

(Major incident-specific collections: Up to two times a year, in cases of a major public health emergency [e.g., severe flu season], the voluntary panel participants will receive a survey based on the ongoing collection survey that addresses healthcare issues specific to that emergency [e.g., practices used to treat patients, resources running low]. Questions in this instrument will vary based on the major incident. Questions will include none, some, or all of the questions in the ongoing collections survey, plus incident-specific questions that gather more details about the specific incident.)

SYSTEM TEST: A PULSE For U.S. Hospitals' Stress Level

Background: On a daily basis, we know that the healthcare system is often stretched beyond its conventional capacity and capability. Surge capacity occurs across a continuum that is often based on resource availability and demand for health services. One end of the continuum is defined by conventional responses - the maximal utilization of service usually provided in healthcare facilities; at the other end of the continuum is crisis care, when the care provided is the best possible given very limited resource availability. When disaster events or incidents occur, Hospitals and Emergency Departments may be further challenged with even more resource imbalances than their normal conventional or contingency status. To that end, it is useful to periodically query frontline clinicians to assess how stressed their current healthcare delivery setting is. The USCIIT Program for Emergency Preparedness (USCIIT-PREP) asks for your responses to the questions below.

Individual site data are *not* reported; only AGGREGATED DATA BY REGION are reported.

Please DO NOT forward this email.

Please complete by [DATE AND TIME]

Please provide your participant information

1. **Institution**
2. **City**
3. **State or Territory**
4. **HHS Region (Automatically completed)**
5. **I would like to receive the results of this query:**
Yes
No

Your Primary Role

6. **What is your primary practice setting?**
ED and ICU
Emergency Department (ED)
Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
Other (please select and define below, free text box will appear)
7. **Are your patients primarily pediatric?**
Yes
No

Base Questions: None, some, or all of these questions will be included or removed based on the emerging public health need.

Variable Questions, based on participant response to question: What is your primary practice setting?

Emergency Department (ED) Setting

8. **TODAY, is the ED bed capacity in the primary hospital that you serve:**
Under capacity
Appropriate balance
Over capacity
On diversion
9. **TYPICALLY, is the ED bed capacity in the primary hospital that you serve:**
Under capacity
Appropriate balance
Over capacity
On diversion
10. **At the time that you are responding to this poll, what is the number of ICU patients in the ED waiting for ICU beds?**

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Setting

- 11. TODAY, what is the ICU (Med-Surg) bed capacity in the primary unit that you serve:**
Under capacity
Appropriate balance
Over capacity
On diversion
- 12. TYPICALLY, what is the ICU (Med-Surg) bed capacity in the primary unit that you serve:**
Under capacity
Appropriate balance
Over capacity
On diversion
- 13. At the time you are responding to this poll, is the number of patients requiring mechanical ventilation in your unit (demand versus supply):**
Under capacity
Appropriate balance
Over capacity
On diversion
- 14. At the time you're responding to this poll, what is the total number of patients in your ICU on invasive mechanical ventilation?**
- 15. At the time you're responding to this poll, what is the total number of patients in your ICU?**

Resources

- 16. In your primary role setting, are you experiencing any of the following resource shortfalls? (If information not available, please leave blank)**
Staffing
Supplies
Space
Other type of resource shortfall
No resource shortfalls

Major Incident-Specific Questions: A series of questions specifically developed to address the needs of the incident will be included on each implementation of a major incident-specific survey. The following sections display questions for two types of incidents. Only one major incident will be covered per survey.

Sample Severe Flu Questions

17. In the hospital(s) you work at locally, has the impact of the flu on the health care system:

- Worsened
- Stayed the same
- Lessened

18. Are the EMS systems having difficulty finding open/available hospitals above normal baseline?

- Yes
- No

19. Have Emergency Department volumes increased from baseline?

- Yes
- No

20. Are hospitals implementing surge strategies?

- Yes
If yes, which strategies: _____
- No

21. Have hospitals cancelled elective admissions/surgeries/procedures?

- Yes
- No

22. How many hospitals are on diversion?

23. Is the hospital you primarily practice at overwhelmed?

- Very
- Somewhat
- Not at all

24. Have clinical standard protocols been changed?

- Yes
If yes, which protocols: _____
- No

25. Are additional ventilators needed?

Yes
If yes, how many: _____
No

26. Have communities implemented alternate care or triage sites?

Yes
No

27. Please list any comments or concerns regarding severe flu you have at the current time:

Sample Severe IV Solution Shortages

28. Has your facility recently experienced, or is currently experiencing, difficulty in obtaining intravenous (IV) normal saline?

Yes
If yes, which product(s): _____
No

29. Has the IV normal saline supply adversely impacted clinical care?

Yes (Check all that apply.)
Medication errors
Delayed treatment
ED or facility diversions
Other(specify/describe) _____
No

30. Has your facility implemented any contingency measures due to the limited amount of normal saline?

Yes (Check all that apply.)
Substitution
Conservation
Cancellation of treatment
Other (specify/describe) _____
No
Not applicable (facility is not experiencing a shortage)

31. If your facility is conserving its saline consumption, which conservation method(s) are being utilized? (Check all that apply.)

Recommending oral hydration over IV
Decreasing IV flow rates

Increasing time per IV bag
Other (Please describe: _____)
Not implementing saline conservation

32. Has your facility recently experienced, or is currently experiencing, a difficulty in obtaining any other intravenous (IV) fluids?

Yes
If yes, which product(s): _____
No

33. Has your facility engaged alternate suppliers or other facilities for normal saline products?

Yes
For sizes greater than 1000 cc IV bags
For 1000 cc IV bags
For sizes less than 1000 cc IV bags
Other saline products: _____
No
Unknown

34. Please list any comments or concerns regarding saline supply you have at the current time:
