

September 2023

COTS UNIVERSITY

COTS University Coalition Newsletter

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<https://www.cotshealth.org/cots-university>



Leadership Update

- See the attachment for required exercises for FY 2024.
- Hospitals: Please ensure your hospital completes the required MCM and SNS Self-Paced Training – Information below.

Hospital Medical Countermeasures (MCMs)/Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Self-Paced Required Training

Please ensure someone from your hospital has taken this required half-hour training by October 1st. You are welcome to share this training within your hospitals or anyone who may be assigned request resources, including MCM pharmaceuticals. This course will provide an overview of COTS, RHEP Coalition, and SEOHC to identify the types of regional, State and Federal medical caches and request procedures, and review the RR 213 Form. A voluntary Tabletop is available for your facility to conduct following the training. There will be a mandatory simple SNS request drill in October. Information regarding the drill is in the course folder.

This course is at COTS University: Folder Location: **Training Section (link at the top): Regional Cache, MCM, SNS Training Folder: Zone 2 MCM and SNS Self-Paced Training Folder. Link:**

<https://cotshealth.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/RHEP/RHEPU/ErDoZhnz4AFekGx303g0XpUBW5gAfTMkv8vno6rDFZM0iQ>

Note: You will need to use the generic hospital login to access COTS University.

COTS Liaison Officer Position Course (Hospital/FSED)

This course is intended for Hospital and Free-Standing Emergency Departments (FSED) points of contact new to their role, and staff who coordinate with the COTS HIL in their Hospital Command Center.

This course will cover the COTS Liaison Officer position, overview of COTS and the healthcare coalition(s), and the regional and state systems: (TENS, EMResource, RTAS, EMTrack, COHDIMS, Resource Requests, and MARCS). There will be an opportunity for hands-on practice.

Training dates:

- January 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.,
- May 23, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.,

Location: COTS Board Room (in person with a virtual option)

To register [click: HERE](#)

Solar Eclipse Planning

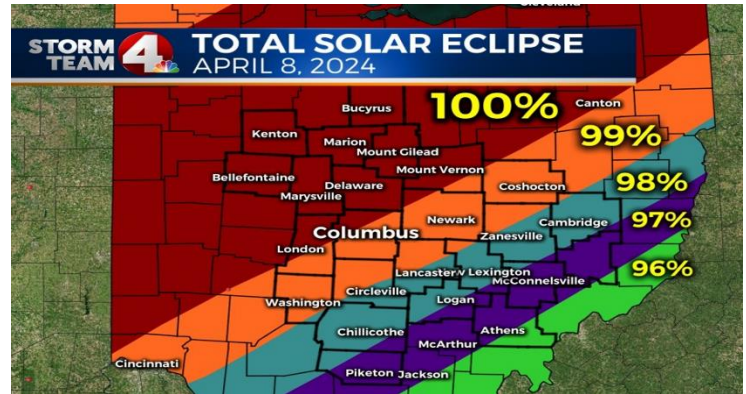
On Monday, April 8, 2024, citizens within a 124-mile-wide band in the State of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse. The path of the eclipse will impact the following counties in the central region: Hardin, Wyandot, Crawford, Logan, Marion, Morrow, Union, Delaware, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison. However, all of Ohio's 88 counties will be impacted by people traveling through, finding lodging, or needing other resources, which includes healthcare.

The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2444.

Ohio is within a one-day drive for 70% of the country. Many people will be driving to Ohio to view the eclipse. During past eclipses, counties that experienced totality have doubled, or tripled in population for the event.

Key Points: Expect to be impacted.

- Increased communications and traffic will stress local infrastructure.
- Many travel amenities (food, fuel, hotels, etc.) will be booked or may experience shortages.
- Expect increased travel time for staff, patients, or clients that day.
- Consider the necessity of appointments, access to your agencies, and an expansion of medical resources, both staff and supplies.
- Review your memorandum of agreements, emergency operations plan, communications plans, capacity, capabilities, and any gaps for to your agency.



