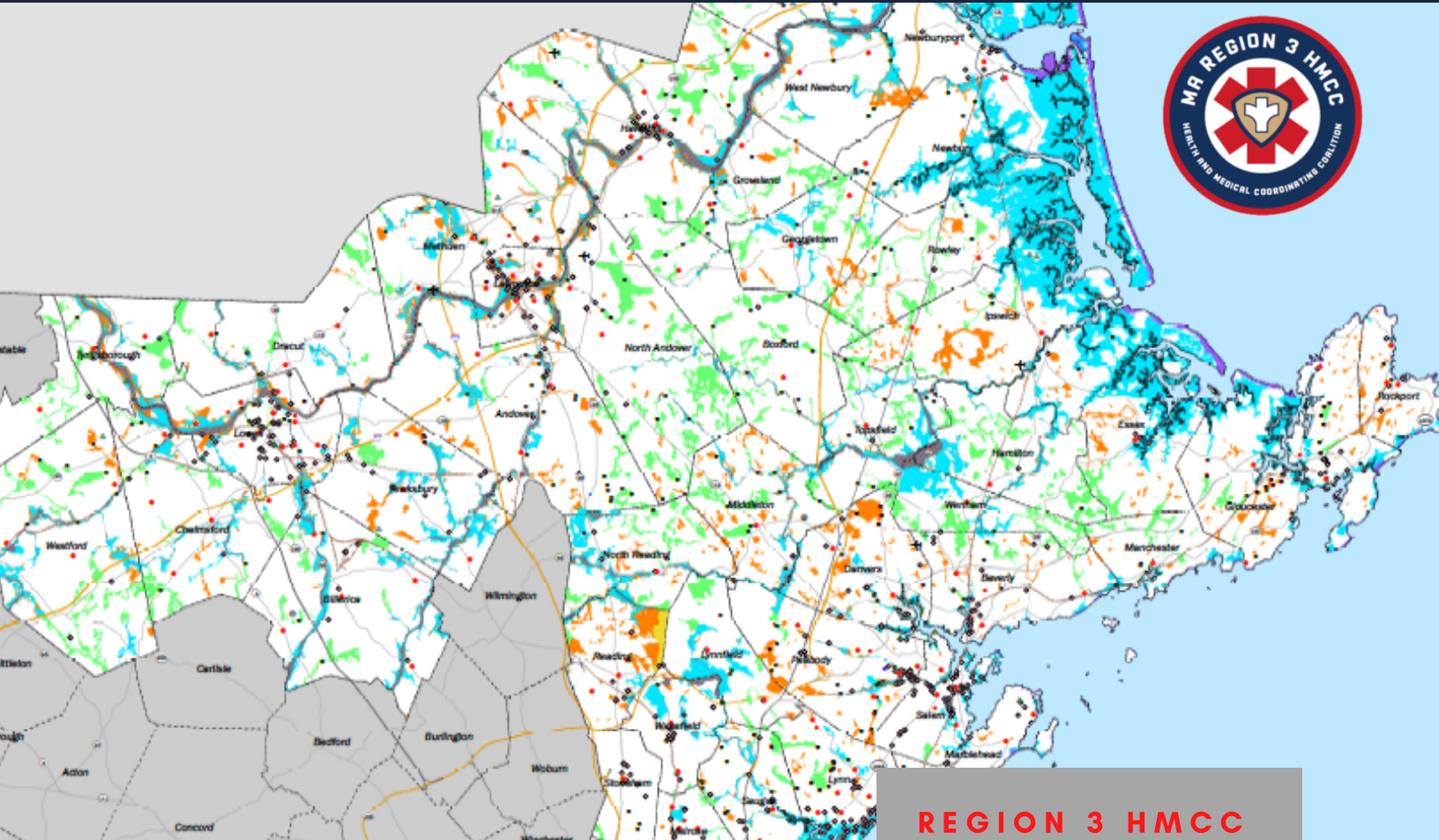


Region

3

HEALTH & MEDICAL COORDINATING COALITION NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 • March 2022



SPONSORING ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Happy March all! The Region 3 HMCC made the decision to postpone the General Meeting in quarter two. Many of our members were still very busy with COVID-19 response efforts and planning for and hosting vaccination clinics. We will be hosting a quarter three meeting with a focus on best practices in vaccination efforts through the eyes of Private and Public EMS. This will also include best practices of a multi discipline response to a public health emergency. Registration has been sent but you can also find the link to register on page 4. As always, don't forget to check out our website and Facebook page for additional resources. If you have any thoughts, ideas or topics for us to feature on our website or Facebook page please do not hesitate to reach out to HMCC staff!

