

RURAL **HEALTH** WORKSHOP

Before, During and After an Emergency



Session Objectives

- Discuss the importance of Emergency Preparedness
- Review emergency events of 2020
- Demonstrate the role of Well-Ahead Louisiana before, during and after an event
- Provide additional emergency preparedness resources



The Importance of Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness

- Preparation is necessary!
 - Virtual webinars conducted
 - Provides structure in RHCs, hospitals, other medical facilities
 - Everyone knows their role, responsibilities
 - Partnerships with other facilities
 - Example: where to send meds when there is a power outage
- Preparation is mandatory!
 - CMS requires RHCs to participate in 2 trainings per year
 - Documentation is required
 - Agenda
 - Sign-in sheets



Disaster Myths vs Facts

- **Myth:** Nothing like that could ever happen here or to me.
- **Fact:** Though some areas of the country are more prone to certain types of disasters, the truth is that no area on earth is completely immune from disasters or general disruption.

Disaster Myths vs Facts

- **Myth:** If something happens all I have to do is call 911 and someone will come help me.
- **Fact:** When a major disaster strikes, help from local emergency personnel can only go so far or be there only so quickly. The best thing people can do to help themselves and to help others is to prepare so they need as little outside help as possible.

Disaster Myths vs Facts

- **Myth:** Affected population is too shocked and helpless to take responsibility for its own survival.
- **Fact:** Many people find new strength and resiliency during an emergency.

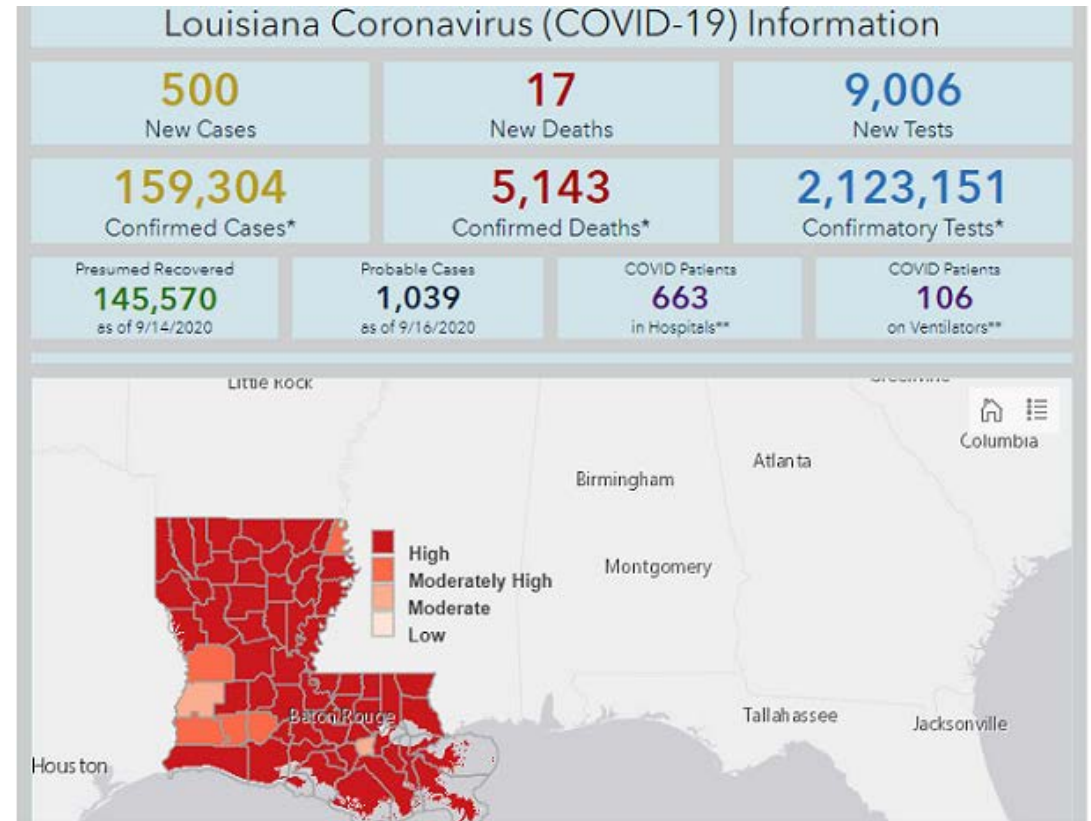
Disaster Myths vs Facts

- **Myth:** Disasters are random killers.
- **Fact:** Disasters strike the most vulnerable groups hardest.

Emergency Events of 2020

2020: Year of Challenges!

