

# Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy Daily Summary



## Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy Summary Report

Thursday, November 8, 2012

### **Post-Tropical Cyclone Sandy Situational Awareness Update:**

- State Emergency Operation Centers are activated in: CT, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and WV.
- Emergency Declarations: CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, WV and the District of Columbia.
- Major Disaster Declarations signed by the President for New York and New Jersey and Connecticut.
- Secretary Sebelius signed a Public Health Emergency Declaration for New York on October 31, 2012 (to ensure healthcare services are continued especially for Medicare and Medicaid subscribers) and New Jersey's was signed on November 1, 2012.
- FEMA reports 88 (n/c) confirmed storm-related fatalities in nine states. There are 715,205 (+7,137) customers without power in the affected states.
- The Department of Energy estimates 38 percent of gas stations in the New York metropolitan area do not have gasoline available for sale.
- Federal agencies continue to focus on providing housing support, power restoration, and debris removal.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is trying to be as flexible as possible. They have instituted an 1135 waiver in both NY and NJ. Every effort is being made to ease regulatory requirements. They recommend that everyone visit the CMS website ([www.cms.gov/emergency](http://www.cms.gov/emergency)) to find updated information and FAQs (general, OASIS, Home healthcare issues, fee for service issues, and billing questions). CMS recommends that all agencies work with their state Medicare and Medicaid office along with their state DOH to work through any issues and questions.

### **Weather:**

- The coastal Nor'easter system will continue to move out of the region today. Wind speeds and precipitation are expected to lessen throughout the day for much of the Northeast. Winds will range from 20 to 30 mph, with gusts as high as 50 mph. Temperatures have risen to above freezing in most areas this morning, with less than a quarter inch of rain expected.
- Minor coastal flooding may continue across southeastern Massachusetts today, including Cape Cod and Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket.

### **Other Activities:**

- As part of ongoing efforts to ensure families and individuals impacted by Hurricane Sandy get the support they need, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today that the agency is increasing the amount of rental assistance that it may provide eligible disaster survivors in New York and New Jersey. The rental amount, based on existing HUD Fair Market Rates (FMR) for fiscal 2013, is being increased by an additional 25 percent.
- HUD FMR rates are rental cost estimates that include the cost of the shelter and all other tenant-paid utilities except telephone, cable, and Internet services. HUD designs annual FMR

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levels to be high enough to allow for a wide selection of available units, yet low enough so that as many units as possible may be rented and provided to low-income families.

For additional information please visit the following:

- FEMA: <http://www.fema.gov/sandy> 1.800.621.3362
- HHS: <http://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/Pages/sandy-midatlantic-2012.aspx>
- Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN): <https://cs.hsin.gov> (Access to this site will require the use of your assigned HSIN-CS user name and password. If you require assistance with your HSIN password, please contact the HSIN Help Desk at [hsin.helpdesk@dhs.gov](mailto:hsin.helpdesk@dhs.gov) or (703) 674-3003 or toll free at (866) 430-0162).
- CDC Hurricane Preparedness: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/HurricanePreparedness/>
- Information on [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)
- Small Business Administration, disaster loans - 800.659.2955. [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)
- Appendix K within home and community based authority ([www.medicaid.gov](http://www.medicaid.gov) )

## **Highlights**

- On Monday, October 29, 2012, ASTHO staff reached out to the following states to request to be added to the distribution lists for situation reports pertaining to this event: Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Rhode Island, and West Virginia.
- ASTHO staff participated on a conference call with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Wednesday, November 7.

## **Emergency Medical Assistance Compact:**

- The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a national interstate mutual aid agreement that allows states to share resources across state lines during disasters and emergencies. EMAC is administered by the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA).
- To date, there are 27 states that have deployed more than 2,000 personnel and equipment
- A National EMAC Liaison Team (NELT) continues to be co-located in the Federal Emergency Management Agency National Response Coordination Center to ensure that assistance is coordinated.
- As communities continue to assess the damage from Sandy, law enforcement teams have arrived from other states to provide security in hard-hit areas.
- Additional states providing assistance through EMAC, to date, include Alabama, California, Connecticut, Michigan, Rhode Island, Vermont and Virginia. For additional information on EMAC, please visit: <http://www.emacweb.org/>

## **Rx Response:**

- Current status reports show that 672,416 locations are still without power. Although power outages had been going down since Sandy hit, this number represented 20,000 additional outages since this morning due to the nor'easter.
- The Emergency Prescription Assistance Program has now been activated in both New Jersey and New York. Pharmacies should visit the [Script Care](http://www.scriptcare.org) website to see if they are listed as a participating pharmacy or call the EPAP Help Line at 866-935-4135 to 1) enroll with Script Care, 2) ask questions regarding EPAP eligibility, covered drugs and durable medical equipment or 3)

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to inquire whether you are an eligible pharmacy. Pharmacies are responsible for determining that patients have no prescription coverage and reside in an affected county.

