



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

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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



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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**

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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

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