Ophthalmology: Dr. Rogers has completed 2 FAQs for their professional society (AAPOS), both are available on-line via links below

- [Solar Retinopathy - American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus \(aapos.org\)](https://www.aapos.org/solar-retinopathy)
- [How to Safely View a Solar Eclipse - American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus \(aapos.org\)](https://www.aapos.org/how-to-safely-view-a-solar-eclipse)

Websites:

State of Ohio - <https://eclipse.ohio.gov/>

National website - <https://nationaleclipse.com/index.html>

American Astronomical Society - <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>

Central Region: Trainings and Exercises

Training List

- Hospital Boot Camp POC Course. [RECORDED](#)
- Hospital COTS Liaison Training: Recorded Training Available on COTS University in the COTS Liaison Officer Position Training Section. In person and virtual upcoming dates: January 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., May 23, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Medical Countermeasure and Strategic National Stockpile Self-Paced Training (Grant deliverable to complete by October 1, 2023) – [SNS Training Link](#)
- EMTrack Training (July 26 recording), Spring 2024 (TBD)

Exercise List

- Monthly Blood Bank Drills for hospitals: First Wed of each month.
- Monthly Communication Drills for Non-Hospitals ONLY: Second Wed of each month.
- NDMS Hospital Drills: 09/14/2023, 11/16/2023, 01/18/2024, 04/04/2024 (Tentatively)
- Quarterly No- Notice Communication Hospital/FSED Drills: August., October, February, and June (Tentatively)
- Ohio Point of Dispensing Hospital (OPOD) drill: (TBD)
- ODH conducted MARCS drills, First Thursday of each month: July 2023, January 2024
- EMTrack drill (July 26, 2023, Spring TBD)
- Hospital MCM drill combined with the Statewide Public Health/Hospital Point of Dispensing (POD) dispensing FSE: October 18-19, 2023. (See attached Fact Sheet)
- Columbus John Glenn Airport FSE: September 28, 2023 (Franklin County) – (Mount Carmel, OhioHealth, and OSU hospitals participating)
- Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE): 12/12/2023 (Tentatively)
- Chemical Surge Tabletop Exercise (TTX): 02/13/2024 (Tentatively)
- Local Coalition Tabletop Exercise (TTX) in a box: Each county will plan and conduct. (Available Early 2024.)
- Voluntary Mini-Drills for Hospitals/FSED, Non-hospital agencies, and EMS partners. (Available Early 2024.)

Southeast/Southeast Central Region: Trainings and Exercises

Training List

- Hospital Boot Camp POC Course. [RECORDED](#)
- Hospital COTS Liaison Training: Recorded Training Available on COTS University in the COTS Liaison Officer Position Training Section. In person and virtual upcoming dates: January 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., May 23, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Medical Countermeasure and Strategic National Stockpile Self-Paced Training (Grant deliverable to complete by October 1, 2023) – [SNS Training Link](#)
- EMTrack Training (July 26 recording), Spring 2024 (TBD)

Exercise List

- Monthly Blood Bank Drills for hospitals: First Wed of each month.
- Monthly Communication Drills for Non-Hospitals ONLY: Second Wed of each month.
- Quarterly No- Notice Communication Hospital/FSED Drills: August., October, February, and June (Tentatively)
- Ohio Point of Dispensing Hospital (OPOD) drill: (TBD)

- ODH conducted MARCS drills, First Thursday of each month: July 2023, January 2024
- EMTrack drill (July 26, TBD)
- Hospital MCM drill combined with the Statewide Public Health/Hospital Point of Dispensing (POD) dispensing FSE: October 18-19, 2023. (See attached Fact Sheet)
- Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE): 12/07/2023 (Tentatively)
- ODH provided Chemical Surge Tabletop Exercise (TTX): 02/15/2024 (Tentatively)
- Local Coalition Tabletop Exercise (TTX) in a box: Each county will plan and conduct. (Available Early 2024.)
- Voluntary Mini-Drills for Hospitals/FSED, Non-hospital agencies, and EMS partners. (Available Early 2024.)

