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
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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- NH Emergency Services Unit
- NH HSEM
Resources


- CSTE 6th Annual Disaster Epidemiology Subcommittee Workshop
  - Shelter Surveillance Work Group: presentation will be available at [http://www.cste.org/group/DisasterEpi](http://www.cste.org/group/DisasterEpi) once posted
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