October 23, 2026

Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Teal Pumpkin Project

“Raising food allergy awareness and offering the option of non-food trinkets and toys in a separate bowl makes Halloween safer and more fun for all trick-or-treaters.”

Exercise your pediatric plans in an afternoon

“Five ready-to-run, HSEEP-aligned tabletop exercises built for healthcare coalitions, hospitals and pediatric-serving organizations. Each kit is a complete package — scenario, slides, facilitator script, evaluation forms and after-action template — that a planner can localize and deliver in about three hours, virtually or in person.”

El Nino looms large over U.S. Winter Outlook

“Expected impacts include warmer North, wetter South and East”

NIAID Moves Away from Biodefense; Experts are Worried.

“The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases’s strategic plan for 2026–2030 also omitted emerging infectious diseases and pandemic preparedness.”

Preventing Targeted Workplace Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Guide to Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management

"Today, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) is pleased to announce the release of its newest publication titled, Preventing Targeted Workplace Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Guide to Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management."

Department of Justice Announces Updates to Emergency Scheduling Actions for 7-OH and Related Opioid Substances

"Dangerous and addictive opioids do not belong behind convenience store counters," said Attorney General Todd Blanche."

Dementia cases to double by 2050: Why women, some countries may be at higher risk

"New dementia cases worldwide are projected to rise to 24.7 million each year by 2050, a 116% increase from 11.4 million in 2023."

Candida auris Cases More Than Doubled in Two Years

"At least 28 states have reported clinical cases of the drug-resistant fungus in 2026, straining hospital infection controls."

Upcoming MESH Educational Offerings

Strong Hearts, Protected Minds

Caring for Others While Sustaining Yourself

Whether you are a caregiver, educator, volunteer, public health professional, healthcare
professional, first responder, or community health worker, the emotional demands of caring for others can take a toll. Just as personal protective equipment (PPE) shields us from physical hazards, we also need practical strategies to protect our psychological well-being. *Strong Hearts, Protected Minds* is an engaging and practical training designed to assist helping professionals recognize stress early, build resilience, and develop sustainable habits that support both personal well-being and high-quality care for others.

5 course dates between Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 | Live, Via Zoom | Grant Funded

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Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Coach

Preparedness Reimagined

It doesn't take a hurricane to disrupt a life. For some people, a power outage, lost medication, or flat tire can be a disaster. When resources are already limited, even small disruptions can have big consequences. This course helps you understand where real needs begin—with everyday vulnerabilities—and how to meet them through simple, powerful steps. You'll learn how to use the framework of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery to guide people through disruptions of any scale—not just the big emergencies. **This isn't just disaster training. It's people training—practical, human-centered, and real.**

5 cohorts available in Spring 2027 | Live, via Zoom | Grant Funded

Visit our Website

Upcoming MESH Conference Presentations

NHCPC 2026

Dr. James M. Floyd, Jr. | Psychological PPE

December 1-3, 2026 | Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center

Registration is now open for NHCPC26!
Click here to register and lock in the lowest rate.

Events

Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List

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MESH serves as the designated Medical Multi-Agency Coordination Center for Marion County, Indiana. The MESH Intelligence Program is a joint-effort between the City of Indianapolis Emergency Management Agency and the Marion County Public Health Department designed to provide real-time information and support to the healthcare sector in the Indianapolis area.
Assistance with info or questions at: MESHintel@meshcoalition.org
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