Additional Training Information Free Courses

- We are excited to announce the **rollout plan for implementation of SALT Triage in COTS 36-county service area. (Sort, Assess Life Threatening Injuries, Treat/Transport).** The SALT training documents are on COTS website: <https://www.cotshealth.org/salt>
- **NIMS Compliance EMI NIMS courses** (100, 200, 700, and 800) [Emergency Management Institute - National Incident Management System \(NIMS\) \(fema.gov\)](#)
- [Ohio emergency preparedness course offerings](#). Also, if your agency has any training and exercise needs, your county Emergency Management Agency (EMA) may be able to help.
- [FEMA National Training and Education Division](#) hosts Zoom Courses available to your agency or organization. A FEMA Student ID is needed for registration. Find your FEMA SID [here](#).
- **Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCMHHS) training calendar:** [Click here](#). Classes are open to all counties, not just Franklin County. Specifically requested courses (and many more great courses on their site):
- **Southeast Central Ohio's September Training Notice** for Preparedness & Response courses/training being offered in the region: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3wjgkfeq7c7nu0f/AADV3RGRRpiNuAxxlrpy-G8ra?dl=0>
- **Southeast Ohio's September Training Notice:** G400 Advanced ICS September 11-12. Click here to enroll: <https://learning.dps.ohio.gov/PSTC/>
- Louisiana State University (LSU) NCBRT Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education
- Courses Currently Available Via Zoom <https://www.ncbrt.lsu.edu/courses/upcomingcourses.php?program=DHS>
- Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX): **AWR=Awareness / PER=Performance / MGT=Management and Planning**
- [Center for Radiological/Nuclear Training \(CTOS\)](#) Courses: <https://www.ctosnnsa.org/training.aspx>
- [National Disaster Preparedness Training Center \(NDPTC\)](#): <https://ndptc.hawaii.edu/training/>
- [Security and Emergency Response Training Center \(SERTC\)](#) Website: <https://sertc.org/> and [Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium](#)
- **COTS is sharing this highly recommended course: Disability Training for Health Providers:** Two new training courses on caring for patients with disabilities are available for healthcare providers and clinic staff! These trainings are **online, free**, and available for professional **continuing education credit**: <https://nisonger.osu.edu/education-training/ohio-disability-health-program/disability-training-for-health-providers/> With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a collaboration of 10 state disability and health programs, including the [Ohio Disability and Health Partnership](#), strive to improve access to quality health care for patients with disabilities.
- Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Planning:
 - Region V for Kids conducted a Workshop: Pediatric Care & Preparedness in Rural Communities & Critical Access Hospitals Focus Area Southeast Ohio the recorded Workshop can be viewed at: <https://emscimprovement.center/domains/preparedness/asprcoe/eglpcdr/> (Currently being edited and will be available soon.)
 - The National Pediatric Disaster Coalition (NPDC) recently attended a virtual review of the Ohio Train Derailment from the Collaborative for Health and Environment and several resource links. Here is the video recording (50 minutes) is now available from the Collaborative for Health & Environment (CHE) website, along with slides and resources: [Managing Pediatric Trauma Event in Critical Access or Rural Community \(emscproduction-appbucket-dxo55y1hsftn.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#) CHE is a non-profit that provides environmental health science via webinars, ScienceServes, publications, and social media. For information about CHE upcoming webinars, please visit our website: <https://www.healthandenvironment.org/our-work/webinars/>
 - For those of you and your partners who serve Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), the American Academy of Pediatrics has been holding a Project Echo Series on Disaster and CYSHCN. The recorded short lectures are about 30 minutes long and are meant to promote awareness of the impact of disaster on children. See the links below and take advantage of this important information.
 - [Kickoff Overview](#)
 - [Session 01: The Why: Experiences of Families of CYSHCN During Disasters](#)
 - [Session 02: Considerations for Emergency Preparedness in Rural Settings](#)
 - [Session 03: Specific Considerations for Families with CYSHCN in the Preparedness Phase](#)
 - [Session 04: Specific Considerations for Families with CYSHCN in the Response/Recovery Phase](#)
 - [Session 05: Learning from Partners-National and Local Organizations Serving Families](#)

