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Interoperable Communications Drill #1

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Office of Health Emergency Preparedness
July 30 and August 2, 2019
Informational Webinar
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Background of IOC Drills

• The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CDC have identified biannual Interoperable Communications Drills as priority exercises for Local Health Departments and healthcare partners for 2019-2020.

• Communications systems should be implemented based on State and local plans.
Briefing Objectives

• Understand the background and rationale for the IOC Drills

• Understand the capabilities and the objectives of the exercise
Capability To Be Tested
Capabilities

• Information Sharing
  – Interoperable Communications Drills
Overview of Required Exercise
Exercise Overview

• Conduct two (2) annual *Interoperable Communications Drills* that:
  
  – Helps Health Emergency Preparedness Coalitions (HEPC) partners ensure that they have redundant forms of communication among their members.
  
  – Refers to having multiple back-up communication modalities, and is critical to emergency preparedness planning.
    
    • Cell phones, satellite phones, HAM radios, VOIP, HCS
    • Landlines and fax machines cannot be used
Interoperable Communications
Interoperable Communications Drills - Final Objectives

- Demonstrate the ability to use a primary and back-up communications system (internet – including VOIP, radio, cellular, and satellite) to communicate with coalition partners (LHD, hospitals, EMS, EM, and other partners).

- Complete the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS) Health Emergency Response Data System (HERDS) survey within the timeframe outlined in the IHANS alert.
Information Sharing for Situational Awareness (IOC Drill #1)

EVACUATING

Local Health Departments

Regional Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition HUB

EM
EMS

Flow of Information

RECEIVING

Other HEPC Partners
Exercise Scenario

- **Crimson Contagion**
  - Federal exercise with CDC, HHS, and numerous other Federal agencies, and nine states
  - Will occur in August
  - IOC Drill #1 will be conducted the week of August 12-16, 2019
  - International influenza outbreak of H7N9
    - US cases identified in June and July linked to travelers from Tibet or China
Exercise Participants

- Local health departments
- Hospitals
- Emergency Managers
- EMS
- Home Care
- Nursing Homes
- Community Health Centers
- Adult Care Facilities
- Hospice
Exercise Conduct
Exercise Roles

• Controller
• Evaluator
• Player/Participant
• Observers (optional)
Exercise Communications

• The primary means of communications will be cell phone
  – Text, VOIP, email, radios also can be used

• Similar to previous IOC drills
  – IHANS alert, text, cell phone alerts
    • Direct recipient to email to access the link to the HERDS survey
    • Complete and submit survey
Questions?

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