

**2026 Public Health Preparedness Summit**  
**“Preparedness in a Time of Rapid Transformation”**

**Summit Learning Objectives**

**3/24/26**

- **Keynote: State of PH Funding focusing on Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)/ Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)**
  - Increased awareness and understanding of policies relevant to advance state public health preparedness and response capabilities.
  - Increased understanding of the national funding landscape to support jurisdictional decision-making and jurisdictional processes, policies and programs
  - Ability to describe the importance of national organizations and their partnerships to enhance SLTT engagement, strategic funding and policy development
- **Administration Preparedness Tabletop Exercise**
  - **Contracting:** Discuss/develop and include strategies to expedite the contracting approval process for the purchase of services during an emergency into plans.
  - **Procurement:** Discuss/develop and include the processes to procure supplies needed to support emergency responses into plans.
  - **Receiving/Accepting Emergency Funds:** Discuss/develop and include strategies to expedite process(es) for accepting emergency preparedness funding into plans.
  - **Surge Staffing:** Discuss/develop and include strategies to expedite process(es) for hiring and/or reassigning staff and volunteers to support surge staffing needs during responses into plans.

**3/25/26**

- **Keynote: AI and Public Health**
  - Explain the key principles of AI in Public Health
  - Identify common barriers to VDH, State Agencies in using AI
  - Deliver updates and innovations in the workspace

## **Breakout sessions:**

- **Measles Overview Panel**
  - Review the role of public health professionals in responding to a measles case
  - Review public health triggers for standing up an Incident Management Team (IMT) for measles
  - Identify key strategies for monitoring, controlling, and preventing the spread of measles
  - Identify best practices in working with case-patients, healthcare facilities, schools, businesses and other community partners when a measles exposure is identified
- **Shelter Planning- Logistics Developments and Trends**
  - Define the concept of Shelter Planning
  - Identify shelter planning developments
  - Discuss updated trends
  - Review shelter relationships and logistics
- **Navigating Misinformation in an Age of Rapid Change**
  - Assess the types of misinformation/disinformation that infect a media ecosystem
  - Define the five essential keys to navigating a media ecosystem to build trust
  - Establish concrete actions community-based organizations can take to navigate a complicated media ecosystem
- **Change Management**
  - Explain the key principles and stages of change management
  - Identify common barriers to organizational change and propose strategies to overcome them
  - Apply a structured framework with a hypothetical or real-world scenario
  - Demonstrate effective communication techniques to engage stakeholders
- **Workplace Safety- Best Practices**
  - Explain the key principles of workplace safety during public health emergencies and deployments
  - Identify potential safety risks and hazards in emergency settings
  - Implement workplace safety protocols and provide training for emergency staff/ shelter and deployment teams
- **OEMS Changes**
  - Deliver updates on changes within OEMS
  - Provide information on how OEMS functions within emergencies

- Facilitate discussion on how OEMS integrates with Health Districts
- **Central Region Strike Team- Panel**
  - Describe the roles and responsibilities of the strike team
  - Explain strike team operations during an incident response
  - Discuss strike team member makeup and functions
- **Mental Health in Emergency Response**
  - Recognize the signs and symptoms of stress, burnout, and trauma in public health professionals
  - Evaluate the intersection between public health emergencies and responder mental health
  - Explore resources and support systems available for responders facing mental health challenges
- **Drinking Water Processes and Collaborations- Roles of Health Districts**
  - Explain the public health risks associated with loss of water in a metropolitan area
  - Identify the key steps in investigating and responding to water loss incidents
  - Examine the Health Districts in coordinating a response to water-related public health crises
  - Examine the changes in laws and regulations
- **Resilience- Continuity of Operations Pre/Post and During Events**
  - Recognize the core concepts and phases of public health emergency management
  - Comprehend the importance of interagency and department collaboration in public health emergency response
  - Identify challenges of resource allocation
  - Discuss updated trends
  - Review best practices for the evolution of an event
- **HAN Group Manager/ Dispatcher Best Practices**
  - Standardize contact creation using VDH emails as External IDs to prevent duplicates.
  - Ensure contacts are geocoded to capture required contacts when sending notifications.
  - Configure contact cycles and multiple delivery methods to ensure message delivery.
  - Utilize map-based contact selection when creating notifications.
  - Utilize custom content (text/email/web) to when crafting message for notifications.
  - Share HAN utilization best practices from the health district perspective.

- **Health Equity with Special Populations in Emergencies**
  - Define the concept of health equity and its importance in emergency response
  - Identify vulnerable populations and assess health disparities during emergencies
  - Evaluate strategies for ensuring equitable access to resources and care during emergencies
  - Apply culturally competent communication and engagement techniques in crisis situations
  - Develop policies and interventions that promote health equity in emergency response plans
- **Leading Through Uncertainty in Public Health**
  - Offer insight into practical lessons learned leading through crisis
  - Deliver information on building adaptable teams through times of uncertainty
  - Elevate knowledge on leadership in a rapid changing environment
- **Scope of Practice in Shelter Management**
  - Define the scope of practice in shelter management
- **Empower Data Usage**
  - Explain the public health risks associated with loss of power to vulnerable populations
  - Identify the key steps in requesting Empower data
  - Examine the Health Districts in coordinating a response to emergencies using Empower data
- **“Who Will Show Up?” Rethinking Recruitment and Volunteerism for Today’s Public Health Challenges**
  - Understand the role of volunteerism in public health
  - Identify key challenges in volunteer responses in today’s climate
  - Develop skills for effective volunteer engagement
  - Foster a commitment to community volunteer actions
- **SNS-Strategic National Stockpile/MCM- Medical Counter Measures Overview**
  - Explain the key updates and changes in the SNS and MCM
  - Identify potential resources
  - Review best practices in SNS and MCM deployment
- **Climate Change Emergencies**
  - Recognize the direct and indirect public health impacts of extreme weather events linked to climate change

- Explore strategies to enhance public health resilience in the face of climate-related health challenges
- Identify mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce climate-related public health risks