Additional Information

- Ohio EMA has tabletop toolkits. All the materials, information and resources needed to plan and host an effective tabletop exercise. <https://ema.ohio.gov/prepare-respond/training-and-exercises/exercises/tabletop-exercise-toolkits/tabletop-exercise-toolkits>
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) transitioned to the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**. Ohioans who are experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis, and their family members, can call, text, or chat the 988 number to reach a trained counselor who can offer help and support. For more information, visit [07/13/2022 | State of Ohio Ready for Transition to New, Nationwide 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline | Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services](#)
- Does your coalition or community have resources to address vicarious trauma? The Vicarious Trauma Toolkit (VTT) uses the term "vicarious trauma" broadly to include other related terms such as [secondary traumatic stress](#) (STS), [compassion fatigue](#) (CF), or [critical incident stress](#) (CIS). These terms, often used interchangeably, have distinct and overlapping definitions, as illustrated in the [Glossary of Terms](#). Blueprint for Vicarious Trauma Informed Organization/Community: <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/vtt/blueprint-for-a-vicarious-trauma-informed-organization>.
- Listos, California has created a [First Aid Kit for Your Mind](#) with five simple steps for protecting your mental well-being and helping others do the same, along with resources for when you need more support. You already know to have a first aid kit ready for when someone gets hurt, or a Go Bag packed if you need to evacuate. Did you know you can also take healthy steps now to prevent or reduce harm to your mental health? Think of these tips as a "First Aid Kit" for your mind.

Attachments

- 1. Ohio Statewide Medical Countermeasures Full Scale Exercise Fact Sheet**
- 2. Exercise Requirements FY 2024**

Ohio Statewide Medical Countermeasures Full-Scale Exercise Fact Sheet

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Regional Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Full Scale Exercise incorporates **three main goals**:

1. Demonstrate the capability of the State of Ohio to distribute MCM to Regional Drop Sites (RDS).
2. Demonstrate the regional capability to distribute the MCM to County Drop Sites (CDS) from the RDS.
3. Demonstrate the capability to distribute MCM locally from the CDS, local point of dispensing (POD) and/or hospital.

Exercise Dates and Major Events

Exercise Day 1 – Oct. 18, 2023

Initial Notification and Coordination - Local, regional, and state strategy development and coordination among agencies, the MCM request process, flow process for leadership, and emergency declarations.

- ✓ LHD submit 213RR to EMA (Request MCM).
- ✓ LHD and stakeholders will coordinate other preparations to receive MCM per local plans.
- ✓ Regional, state, and federal Coordination will play out according to RSS and RDS procedures.

Exercise Day 2 – Oct. 19, 2023

RDS Activation and RDS Distribution to CDS/PODs.

- ✓ RSS receives MCM.
- ✓ RSS distributes MCM to RDS.
- ✓ LHD will arrange for and pick up MCM at RDS and transport back to CDS/POD.
- ✓ LHD will inventory and prepare for distribution of MCMs to a (POD) or designated recipient (no requirement to dispense).

Key Exercise Planning Components

Local (PH)

Provide location of CDS/POD.
Provide location of all Local PH and EMA local exercise venues (DOCs, EOCs, PODs, etc.).
Confirm all venue sites are available for use and scheduled for the exercise dates.
Provide contact information for participants.
Encourage and confirm hospital participation.

