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Resilience Report

Brief insights and the latest innovations in emergency management and health security.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 are reaching record highs, but a vaccine is within our sights. This week on Resilience Report we cover extreme conditions throughout California, planning and communication strategies for successful vaccination campaigns, and FREE coffee.



Hospitalizations Rise Across California.

The number of people hospitalized for COVID-19 in California [reached record highs](#) nearly every day this week. Health officials across the state continue to urge people to stay home, as numbers will likely keep rising after the recent holiday weekend.

Extreme Conditions Spur Wildfire in Orange Co.

Low humidity and high winds in Southern California have put the region at high risk of fires once again. On [Thursday morning](#), officials in Orange County were responding to a rapidly-spreading wildfire that had forced evacuations in the area.

New Online Tool Models Indoor COVID-19 Transmission Risk.

Researchers at MIT have developed [a new tool](#) that models the risk of COVID-19 transmission in indoor spaces. The tool allows you to tailor a specific scenario based on what you want to know and will then evaluate the risk of transmission for that scenario.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT: COVID-19 VACCINE PLANNING

Every week, we'll dedicate space for a hot topic that we think is especially important for emergency managers to read. Since all the buzz in public health (or any) news are COVID-19 vaccines, we'd be remiss to ignore them! So in this issue, we'll home in on vaccination planning and preparedness resources and recommendations.

Operation Warp Speed officials anticipate vaccine allocation to states will start in [1-2 weeks](#), but most jurisdictions and healthcare agencies have been preparing for months. Here are a few resources with more information for anyone jump starting their vaccine distribution plans or putting the finishing touches on them.

- States and counties have the important role of creating allocation plans locally. [This planning tool](#) can help by estimating highest priority populations and their locations.
- Want a recap of [“COVID-19 Info You Want to Read”](#), [examples from the field](#), or [tools, resources, and recommendations](#) for vaccine planning from CONSTANT? Look no further. We even [blogged](#) about preparing organizations for vaccine distribution.
- Communication plans can benefit from understanding why different groups may be weary of the vaccine. Minority populations may be distrustful due to a legacy of [systemic racism in the U.S. healthcare system](#) while healthcare workers could be [leery of vaccines](#) with few peer-review articles on its efficacy.

Strategies for Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in Various Groups

One of the biggest hurdles to distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine will not be manufacturing. It will be building trust in the vaccine and getting people to take it. Below are some suggestions for doing just that:

- **Suggestion #1:** Tap into faith and community-based organizations to 1) understand which populations might be more hesitant and what questions and concerns they have and 2) deliver vaccine messaging from a trusted source in those communities.
- **Suggestion #2:** Flood your organization's social media presence with positive messaging about the vaccine. The more true and engaging information posted, the less people will (hopefully) be exposed to misinformation. One of our favorite examples of awesome messaging on Instagram is the [Johns Hopkins Public Health account](#).
- **Suggestion #3:** The public will be less likely to trust the vaccine if their healthcare providers aren't getting it. Getting them on board means developing tailored communication materials for this population that stress the data on safety and efficacy.

Prefer tailored recommendations or want direct support with vaccine planning? Check out CONSTANT's [COVID-19 Vaccination Planning & Assistance options](#) or shoot us an [email](#).



Cheers to those on the frontline.

Free Starbucks coffee, what a great way for [frontline workers](#) to recharge this winter!

December is for stargazers.

A multicolored meteor shower on 12/14 & 12/15 isn't the only thing to [light up the night sky](#) this month. On 12/21, during the winter solstice, the clearest great conjunction since 1226 will bring Jupiter and Saturn so close together they appear to kiss.

The healing power of baseball.

All [Reese, Grayson, and Emmett](#) wanted after losing everything in the Creek Fire was baseball cards to help feel normal again. They didn't expect to get over 25,000! Now, three California kid's love of baseball brings [joy to children](#) around the country facing tough times.

We're Here to Support You

If you need help with mass fatality planning, vaccine planning, COVID-19 AARs, EOC surge staff, or anything in between, shoot us an email at scott@constantassociates.com. We are here to help.



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