REGION 3 HMCC NEWSLETTER

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COVID-19 Response

HMCC staff continues to support our stakeholders in their COVID-19 response efforts. Staff have been facilitating the flow of information between MDPH and stakeholders, completing resource requests for PPE and testing supplies and maintaining regional situational awareness. We have seen a decrease in the number of requests for assistance and PPE over the past months, which we see as a positive!

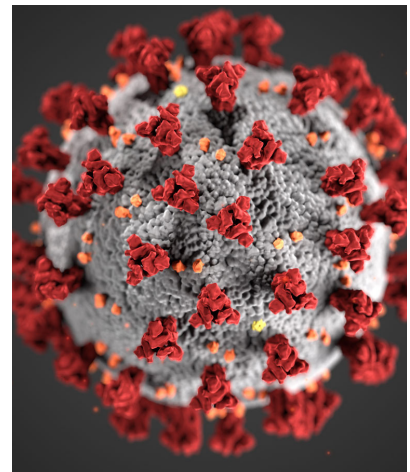
HMCC staff continues to support Region 3 hospitals by facilitating and coordinating Load Balancing Meetings, where bed availability and patient transfer needs are discussed, among other issues hospitals are facing.

As of November 23rd, all hospitals in the Commonwealth were

escalated to Tier 4, the highest level of the Resurgence Planning and Response Guidance for Acute Care Hospitals which was developed and issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. As a result, along with being required to meet virtually twice a week, hospitals had to submit bed availability daily. Hospitals across the state have since been moved down to Tier 2 of the Resurgence Planning and Response Guidance as of March 7, 2022 and are conducting required reporting twice a week and meeting once a week currently.

HMCC staff continues to support hospitals in Region 3 through the 24/7 Duty Officer role.

If a hospital has any capacity constraints, they



can page the Duty Officer and he/she will work with the hospitals in the region to see if there is any capacity elsewhere. In the event the need can not be fulfilled in the region, the Duty Officer will contact Mass DPH OPEM Duty Officer to put the request out throughout the state. From September 2021-February 2022, there have been twenty four urgent requests from hospitals in the region to the Region 3 HMCC staff requesting assistance in placing patients.

Duty Officer Reminders

- We continue to provide support to our stakeholders through our Duty Officer. A Duty Officer is available 24/7 by calling (978) 946 8130. We can also be reached via email at region3hmccduyofficer@mapc.org for non-urgent matters.
- Keep in mind sending a request through email should be for non emergent needs only. Sending an email will not wake a Duty Officer in the middle of night, please call if it is an emergency. Stakeholders can find forms for PPE and COVID-19 testing supply requests [here](#).



NERAC, Region 3 HMCC, and NEEMS PPE and Medical Supply Cache

NERAC (the Northeast Massachusetts Homeland Security Regional Advisory Council), the Region 3 HMCC (Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition), and NEEMS (Northeast Emergency Medical Services, Inc.) have partnered to develop personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supply caches to support health and medical, municipal, and first responder stakeholders within the Northeast Region of Massachusetts.

These caches were developed with funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security - Office of Grants and Research and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. They serve as one method of leveraging Federal emergency

preparedness and homeland security funds the Commonwealth receives, by ensuring first responders and health and medical facilities and personnel have a properly maintained stockpile of PPE and other medical supplies readily available on a regional scale to address larger than routine emergency events, as well as PPE and medical supply shortages that may occur.

The caches are strategically located at two different locations in the region, the NERAC Cache Site in Beverly, MA and NEEMS' Headquarters in Amesbury, MA.

Items that are within the caches include:

- **3M N95 9205+ Aura Series**
- **Blue Polypropylene Surgical Masks**
- **Disposable Copolyester Face Shield**
- **Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) Level 1 Body Gowns**
- **Blue Microflex Nitrile Gloves**

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

To confirm if you qualify as a requesting party from the Region 3 HMCC or NEEMs cache view complete borrowing policy [click here](#)

***It is possible that a requesting party may be eligible to request from all three caches based on their municipality and discipline

QUARTER 1 GENERAL MEETING RECAP

Thank you to all those who attended the Region 3 HMCC September 2021 General Meeting and a special thank you to all of our panelist members!

COVID-19 has challenged every facet of our healthcare system. In doing so we have encountered new challenges and have been forced to make difficult decisions. How do we conduct our daily activities in while still managing COVID-19? What did COVID-19 teach us? Can we implement any lessons learned in our daily operations or in preparation for future emergencies?

Listen to our panelist of stakeholders from the region to discuss challenges and what we can learn from them.