Regional (RPHC)

Confirm RDS Location is accurate in OPOD.
Ensure current RDS Plan is available in OPOD.
Confirm RDS participants.
Coordinate with counties to collect planning information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is required to participate in the exercise at the local level?

All PHEP subrecipients including city and county public health departments, and CRI jurisdictions. Additionally, ODH highly encourages participation from local EMA, hospitals, and whole community planning partners.

What technology and systems will be used during the exercise?

Exercise players will utilize OPHCS, OPOD, and MARCS during exercise play. In addition, IMATS will be used at the state level and may be used by the local level.

Is Local PH required to practice MCM dispensing?

Counties may practice dispensing on Day 2 or extend the exercise to a third day to practice MCM dispensing, but this **is not required**. If a county does plan to operate a POD, ODH needs to be made aware by April 11, for appropriate distribution of training materials.

How will the CDS receive MCM?

Counties are required to arrange for transportation to pick up the MCM at the RDS and transport back to the CDS. In regions where the RDS plan provides for the RDS to transport MCM to the counties, that unique process will occur.

What is the expected time of exercise play on each day?

Play will occur in the morning on Oct. 18 and in the afternoon on Oct. 19. A time jump will be built into the exercise to initiate the appropriate play on Oct. 19. The specific time of play will vary in each region.

What logistical support will the counties receive to support their conduct of the exercise?

ODH's exercise vendor will provide a region-specific ExPlan, exercise evaluation guides (EEGs), registration portal, participant briefings and feedback forms, and other documentation required for successful exercise play.

Regional Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition (RHEP) and Southeast/Southeast Central Ohio Healthcare Coalition (SEOHC) Communication/Exercise Requirements FY 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) and Training Course Descriptions

Quick Reference Guides available on COTS University: <https://www.cotshealth.org/cots-university>

Daily Updates - Hospitals/FSEDs

- Hospitals/Free Standing Emergency Departments (FSEDs) currently update EMResource and RTAS systems daily during established a.m. and p.m. shifts.

Response Ready Report (R3)/Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF) – As Needed - Hospitals/FSEDs

- The purpose of this real-world report is to keep the Central and SE/SEC regions response ready for large weekend events. The BLUF report is sent to on-scene incident command at the event and hospital emergency preparedness contacts.
- When a large event is scheduled such as an OSU football game or the Arnold Classic, a Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) alert is sent to the hospitals/FSEDs to update their status on EMResource and RTAS by a certain time. This can be for the Central and/or SE/SEC region(s).
- Hospitals/FSEDs do not need to call the COTS Healthcare Incident Liaison (HIL) on the Multi Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS).

Monthly Blood Bank Reporting: Drill Zone 2 (Central/SE/SEC)- Hospitals

- The purpose of the drill is to evaluate the ability for hospitals to update their blood status and validate the appropriate people are listed in the TENS mass notification system within 60 minutes of receiving the TENS alert.
- A TENS alert will be sent the first Wednesday of the month to the blood bank group at 9:00 a.m. requesting updates in EMResource by 10:00 a.m.
- Results will be shared following the drill.

Monthly Communication Drill – Non-hospital Members

- The purpose of the drill is to evaluate the ability for non-hospital members to update their situation report in the Coalition Healthcare Disaster Information System (COHDIMS) within 60 minutes of receiving the TENS alert.
- A drill reminder will be sent before the drill.
- A TENS alert will be sent the second Wednesday of each month to the CEN and SE/SEC coalition(s) group at 9:00 a.m. requesting situation report updates in COHDIMS by 10:00 a.m.
- An After-Action Report will be shared following the drill.

