



April 24, 2026

## Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

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### Awareness Topics

#### **State Policy Trends in Cybersecurity and Public Health Preparedness**

Cybersecurity is an increasingly important component of public health preparedness as state cybersecurity policy intersects with public health agency responsibilities. Public health agencies rely on interconnected digital systems and critical infrastructure for disease surveillance, laboratory reporting, emergency communications, and health data management, making cybersecurity critical to maintaining these functions. Beyond compromising sensitive data and potentially harming patients, cyber incidents can disrupt essential public health services, including emergency response operations.

#### **Using Serious Games to Increase the Implementation of Trauma Triage Guidelines**

“A serious game improved guideline-concordant trauma triage among emergency physicians, suggesting a novel approach to improve adherence to clinical guidelines.”

#### **What the historically low snowpack in the American West means for water and wildfire this summer**

“Mountain snowpack is the West’s largest reservoir, providing water for 100 million people and diverse ecosystems. The amount of water stored in the snowpack historically peaks around April 1. But this year, the snowpack in many places was absent, or nearly so, by then — the lowest level in the 45 years since automated measurements began.”

### **Benefits and Harms of Dementia Screening for Family Members of Older Adults**

“How does screening adults aged 65 years and older for dementia in primary care affect their family members’ health-related quality of life, stress, and perceived readiness to provide care?”

### **A tale of two coasts: Unveiling US Gulf and Atlantic coastal cities at high flood risk**

Coastal flooding is increasing, with accelerating impacts ahead. Its impact, however, can be mitigated through proactive risk management, requiring comprehensive risk assessment. Using the US Gulf and Atlantic Coasts (USGAC) as a test bed, this study develops a framework to identify high-risk coastal cities and reveal underlying factors under dual-risk scenarios—general flood damage (GFD) and extreme flood damage (EFD). Using historical flood damage data and 16 factors representing hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, this study adopts three machine learning models—support vector machine, random forest, and multilayer perceptron—to assess flood risk. This study identifies eight coastal cities at high flood risk where New York City has the largest population at risk (GFD: 4.75 million; EFD: 4.40 million) and New Orleans City has the highest relative exposure (~99% under both). Coastal flood risk is greatest in low-lying, densely developed urban areas with high drainage density. Overall, this scalable framework offers actionable insights for policy-makers to manage floods in other flood-prone regions.

### **A deadly bacteria is creeping up the Atlantic Coast. How worried should you be?**

“Warming ocean waters are priming beaches and raw shellfish for Vibrio. Scientists are trying to stay one step ahead.”

## **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.**

**Limited seats open in the June 2026 Cohort** | 4-week program | One 3-hour session per week | Virtual via Zoom | Free, Grant Funded

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

Because starting the conversation can save a life.

**May 13, 2026** | 3-4pm EST | Virtual via Zoom | Free

## Naloxone Administration Opioid Overdose Death Prevention Training

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

**May 14, 2026** | 11 am or 1 pm EST | In-Person at MESH Coalition | Free

[Visit our Website](#)

## Upcoming MESH Conference Presentations

Coming Soon.



NATIONAL HEALTHCARE COALITION PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE  
Harboring Strength: Uniting Coalitions for a Safer Tomorrow  
**December 1-3, 2026**  
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center | National Harbor, Maryland



## Events

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

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Assistance with info or questions at: [MESHintel@meshcoalition.org](mailto:MESHintel@meshcoalition.org)  
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MESH Coalition | 1202 West 16th Street | Indianapolis, IN 46202 US