



February 20, 2026

# Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

## Awareness Topics

### **CISA Navigates DHS Shutdown With Reduced Staff**

“It is affected by the shutdown but intends to maintain as much operational capability as possible.”

### **Health systems to expand telehealth after 2-year Medicare extension**

“Health systems plan to grow their telehealth offerings after the federal government’s recent two-year extension for Medicare reimbursement, though executives are still calling for a permanent solution.”

### **US Child Mental Health Care Need, Unmet Needs, and Difficulty Accessing Services**

“Diagnosed mental health conditions among US children increased 35% from 2016 to 2023. Furthermore, almost 40% of children aged 12 to 17 years with a major depressive episode did not receive treatment in the past year.”

### **Measles Cases and Outbreaks**

“The data on this page reflect confirmed measles cases reported to CDC as of 12:00PM on Thursday.”

### **Millions Face Critical Wildfire Conditions; Red Cross Ready to Help If Needed**

“Millions of people in the center of the country are facing the possibility of dangerous wildfires through Wednesday as strong winds, warm temperatures and very dry vegetation are leading to an extremely critical fire weather warning over an area stretching from Texas to the Canadian border.”

### **2026 rural health state of the state**

“Today, more than 40% of rural hospitals are operating at a loss. As a result, 417 facilities are vulnerable to closure. Care deserts, where services such as obstetrics (OB), chemotherapy, and general surgery are nowhere to be found, are expanding at an alarming rate.”

### **A new invader is complicating the tick-borne disease playbook.**

“The lone star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*) was formerly found primarily in the Southeast, South Central, and Mid-Atlantic United States, but it is now increasingly found in the Northeast and Midwest, overlapping with the tick *Ixodes scapularis*, which is the vector for Lyme disease.”

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## **Upcoming MESH Educational Offerings**

### **Emergency Preparedness & Resilience Coach**

**It doesn't take a hurricane to disrupt a life.** 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. **This isn't just disaster training. It's people training—practical, human-centered, & real.**

**Cohorts open in April, & June 2026** | 4-week program | One 3-hour session per week | Virtual via Zoom | Free, Grant Funded

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### **Talk Saves Lives TM: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention**

Because starting the conversation can save a life.

**March 11, 2026** | 3-4pm EST | Virtual via Zoom | Free

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### **Naloxone Administration Opioid Overdose Death Prevention Training**

You can learn how to save a life in just one hour!

**March 26, 2026** | 11 am or 1 pm EST | Live, In-Person | Free

[Visit our Website](#)

## Upcoming MESH Conference Presentations

### International Association of Police Chaplains - Region 4 Conference

Dr. Jim Floyd is presenting "The Chaplain's Toolkit for Grief Group Leadership."

**March 9-11, 2026**

## Events

### [Click Here for Current and Upcoming Events List](#)

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