- COVID-19
 - LDH dashboard created
 - Ability to view specific parish data
 - Updated daily
- Impacts on rural
 - Clinics and hospitals forced to revise their operations
 - Needed supplies/equipment hard to obtain
 - Stress!



ldh.la.gov/Coronavirus, 9/18/20

2020: Hurricane Season

- Tropical Storm Marco
 - 8/22: Entered Gulf of Mexico
 - 8/24: Tropical Storm warning from west of Morgan City to Intracoastal City discontinued
 - 8/24: Landfall near New Orleans, rain and gusty winds
- Impacts on Louisiana
 - Little impact



Remember watching TV, seeing images like this and listening to weather reports?

2020: Hurricane Season

- Hurricane Laura
 - 8/26, 11p.m.: Eyewall begins impacting Cameron Parish
 - Winds: 150 mph
 - Maximum sustained winds jumped from 75 mph to 140 mph in the 24 hours prior to landfall
 - Category 4
- Impacts on Louisiana
 - Devastation in multiple parishes due its path
 - Closures of RHCs due to damages
 - Lack of services to provide to residents



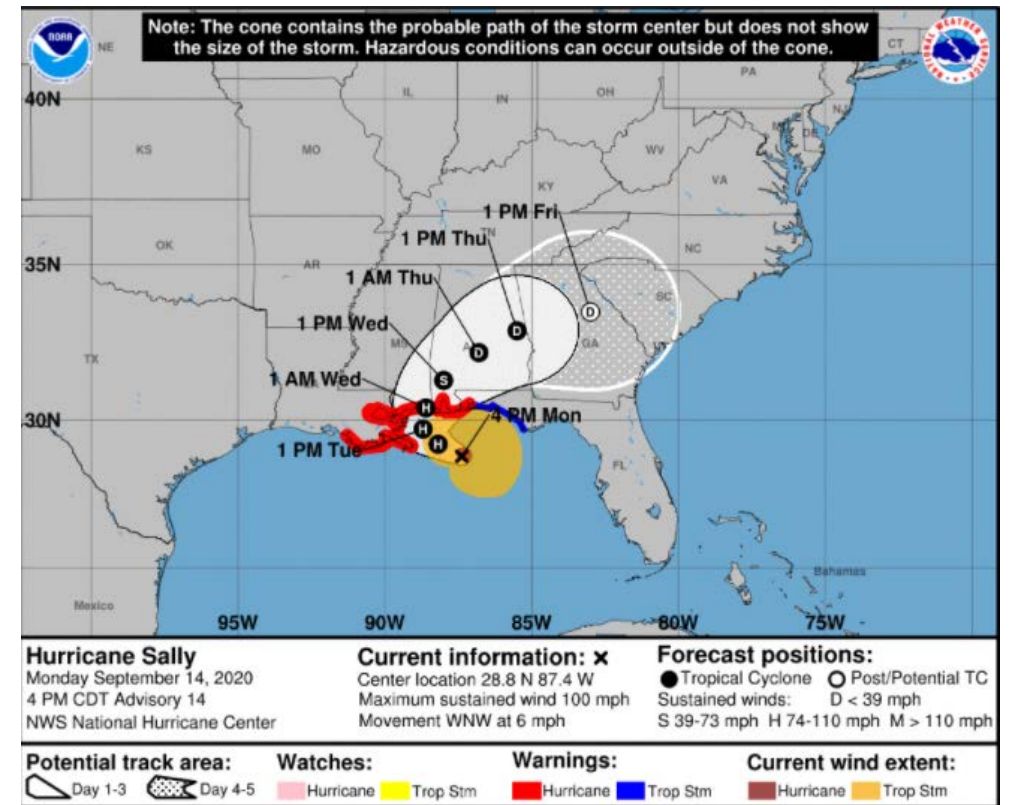
2020: Hurricane Season

- Hurricane Sally

- Evacuation for the areas of New Orleans outside levee protection
- Several parishes under mandatory evacuation
- Clinics, schools, governmental offices were closing
- Was expected to make landfall on the Louisiana/Mississippi boarder
- Because of a shift east, landfall occurred near Gulf Shores, Alabama, with winds of 105 mph (165 km/h)

- Impacts on Louisiana

- Minimal. Some low-level flooding Heavy rains



Emergency Preparedness

- Discussed today were:
 - COVID-19
 - Tropical Storm Marco
 - Hurricane Laura
 - Hurricane Sally
- Other scenarios include but are not limited to:
 - Other severe weather (tornados, flooding, etc.)
 - Water boil advisory
 - Power outages
 - Fires
 - Active shooter





The Role of Well-Ahead Before, During and After

COVID-19: What Did Well-Ahead Do?

- Lots of information coming in from Federal, State, CMS, etc.
 - Well-Ahead staff conducted COVID-19 weekly updates in Zoom sessions to assist in summarizing, providing information.
 - Sessions were recorded and can be found on the Walpen.org website
- Well-Ahead staff activated for EOC Primary Care and Rural Health desk
- Gathered info on PPEs needed using Survey Monkey
- Informational bulletins from LA Department of Health forwarded to clinics, hospitals, LRHA

Hurricane Season: What Did We Do?

