



February 14, 2025

Weekly Situational Awareness Brief

Awareness Topics

Huge Areas May Face Possibly Fatal Heat Waves if Warming Continues

“A new assessment warns that if Earth’s average temperature reaches 2 degrees C over the preindustrial average, widespread areas may become too hot during extreme heat events for many people to survive without artificial cooling.”

This Is One of the Worst Flu Seasons in Decades

“If almost everyone you know seems to be sick right now, you’re not alone. “I think all of us know somebody who’s gotten the flu recently,” says Dr. Luis Ostrosky, chief of infectious disease at UTHealth Houston. The numbers back that up. At least 24 million people in the U.S. have caught the flu so far this season, and that number only continues to climb, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).”

US sees no let-up in rising flu activity

“Flu activity in the United States climbed higher last week, putting healthcare visits for respiratory virus symptoms at the very high level, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said today in its weekly update.”

Survey shows nurses around the world suffered high levels of pandemic stress

“A recent study in International Nursing Review shows that the first 3 years of the pandemic were hard on nurses around the globe, leading to increased stress, burnout, and other mental health challenges in nurses from both high-, middle-, and low-income countries.”

Solar and electric-powered homes feel the effects of blackouts differently, according to new research from Stevens

“As winter storms and summer heat waves increasingly stress the nation’s power grids, Stevens researchers have developed a new way to identify the homes most vulnerable to blackouts — without even visiting them.”

As stores close, Americans losing access to pharmacy services

“While closures of big chain pharmacies make headlines, the risk of closure is notably higher for independent pharmacies, which face a 39% risk of shutting down, compared to a 22% risk for chain pharmacies. Independent pharmacy closures are especially troubling because they often serve as the only option in small communities.”

Health-care system adaptability during wildfire disasters: crucial insights from LA County

“The increasing frequency and severity of environmental disasters necessitate robust health-care system adaptation strategies. Recent wildfire events in and around Los Angeles County, CA, USA, are reported to be the most destructive in regional history, burning more than 50 000 acres, destroying over 15 000 structures, and resulting in 29 fatalities, as of Feb 4, 2025. We used critical observations and recommendations derived from this experience to examine institutional resilience and response mechanisms within a complex metropolitan health-care network.”

Challenges in Supply, Market Competition, and Regulation of Infant Formula in the United States

“Infant formula is a primary or supplementary source of nutrition for many infants in the U.S. Consequently, disruptions to the supply of infant formula can have a severe impact on infants' health and well-being. In late 2021 and early 2022, a recall of specific infant formula products, followed by a pause in production, resulted in a widespread, national shortage. The incident demonstrated that additional risk management planning is needed to protect infants from the consequences of potential future supply chain disruptions.”

5 ways to build communication skills for better trauma resuscitations

“Unfortunately, not every trauma or emergency team has the skills to communicate so effectively. When critical needs are not expressed clearly, when team members have not worked together, or when a history of negative interactions exists among staff, communication can be extremely difficult.”

Upcoming MESH Educational Offerings

February 26, 2025 - [Stress First Aid](#)

(Live - Virtual, Registration Required, Multiple Dates & Times Available, Grant-Funded)

March 18, 2025 - [Stress First Aid](#)

(Live - Virtual, Registration Required, Multiple Dates & Times Available, Grant-Funded)

March 19, 2025 - [Q1 Grand Rounds with Keli Acquaro, MA](#)

(Live - Virtual, Registration Required)

March 20, 2025 - [Naloxone Administration Training](#)

(Live - In-Person - One-Hour Training, Registration Required)

March 25, 2025 - [Psychological Safety at Work](#)

(Live - Virtual, Registration Required)

March 27, 2025 - [Stress First Aid](#)

(Live - Virtual, Registration Required, Multiple Dates & Times Available, Grant-Funded)

For more education and training opportunities presented by MESH, visit us at <https://www.meshcoalition.org/educationandtraining>.

Events

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