- More information on this Pharmacy Status Reporting Tool can be found at [www.rxresponse.org](http://www.rxresponse.org).

## **Message from one of ASTHO's Corporate Alliance Members:**

### **Scientific Technologies Corporation ([www.stchome.com](http://www.stchome.com))**

- As the cleanup efforts are getting underway from Hurricane Sandy, STC realizes the importance of tracking and accessing your jurisdiction's immunization records. To this end, we are offering our standalone Mass Immunization Module to all of the states on the East Coast, free of charge. This module allows you to collect patient data and administered vaccinations rapidly, remotely, and without Internet access. This module can be loaded on thumb drives and used in combination with a laptop at multiple evacuation sites and remote health clinics. Once each immunization event is completed, the data is exportable to your state's immunization registry. This application module is compatible with *any* state's immunization registry. To access this application file, please go to the following link: <http://massimms.stchome.com/>.
- In support of this standalone module, STC is also offering you free access to our help desk services. We have extensive experience in disaster support related to immunizations, including on-scene and remote support to Louisiana immediately following Hurricane Katrina. Please feel free to contact our help desk phone number and email below:
  - **Help Desk Phone Number:** [1-877-922-3385](tel:1-877-922-3385)
  - **Help Desk Email:** [Support\\_services@stchome.com](mailto:Support_services@stchome.com)
- Additionally, STC has a highly specialized public health advisory and professional services staff that is well equipped to offer assistance in staff augmentation, strategy, and post-event assessments. We will make our services available at a reduced fee for any public health efforts related to Hurricane Sandy. Please feel free to contact us for any reason and let us know how we can be of assistance. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

| State Updates        | Daily Activities   |
|----------------------|--|
| Connecticut          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| Delaware             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| District of Columbia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| Maryland             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| Massachusetts        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| Maine                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No updates at this time.</li></ul>   |
| North Carolina       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| New Hampshire        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| New Jersey           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new updates.</li></ul>  |
| New York             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major Disaster Declaration declared on October 30, 2012.</li><li>• The New York City Office of Emergency Management is at Level I (Full Activation with Federal coordination )</li><li>• Most of the public drinking water in the greater New York City (NYC) metropolitan area is fine and fit for all uses. However, Boil Water Orders (BWOs) are in place for a number of areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy.</li><li>• As of 4:00 pm ET on 11/7/12 there are 79 health care facilities remaining on generator power: three (4) hospitals, 45 nursing homes (NH) and 30 adult care</li></ul> |

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|               |   |
|---------------|---|
|               | <p>facilities (ACFs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYC is assessing coastal healthcare facilities to assure sufficient resiliency in light of impending severe weather.</li> <li>• EMS: Staff is currently monitoring the 350 National Ambulance Contract ambulances in the Metropolitan area.</li> <li>• Hospital Services Acute Care- Staff is working on the 1135 waiver communication to be sent to hospitals.</li> <li>• A press release was issued on CO safety tips.</li> <li>• Staff is continuing to share health and safety tips, such as how to stay warm and flooding precautions through the Department's Facebook and Twitter accounts and the Governor's social media accounts.</li> <li>• The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) and the Office of Health and Safety are working together to develop employee health and safety information for staff deployed in emergency response.</li> <li>• The Manhattan Regional Operations Center closed last evening and staff was demobilized.</li> <li>• For additional information visit:<br/><a href="http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/weather/hurricane/">http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/emergency/weather/hurricane/</a></li> </ul> |
| Pennsylvania  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new updates.</li> </ul>   |
| Vermont       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new updates.</li> </ul>   |
| Rhode Island  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new updates.</li> </ul>   |
| Virginia      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new updates.</li> </ul>   |
| West Virginia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No new updates.</li> </ul>   |

| ASTHO DAILY ACTION ITEMS (if any)   | COMPLETE (Y/N) |
|---|----------------|
| ASTHO Staff will continue to maintain situational awareness and will send information out as necessary. | Yes            |
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Distributed to: State Health Officials, Senior Deputies, Directors of Public Health Preparedness, and ASTHO Staff

Completed by: GN