



Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE)

A Functional Exercise That Tests Medical Surge Capabilities of Health Care Coalitions

WHAT IS THE MRSE?

The Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE) is **an annual Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) cooperative agreement requirement and officially replaces both the Coalition Surge Test (CST) and the Hospital Surge Test (HST)**. As of HPP Budget Period 3 (starting on July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022), HCCs must complete the MRSE annually. Previously, the Hospital Surge Test was used for hospitals located in approved jurisdictions or officially classified as an isolated frontier hospital. Now hospitals located in approved jurisdictions (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands) or officially classified as an isolated frontier hospital must also complete the MRSE

MRSE is a Functional Exercise

[Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\) Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation \(HSEEP\) guidelines](#) describe a functional exercise as “an operations-based exercise designed to test and evaluate capabilities and functions while in a realistic, real-time environment.”

HOW IS THE MRSE DIFFERENT FROM THE COALITION SURGE TEST (CST) AND HOSPITAL SURGE TEST (HST)?

There are several differences between the CST/HST and the MRSE. The most significant changes include:

	Removed the requirement for the surge scenario to be a low or no-notice incident
	Removed a time limit for the exercise (previously 90 minutes)
	Included flexibility for the HCC to define its surge scenario
	Enabled greater linkages to other program components (e.g., Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA), each HCC's individual response plan)
	Increased opportunity to meet non-HPP exercise requirements, such as those required by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Joint Commission, and state/local authorities
	Reduced the number of required bed types in the 20% surge calculation. Only five bed types are required, rather than all HCC staffed beds. Additional bed types may be added by your HCC depending on your surge scenario
	Provided the ability for HCCs to use a qualifying real-world incident for the MRSE

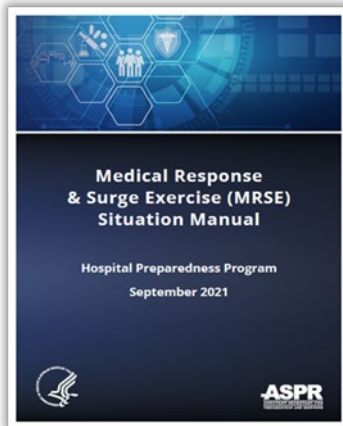
Some aspects of the CST/HST have been maintained in the MRSE. These include:

	HCCs are required to complete the exercise annually
	The exercise remains a source of performance data for HPP
	HCCs are required to enter exercise data into the Coalition Assessment Tool (CAT) annually to comply with HPP reporting requirements



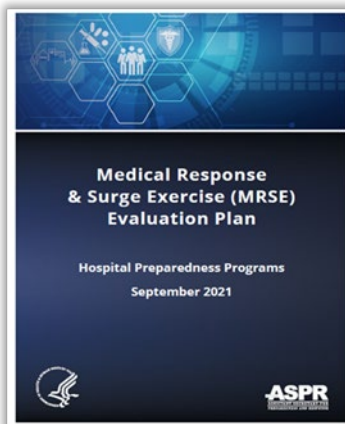
WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO CONDUCT THE MRSE ?

The following tools outline all steps of planning for and completing the MRSE:



MRSE SITUATION MANUAL

This core document is provided to all participants in an exercise. It provides in-depth instructions for how to plan and conduct the MRSE.



MRSE EVALUATION PLAN

This document outlines the goals and purpose of the exercise evaluation for an HCC. It guides the exercise evaluator through assisting during the exercise, gathering information, and facilitating the After-Action Review (AAR). The Evaluation Plan helps the exercise evaluator turn information collected during the exercise into a meaningful AAR and Improvement Plan in concert with exercise participants.



MRSE EXERCISE PLANNING AND EVALUATION TOOL

This tool walks HCCs through conducting the exercise and collecting all exercise data. All required exercise data collection – including data for HPP cooperative agreement MRSE performance measures – will be completed in the Exercise Planning and Evaluation Tool.

For additional questions or to discuss this tool further, please contact your HPP Field Project Officer or email your questions to the MRSE mailbox: MRSE@hhs.gov