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Resilience Report

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

This week's Resilience Report takes a look at the current "triple-demic" and COVID-19's impacts on medical surge planning. We also highlight updates from around FEMA and health-related news from across the world. Finally, we count down to the World Cup final and look ahead to the upcoming holidays.



Health News in the U.S. and Around the World

- Following a nearly two-year review, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee released a 242-page [report](#) detailing the federal government's initial actions to COVID-19 and early response efforts through March 2020 as the virus quickly spread.
- The CDC recently requested [another \\$10 billion](#) for its COVID response, the fourth such emergency funding appeal this year. Congress appears poised to reject the budget request, as public interest in the virus wanes.
- A [cholera outbreak](#) is surging worldwide this year, and the response to this pandemic, which has been going on since 1961, is renewing the debate among health officials on the right approach to vaccine policy.

Updates from Around FEMA

- Are you interested in community resiliency? FEMA is looking for volunteers to support its [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) Virtual National Competition Panels](#). Application are due by January 15, 2023 to be part of panel reviews for grants for hazard mitigation projects that aim to reduce the risk from disasters and natural hazards.
- Last month, FEMA hosted its [third annual civil rights summit](#) that included speakers from both the agency and community organizations. Presenters

shared their areas of expertise and experiences, while speakers from FEMA focused on how the agency is working to make civil rights a priority.

- The Biden Administration recently launched a new [Voluntary Community-Driven Relocation program](#), led by the Department of the Interior, to assist tribal communities impacted by climate-related environmental threats. The program committed \$115 million for 11 tribes, with additional support from FEMA and the Denali Commission for relocation efforts and adaptation planning.

Emergency Management Roundup

- As of this week, Mauna Loa, the world's largest volcano located in Hawaii, was [no longer erupting](#) and the flow of lava had largely stalled. This [article](#) details the eruption, including the months of monitoring leading up to the event, and the hours immediately following.
- The attacks on an electric substation in Moore County, NC earlier this month that left 40,000 residential and commercial customers without power for days was a shock to the community and the nation. But that wasn't the [first attack of its kind](#) and there are strategies that can help mitigate such an occurrence.
- We've heard about global migration due to climate change. But is the U.S. experiencing the same phenomenon in this country? A [recent report](#) examines trends in the U.S., which suggest that Americans are increasingly moving out of areas most at risk from heat waves and hurricanes. But, the data shows that the trend doesn't extend to all natural disasters, at least not yet.



The 'triple-demic' of COVID-19, the flu, and RSV is [straining hospitals](#) across the U.S. as cases and hospitalizations have increased significantly over the past few weeks. And while reports show that RSV infections may have peaked, both COVID-19 and flu cases continue to rise, and officials are concerned about how holiday gatherings will impact upticks and potential hospitalizations. We explore medical surge, hospital limitations, and lessons learned from COVID-19 response.

- [Medical surge](#) is one of the core capabilities of ASPR's Hospital Preparedness Program, and it refers to the "ability to evaluate and care for a markedly increased volume of patients that exceeds normal operating capacity." And although healthcare organizations plan for a medical surge, [COVID-19](#) has highlighted the importance of hospitals' abilities to execute an effective medical surge response.
- Caring for an increased volume of patients requires hospitals to have adequate resources available, including staff. Over the past several years, the entire care continuum has experienced the effects of a [staffing shortage](#), with the long-term

ramifications contributing to a looming crisis. COVID-19 has demonstrated how these challenges affected healthcare staffing and care throughout the world.

- While cognizant of limitations, health officials are striving to integrate lessons learned from initial COVID-19 response to current operations. Hear from [Northwell Health](#), [ASHP](#), [AdventHealth](#), and [HANYs](#) about how various healthcare systems have or will update their surge plans and processes.

Strengthening Healthcare Preparedness

Health care delivery stretches beyond hospitals, outpatient, and primary care providers, encompassing federal, state, and local government, CERTs and MRCs, EMS, emergency management, infrastructure companies, NGOs, public health, educational institutions, and many, many more. What recommendations can strengthen the ability of healthcare systems to provide care?

- **Recommendation #1: Conduct a gap analysis to identify medical surge capabilities within your operational area.** COVID-19 has enabled the identification of shortfalls and gaps in the ability to support medical surge operations during a disaster. Conducting an [analysis](#) can mitigate disaster impacts by eliminating and/or reducing response and recovery issues with specific, measurable steps. Measuring these gaps against realistic threats (i.e., a pandemic, an earthquake, a hurricane, a terrorist attack, etc.) can help analyze important differences relevant to each scenario such as casualty arrival pattern, number of patients hospitalized, resources consumed, etc., which can enable realistic plans.
 - **Recommendation #2: Use the HPP's annual Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE) requirement to identify and/or vet gaps within the gap analysis.** As of HPP Budget Period 3 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022), HCCs must complete the MRSE annually. Resources are available to support MRSE development and conduct, including a [SitMan](#) and [Evaluation Plan](#). The MRSE, though an annual HPP requirement, can be used beyond checking a box to test surge response and preparedness capabilities and improve them.
 - **Recommendation #3: Following the development of a gap analysis, update your Medical Surge Plan to account for a significant surge event (as demonstrated with COVID-19) utilizing new available resources.** While Medical Surge Plans cannot anticipate all of the possible emergencies or disasters and their associated scale, COVID-19 has upended the parameters used to describe a medical surge resulting from a pandemic. As such, many entities have taken the time to create and/or update resources that can support the integration of lessons learned within Medical Surge Plans. Some of these include the [California Hospital Association Hospital Surge Plan Checklist and Resources](#), [the Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force Alternate Care Site Toolkit](#), and the [CDC/ASPR's five COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios](#).
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FUN THINGS

Final Countdown

- [Sunday's World Cup final](#) between Argentina and France will be the [Messi vs. Mbappé showdown](#) football/soccer fans deserve. France hopes to reprise their 2018 victory, becoming the first men's repeat champion since Brazil in 1962. [Saturday's consolation match](#) pits Croatia against [Morocco](#), whose semifinal berth made history on several levels.

The Other Football

- Today is the beginning of Bowl Season. Not interested in [all 42 games](#)? We have a [guide to the best games](#) to catch, including the CFP semifinals. Meanwhile NFL's week 15 will help solidify a [playoff picture](#) for many teams.

All the Food

- Whether you celebrate [Kwanzaa](#), [Hanukkah](#), [Christmas](#), [Saturnalia](#), or the [Winter Solstice](#), we have recipes for you. For those more inclined to watch others do the food prep, check out a [list of holiday baking shows](#) to binge.



We're Here to Support You

If you need help with disaster preparedness, COVID-19 AARs, or anything in between, send us an email at donna@constantassociates.com. We are here to help.

CONSTANT is certified as an 8(a) and Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Business (EDWOSB) and as a Great Place To Work. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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