



## The Express

June 2017 (Issue 2)

It's officially summer and mosquito season, and the temperatures are sizzling in several parts of the country! Check out the extreme heat-related sections in our [Natural Disasters Topic Collection](#) for lessons learned and plans, tools, and templates that can help you prepare for and cope with the weather and other natural hazards. The [National Integrated Heat Health Information System webpage](#) also offers a host of resources and tips for planning for and managing heat waves. Our recently updated [Zika: Resources at Your Fingertips](#) provides links to helpful resources and an overview of public health and healthcare system considerations and implications.

This issue of The Express includes: links to the recently published EMS Infectious Disease Playbook (and related webinar recording); information on recent and upcoming [ASPR TRACIE](#) webinars; links to new resources; reminders regarding the CMS Emergency Preparedness rule and draft interpretive guidelines; and a link to the newest report published by the Health Care Industry Cybersecurity Task Force.

### **New: EMS and Infectious Disease Playbook and Related Webinar**

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, ASPR TRACIE hosted [EMS and Infectious Diseases: Challenges and Resources for Provider Protection](#). During this webinar, Drs. Alex Isakov and John Hick introduced the [EMS Infectious Disease Playbook](#), a one-stop information source to guide the safe transport of patients known or suspected of having an infectious disease. They also highlighted the current challenges the EMS community faces related to infectious diseases and participated in a question and answer session with webinar participants.

### **ASPR TRACIE Webinars**

Our stakeholders who work in frontline health care facilities can access the webinar on [Highly Pathogenic Infectious Disease Exercise Planning for Frontline Facilities](#) to learn

more about the National Ebola Training and Education Center's ([NETEC](#)) suite of free, fully customizable, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP)-compliant exercise materials.

Has your agency or facility felt the effects of recent shortages of multiple medications frequently used in the care of critically ill patients? Check out [Clinicians and Coalitions: A Conversation about Finding Solutions for Medication Shortages](#), a webinar featuring practitioners and speakers from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials ([ASTHO](#)), state public health, ASPR, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sharing strategies that can be employed to address these pharmaceutical shortfalls. You can also access the write-up of the [Q&A session](#).

### **Save the Dates!**

Mark your calendars for these upcoming webinars:

- *July 20, 2:00-3:00 PM ET: [Growing and Sustaining: A Discussion About Healthcare Coalition Financial Models](#)*. The next webinar in our series for healthcare coalitions (HCCs) will focus on several unique financial models used by HCCs. Speakers from a variety of jurisdictions/organizations will participate in a roundtable discussion on the different models, transition process lessons learned, benefits, and challenges.
- *August 23, 2:00-3:00 PM ET: [Highly Pathogenic Infectious Disease Exercise Planning for Regional Transport](#)*. This NETEC-ASPR TRACIE webinar will feature a discussion on the regional transport plan exercise templates developed by NETEC.
- *September 14, 1:00-2:00 PM ET: [HCC Tools and Resources](#) (registration link coming soon)*. Melissa Harvey (ASPR National Healthcare Preparedness Programs) and Dr. John Hick will discuss the new tools and resources developed by ASPR TRACIE to assist HCCs with their preparedness efforts.

### **New ASPR TRACIE Resources**

Check out our [Avian Influenza \(Including Asian H7N9\): Resources at Your Fingertips](#) that that was developed in close coordination with CDC, USDA, and several of our subject matter experts. This document is designed to provide healthcare system professionals, emergency managers, and other stakeholders with resources and information to consider when improving their readiness for potential human infections with avian influenza A viruses.

Now you can access all [ASPR TRACIE-Developed Resources](#) from one convenient location! From resources on [disaster behavioral health](#) to [HIPAA](#), [mass gatherings](#), and [caring for staff after a disaster](#), you can find it there.

*Check back often—we will be releasing new resources all summer!*

### **CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule Reminders**

Don't forget to check out the Advanced Copy of [CMS Interpretive Guidance](#). These final interpretive guidelines and survey procedures support the adoption of a standard all-hazards emergency preparedness program for all certified providers and suppliers and addresses the unique differences of others.

The [ASPR TRACIE CMS EP Rule: Resources at Your Fingertips](#) document includes links to helpful resources, and the Yale New Haven Health System Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response [CMS EP Rule Crosswalk](#) can help planners understand the association between the CMS EP Rule Conditions of Participation and existing regulatory and accreditation standards.

### **Just Released: Improving Cybersecurity in the Health Care Industry**

Over the past five years, a dramatic escalation in cyber-attacks against the healthcare industry has put at risk personal privacy, financial security, health care research, and patient safety. Last year at the direction of Congress, HHS established the Health Care Industry Cybersecurity Task Force following the passage of the Cybersecurity Act of 2015. The Task Force has developed a [report to Congress](#) conveying the urgency and complexity of the ever-changing cybersecurity risks—like the recent “WannaCry” ransomware attack—and recommendations that will increase security.

In addition, two reports were recently released by Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) about multiple vulnerabilities with Microsoft products, including the Windows operating system, and a threat by a group DHS labels as “Hidden Cobra.” Both relate to the same type of vulnerability that allowed WannaCry to spread. Importantly, simply installing the Microsoft patches will not necessarily protect from “Hidden Cobra” since they use a wide range of vulnerabilities. DHS states “Hidden Cobra” targets are “...the media, aerospace, financial, and critical infrastructure sectors in the United States and globally,” making the Healthcare and Public Health sector

systems and devices potential targets. Please review the [HHS Cybersecurity Program compilation of technical information and resources](#) to support your efforts in mitigating this threat. **Questions or comments on cyber issues should be directed to [CIP@hhs.gov](mailto:CIP@hhs.gov).**

## Domain Updates



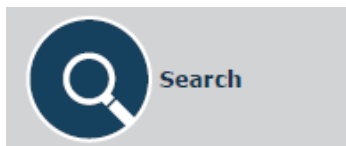
There are currently 45 comprehensively developed Topic Collections in the [Technical Resources](#) domain, including the most recently released collection on [Rural Disaster Health](#). Be on the lookout for our next collection which features resources dedicated to sustaining and managing HCCs. Follow [this link](#) to access all comprehensively developed collections.



The [Assistance Center](#) has processed more than 1,850 technical assistance (TA) requests from a variety of stakeholders (including more than 435 related to the CMS EP Rule). We maintain [a summary of many of the TA requests received](#), listed alphabetically. We encourage you to [reach out](#) if you need assistance.



Join more than 3,000 of your colleagues in the [Information Exchange](#) and check out the [full redacted versions of ASPR TRACIE's responses to select TA requests](#) and [ASPR TRACIE webinars](#). [Register now](#) to join the conversation or learn more about setting up private topic areas. Need help navigating the IE? Check out this quick [how-to video](#)!



# ASPR

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