessons Learned

- **Communication pathways are complex**
- **Cannot rely on the internet**
- **Small towns struggle and public health will need to take the lead role in surveillance if it is something we want them to accomplish**
- **HIPPA and ownership of forms**
- **Need to tell towns and volunteer agencies to include basic infection prevention supplies**

Acknowledgements

- **Shelter Surveillance Work Group**
 - ♦ **Phil Alexakos**
 - ♦ **Ashley Conley**
 - ♦ **Ken Dufault**
 - ♦ **Michelle McFadden**
 - ♦ **Darlene Morse**
 - ♦ **Deb Perkins**
 - ♦ **Carole Totzkay**
 - ♦ **Roza Tammer**
- **NH DHHS**
- **NH Emergency Services Unit**
- **NH HSEM**



Resources

- CDC: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/surveillance/>
- APIC Document:
http://www.apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Practice_Guidance/Emergency_Preparedness/Shelters_Disasters.pdf
- CSTE 6th Annual Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee Workshop
 - Shelter Surveillance Work Group: presentation will be available at <http://www.cste.org/group/DisasterEpi> once posted

Contact Information

Ashley Conley, MS, CPH, CHEP

Epidemiologist

**City of Nashua, Division of Public Health and Community
Services**

18 Mulberry St, Nashua, NH 03060

603-589-4552

conleya@nashuanh.gov