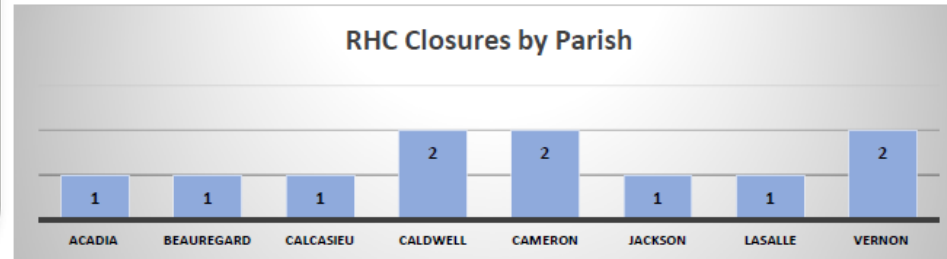
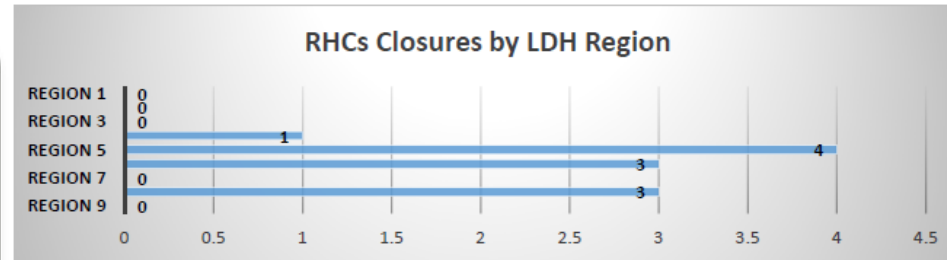
- Prepared and distributed emergency preparedness kits to 160 Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)
 - Included backpack, weather radio, flashlight, jump drive, etc.
- Conducted virtual webinar on hurricane with COVID-19 focus
- Staff activated at EOC-PCRH desk
 - Monitored closures and re-openings of RHCs
 - Worked closely with Health Standards
 - Provided guidance to clinics on re-opening process
 - Assisted with requests for supplies
- Forwarded informational LDH bulletins to clinics, hospitals, LRHA

At the Emergency Operations Center

- Primary Care and Rural Health Desk Position
 - Gathering of information needed to connect providers to resources
 - Requests for supplies, equipment
 - Other assistance requested
 - Dashboards created daily for at-a-glance status
 - Work closely with Health Standards, Sanitarian Services, and Regional Medical Directors
 - Sharing of information with LRHA
 - Benefits Well-Ahead by exposing additional staff to our Rural Health Clinics, their staffing and activities

Hurricane Laura Rural Health Clinic Dashboard

As of Friday, September 11, 2020, there are eleven (11) Rural Health Clinics who **remain closed** due to the effects of Hurricane Laura. A decision was made that those who are in an area where there is a boil water advisory will be cleared by LDH/HSS to open with the understanding they must take proper precautions.



Closed Rural Health Clinics

| Region | FACILITY | PARISH | Reason for Closure (If known) |
|--------|--|------------|--|
| 4 | Crowley Cares Family Clinic | Acadia | |
| 5 | Beauregard Internal Medicine Center | Beauregard | Oak tree in building (on waiting list for removal) |
| 5 | Hackberry Rural Health Clinic | Cameron | No Power |
| 5 | Johnson Bayou RHC (W. Calcsieu Cameron Hos.) | Cameron | No water. No electricity. |
| 5 | Vinton Medical Clinic | Calcasieu | Clinic is not open, still doing telemedicine |
| 6 | Byrd Medical Clinic | Vernon | No electricity. |
| 6 | Hardtner Medical Clinic | LaSalle | No electricity. |
| 6 | West Louisiana Family Practice - Rosepine | Vernon | |
| 8 | Chatham Rural Health Clinic | Jackson | |
| 8 | Winters Clinic | Caldwell | |
| 8 | Wisner Rural Health Clinic | Franklin | |



Emergency Preparedness Resources

Emergency Preparedness

- Upcoming virtual webinar
 - [Tabletop Exercise and Completing an AAR](#)
 - Tuesday, November 17, 2020
 - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. CST
 - <https://www.walpen.org/provider-education>
 - Click on webinar link to get to registration page
 - **Registration is mandatory!**
 - Certificates of participation issued upon completion of training



Resources

- Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness: <https://gohsep.la.gov/>
- LDH Health Standards: <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/297>
- ASPR TRACIE: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/>
- FEMA Online Training: <https://training.fema.gov/is/>
- CMS Emergency Preparedness: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/index>

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RURAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

Thank You!