Quarterly No Notice Drill – Hospitals/FSEDs

- The purpose of this drill is to evaluate the ability for the hospitals/FSEDs to update the Communication Drill EMResource Event, RTAS, call on the MARCS, within 60 minutes of receiving the TENS alert and then participate in the regional surge conference call. Conference call information will be located on EMResource in the attached Conference Call Agenda.
- The drill announcement will be emailed at the beginning of the drill month. (Aug, October, March, May)
- Results are uploaded to the Communications Dashboard on COHDIMS for the Central Region and the SE/SEC site for the SE/SEC Region. (left side toolbar link)

Federal National Disaster Management System (NDMS) Drills – Hospitals

- The purpose of this drill is to evaluate the ability for NDMS hospitals to update the EMResource NDMS event within 60 minutes. (Applies to certain hospitals in Franklin County only.)
- Usually occurs the second Thursday of the drill month.
- Hospitals do not need to call the HIL over the MARCS.
- COTS sends a reminder TENS alert the morning of the drill.

Quarterly Ohio Department of Health (ODH) MARCS Drill – Hospitals/FSEDs

- The purpose of this drill is to evaluate the ability for ODH to contact the hospitals on their hospital talk group.
- First Thursday of established months from 9 am – 10:30 am. (Central) and 10:30 am – 12:pm (SE/SEC).
- ODH does not contact the FSEDs and a few other identified surgery centers. Due to this, COTS contacts them between 10 am – 11 am.
- Only the MARCS is tested. Results are sent via email from ODH.
- Hospitals have the rest of the month to complete the make-up test if missed on the original drill day.

EMTrack Training/Drills (Administrator, User, and Viewer access) – Hospitals/FSEDs and partners

- The purpose of this drill is to evaluate the ability to manage EMTrack access (administrators), to access, enter, edit, and locate patients in EMTrack (users), and for viewers to locate patients. The drills will occur following training.
- Results will be monitored for any issues and after-action will follow as needed.

Ohio Point of Dispensing Drill (OPOD)

- The purpose of this drill is to test the notification of a biological or other event where hospital main contacts acknowledge receipt of a TENS alert.
- TENS alert will be sent the morning of the drill to hospital Point of Contacts.
- Hospital POCs must press 1 in the alert to confirm receipt of the alert message.

Annual Medical Countermeasures (MCM) and Strategic National Stockpile Training (SNS)/Drill - Hospitals

- The purpose of this drill is to evaluate the ability to request SNS resources within 60 minutes of receiving the TENS alert.
- Self-paced training will occur before the drill.
- This drill will be combined with the Statewide Medical Countermeasures Full Scale Exercise (FSE) on October 18, 2023.
- An After-Action Report will be shared following the drill.

Annual Federal Medical Response Surge Exercise (MRSE) – Hospitals/FSED, Non-hospital members, Core Members

- The purpose of this operations-based exercise is to provide health care coalitions (HCCs) and their members with an opportunity to test their surge response and preparedness and capabilities.
- The exercise will focus on response actions such as information sharing and resource mobilization for a large, community-wide surge incident involving an unidentified disease surge.
- An After-Action Report will be shared following the drill.

Local Coalition Tabletop Exercises (TTX) – All local coalition members

- The purpose of the TTX is to evaluate each local coalition's ability to respond within the local coalition to a given scenario.
- Each local coalition point of contact will receive the TTX in a box and manage the exercise planning process to include the following: update the exercise documents with coalition information, coordinate the registration and event location, facilitate the discussion, and complete the After-Action Report/Improvement Plan.
- The AAR/IP will be submitted to COTS.

Voluntary Mini Drills – Hospitals/FSED, Non-hospital agencies, and EMS partners

- The purpose of the voluntary mini drills is to assist in keeping staff prepared to respond to a mass casualty incident, other disaster response, and larger exercises.
- These drills will be available for hospitals, non-hospital healthcare agencies, and EMS.
- These drills will be available on the COTS University site along with a drill calendar to assist in mini drill planning.

Other Exercises (To Be Determined)

- The Central/SE/SEC healthcare coalitions participate in additional exercises, and other local community exercises as scheduled.
- These are listed on the COTS University site and in the Monthly COTS University Newsletters.