To review a recording of the meeting please click [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Training Opportunities:

- [Region 3 HMCC March 2022 General Meeting](#)
- [Click here and visit OPEM's website to view training, webinars & tools aimed at strengthening emergency preparedness capabilities.](#)
- [Click here and visit MEMA's website to view their training calendar](#)
- [Click here and visit the Local Public Health Institute's website for training, webinars & resources that improve public health and preparedness capabilities.](#)

Panelist Members:

- Michele Desmarais- Public Health Director, City of Lynn: Lynn's Food Security Task Force
- Ron Quaranto - Chief Administration Officer Cataldo Ambulance: Challenges Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has faced over the last year and the lessons learned
- Nick LeClair - Manager of Emergency Planning & Preparedness Lowell General Hospital/Circle Health: COVID-19 Pandemic Lowell General Hospital Alternate Care Site Jan-Feb 2021
- Chuck Crush - CEO and Executive Director for New England Homes for the Deaf in Danvers: Long Term Care and Covid-19, The Ugly, the bad and the Good...
- Bill Klag - Emergency Preparedness Coordinator /EMS Coordinator for Salem Hospital: Pediatrics and Pandemic Preparedness





The Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MAPC serves as the sponsoring organization for the Region 3 HMCC. MAPC is the regional planning agency serving the people who live and work in the 101 cities and towns of Metropolitan Boston. Established in 1963, MAPC is a public agency created under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B Section 24. MAPC is governed by representatives from each city and town in our region, as well as gubernatorial appointees and designees of major public agencies. Each municipality in our region belongs to one of eight subregions, each led by one MAPC staff member. Each subregion includes municipal officials and regional and community stakeholders, all of whom work together to develop an annual work plan and priorities.

The mission is to promote smart growth and regional collaboration. Our regional plan, MetroFuture, guides our work as we engage the public in responsible stewardship of our region's future. We work toward sound municipal management, sustainable land use, protection of natural resources, efficient and affordable transportation, a diverse housing stock, public safety, economic development, clean energy, healthy communities, an informed public, and equity and opportunity among people of all backgrounds.



Region 3 HMCC

The Massachusetts Region 3 Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition (MA Region 3 HMCC) is a regional collaborative effort between local Public Health, EMS, Long Term Care Facilities, Large Ambulatory Care Practices, Community Health Centers and Hospitals in order to strengthen and promote the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of the region and to share resources. Within this framework of regional cooperation, the MA Region 3 HMCC also supports the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts within the region.

The MA Region 3 HMCC endeavors to strengthen these capabilities by building relationships and partnerships among the five core disciplines and other regional partners, coordinating training and exercises, and facilitating communication and resource sharing. The MA Region 3 HMCC focuses on a coordinated, all hazards strategy that encourages our 49 member communities to combine enhanced regional and local planning, resource sharing, training, and realistic, capabilities-based exercises.

To learn more check out our website:<https://hmccreg3.org/about-us/>

Resources

COVID 19 Resources

[MEMA/DPH PPE Requests](#)

[Mass COVID -19 Updates](#)

[Creative COVID-19 Communication Resources](#)

[COVID-19 Response & Recovery Webinar Series](#)

[Responding to Omicron: Resources for Cities and Towns](#)

[Massachusetts COVID-19 cases, testing, and hospitalizations.](#)

Emergency Preparedness Resources

[Emergency training resources for public health and healthcare](#)

[Emergency Preparedness Population Tool](#)

Have a resource you think others may find helpful? Send to the HMCC and we will share with the region!

Contact us:

24-7 Duty Officer - (978) 946-8130

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erobert@mapc.org

Dan Witts - Region 3 HMCC Planning and Operations Coordinator
dwitts@mapc.org

Check out our website: <https://hmccreg3.org/>

Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/region3hmcc>

Region 3 Board of Governors

Public Health

- **Andrew Petty** - Marblehead Public Health Director
- **Brian LaGrasse** - North Andover Public Health Director
- **Frank Giacalone** - Newburyport Public Health Director

Hospital

- **Bill Klag** - Vice Chair
EMS & Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Salem Hospital
- **David Lacaille** - EMS and Emergency Manager, Northeast Health System
- **Paul Brennan** - Director, Pre-Hospital EMS/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Lawrence General
- **Joseph Levesque** - Director of Environment Of Care/Deputy Facilities Director, Department of Public Health-Tewksbury Hospital

Emergency Management

- **James Mannion** - MEMA Regional Manager

Emergency Medical Services

- **Jon Brickett** - Chair
Executive Director, Northeast EMS
- **Ron Quaranto** - VP of Operations at Cataldo/Atlantic

Long Term Care

- **Arline Shea** - Administrator, Hathorne Hill
- **Chuck Crush** - CEO/Executive Director New England Homes for the Deaf Inc

Community Health Center

- **John Flick** - Director of Operations, Lynn Community Health Center
- **Elizabeth Hale** - Chief of Clinical Services, Lowell Community Health Center
- **Tina Wright** - Director, Emergency Management, Mass League