



---

SEPTEMBER 2021, ISSUE 3

# The Bridge

## A Healthcare Community Connection

---

### MSEPC Update

Happy fall! Hopefully the cooler temperatures are helping to re-energize you and your efforts in our continued response to COVID-19. Thankfully the number of COVID cases and hospitalizations are slowing trending down in our region. The Shelby County Health Department issued a new [Health Directive](#) continuing the mask mandate, and other updates, until at least October 31. Although masking is vital, vaccination is still the best protection from severe illness, hospitalization, and death. First, second, and booster doses (for those who qualify) are now available County-wide and more information can be found online.

After what seems like months of discussion, our new meeting schedules are finally set! The listing of upcoming meetings are included in this newsletter. If you haven't done so already, please complete the 2021 Roster Update to be included in future email distributions related to meeting agendas, upcoming events and trainings, newsletters, and other Coalition related information. And as a reminder, please have each person within your facility complete a form if you'd like them to receive Coalition information directly.

Now that we've established a monthly newsletter, it's time to move to social media. We have a Facebook page! (and don't be surprised if Twitter is next!) If you or your facility has a Facebook page, please give us a follow [@MidSouthEPC](#) and interact with our page. We hope to use social media to share relevant Coalition events, updates, and provide a platform for member and partner engagement. Isn't technology fun!?

As always, you're my favorite part of this job. I enjoy hearing from you, regardless of whether you're asking for something or making suggestions, and it's my joy to help you out. Please continue to let us know how the MSEPC can provide support to you, your staff, your patients/residents/clients, and your facility.

THANK YOU!

Respectfully,  
Heather Fortner  
hfortner@midsouthepec.org  
865-679-4608

---

FIND THE  
MSEPC  
WEBSITE LINK  
[HERE](#)

---

## September is National Preparedness Month



Being prepared should always start at home. Employees will be much more efficient if they know their families are safe. FEMA offers several websites to help with personal preparedness as well as tips and guidance for businesses. Some of those links are provided below.

- [Create a Family Emergency Communications Plan](#)
- [Communications Plan for Kids](#)
- [Documenting and Insuring Your Property](#)
- [Business Preparedness](#)
- [Business Power Outage Toolkit](#)
- [Business Risk Assessment Guide](#)
- [Business Risk Assessment Tool with Instructions](#)
- [Business Continuity Plans](#)
- [Various Emergency Alert Platforms](#)
- [Shelter Plans](#)
- [Preparing for Disasters with Pets](#)



### Ready.gov provides a list for Disaster Kits

- Water (one gallon per person per day for several days, for drinking and sanitation)
- Food (at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food)
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Extra batteries
- Whistle (to signal for help)
- Dust mask (to help filter contaminated air)
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape (to shelter in place)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
- Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
- Manual can opener (for food)
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery

### Consider adding the following items to your emergency supply kit based on your individual needs:

- Masks (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces
- Prescription medications
- Non-prescription medications such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives
- Prescription eyeglasses and contact lens solution
- Infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes and diaper rash cream
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Cash or traveler's checks
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in a waterproof, portable container
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates, paper towels and plastic utensils
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

### Maintaining Your Kit

After assembling your kit remember to maintain it so it's ready when needed:

- Keep canned food in a cool, dry place.
- Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers.
- Replace expired items as needed.
- Re-think your needs every year and update your kit as your family's needs change.



## Regional One Health and Rehabilitation Hospital

We talked to Amy Ogden, Administrator, recently about Regional One Health Rehabilitation Hospital. She is very excited about the services this facility offers to patients in the area and is eager to share the information with everyone else.

Regional One Health Rehabilitation Hospital offers rehabilitation services which includes nearly 600 discharges per year for a variety of diagnoses including Spinal Cord Injury, Brain Injury, Major Multiple Trauma, and other medical and orthopedic conditions.

We were interested in what resources the facility may have that may be beneficial to other Coalition members during a disaster. Amy told us they have access to wheelchair accessible vans and evacuation equipment like stair chairs and med sleds. We also wanted to know what resources the facility would most likely be looking for during a disaster. Community evacuation for those with spinal cord injuries or other disabilities requiring special transportation was number one on the list. Community disaster relief for those with spinal cord injuries or other disabilities was also an area of concern.

