September 18, 2026

Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Confirmed ricin exposure at residential apartment complex in Hastings, Michigan, USA triggers evacuation and FBI investigation

“On 10 Sep 2026, the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) received notification of a potential ricin exposure at Tyden Lofts apartment complex and the Corewell Health Pennock Hospital Emergency Department in Hastings, Michigan, after an individual self-presented to the hospital with a substance reportedly made by that individual in their apartment.”

How do I protect myself from MyChart scams and fraud?

“Scammers sometimes try to trick patients by using the MyChart name or logo to make emails, text messages, phone calls, and websites look official. Some might try to steal your login information or promise free gifts if you enter payment details. A few simple habits go a long way toward keeping you safe. Always remember: stop and check if it doesn’t feel right.”

Only 13% of Americans Have an Emergency Plan, First Onsite Survey Finds

“More than half say they feel prepared for a weather emergency, highlighting a gap between confidence and action.”

Reading for pleasure can improve wellbeing – study

“Reading for pleasure can improve health and wellbeing at any age and regardless of what you read, University of Cambridge academics have said.”

CDC Issues Alert on Rabies Exposure, Appropriate Treatment

“The CDC is warning that rabies has been on the rise this summer and it is reminding clinicians about how and when to administer treatment, noting that the complex and expensive regimen should be used only when appropriate.”

How EMS Is Evolving Through State Policy

“Policymakers continue to explore legislation that recognizes EMS as an essential public service and strengthens statewide governance and coordination.”

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 | No Charge

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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 | No Charge

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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