



Preparedness: Climate Change Mitigation, Leadership and Resiliency

We conduct an annual Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA). The HVA provides a systematic approach to recognizing hazards that may affect demand for services or potentially impact our ability to provide services. The risks associated with each hazard are analyzed to prioritize planning, mitigation, response, and recovery activities. The HVA is the foundation that serves as a needs assessment for the Emergency Management program. Our process involves community partners and is communicated emergency response agencies. The HVA considers increased risk and vulnerability caused by climate change. Atlantic Health System has developed specific procedures in response to potential emergencies and disasters that may occur.

The Hazard Vulnerability Analysis accounts for any impacts caused by climate change. Additionally, we recognize that secondary impacts from disasters will continue to stress healthcare systems, strain at-risk populations, and impact the stability of critical infrastructures. The aging infrastructure in New Jersey is another factor that will cause collateral impacts from severe weather; specifically utility disruptions. Our infrastructure needs to be resilient to extreme weather events. Having solid contingency plans to address impacts to utilities is important for continuity of operations.

We will continue to adapt and increase readiness to address any climate related disasters. This is done as part of our integrated preparedness plan that allows for combining efforts across AHS system to handle current and new threats/hazards.

We are partnering with the Red Cross to train our Visiting Nurse and Hospice team members to deliver preparedness materials to their patients. This information will help increase resiliency among a vulnerable population. At 8:30am this morning, we are hosting the first training with 130 participants.