**"Regional One Health Rehabilitation Hospital is very proud of the ability to grow year over year and nearly double the number of patients seen in only 4 years which allows us to provide care to more members of the community. We have achieved greater outcomes through our rehabilitation program... which includes patient discharging to a community setting at higher functional levels in a shorter period of time. We are growing by leaps and bounds and are CARF accredited for Medical Rehabilitation"- Amy Ogden**

Regional One scored higher than the regional average on discharges to the community. You can see the statistics below.

|                     | All Discharges | Brain Injury | Spinal Cord Injury | Orthopedic |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| <b>Regional One</b> | 87%            | 89%          | 84%                | 87%        |
| <b>Region*</b>      | 78%            | 77%          | 77%                | 81%        |

• Region: Reflects all Erahadata rehabilitation facilities for FY2021

In patient surveys, 100% of patients would recommend Regional One Health Rehabilitation Hospital to others.

# Long Term Care Facilities

## Useful Links (Click below)

- [Export and review NHSN reports](#)
- [Temporary Nurse Aide Program Guidance](#)
- [CMS Visitation Guide for Nursing Homes](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Additional Vaccinations](#)
- [COVID Success Stories for LTCF](#)



# FEMA

FEMA provides disaster response classes through the Center For Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. These classes are free to attend. Lodging and meals are also provided. Several high interest classes are linked below.

## **Center for Domestic Preparedness Training Links**

- [FRAME: Framework for Healthcare Emergency Management](#)
- [HERT-B: Hospital Emergency Response Training for Mass Casualty Incidents- Basic Train the Trainer](#)
- [IC: Incident Command: Capabilities, Planning, and Response Actions for All Hazards](#)
- [SNS: Strategic National Stockpile](#)

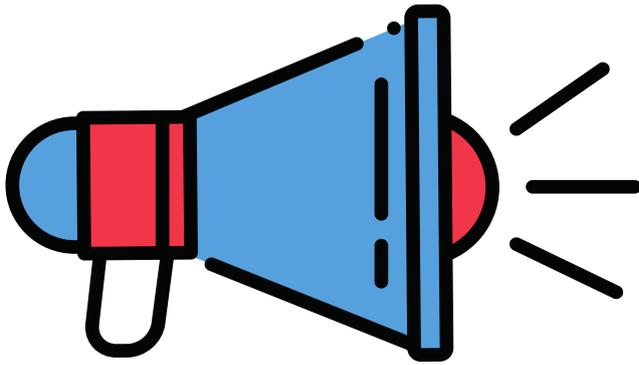
In order to register for any FEMA provided classes, you must first register for your Student Identification Number. You can find that link [HERE](#).

# New Meetings Schedule

Register [HERE](#)

- **October 20**- Executive Board
- **October 15**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **October 21**- MSEPC Full Coalition
- **November 17**- Executive Board
- **November 18**- Non-Hospital Out-Patient Providers
- **November 19**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **December 15**- Executive Board
- **December 17**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **January 19**- Executive Board
- **January 20**- MSEPC Full Coalition
- **January 21**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **February 16**- Executive Board
- **February 17**- Non-Hospital Out-Patient Providers
- **February 18**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **March 16**- Executive Board
- **March 18**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **April 20**- Executive Board
- **April 21**- MSEPC Full Coalition
- **April 22**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **May 18**- Executive Board
- **May 19**- Non-Hospital Out-Patient Providers
- **May 20**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers
- **June 15**- Executive Board
- **June 17**- Non-Hospital In-Patient Providers





We want to hear from you! Upcoming editions of this newsletter will include highlights of members or facilities. Use the link [here](#) to nominate a person or facility of interest! Let us know why they are being nominated so we can all get to know each other better!

We also want to make this newsletter something useful. It can be as informative as you wish it to be. Send ideas of what to include next month to:  
[jskelton@midsouthepc.org](mailto:jskelton@midsouthepc.org).



Click [HERE](#) to find us on Facebook

#### Contact Us:

Heather Fortner, Executive Director  
[hfortner@midsouthepc.org](mailto:hfortner@midsouthepc.org)  
865-679-4608

Jennifer Skelton, Vulnerable Populations  
Coordinator  
[jskelton@midsouthepc.org](mailto:jskelton@midsouthepc.org)  
662-544-7955