



MNTrac Coming to Skilled Nursing Facilities

MNTrac

Soon, MDH's Office of Emergency Preparedness will be adding Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF's) to our bed and resource tracking system tool, MNTrac (Minnesota system for Tracking Resources, Alerts, and Communications). We are seeking your support and assistance in helping to promote the use of this tool by SNF's throughout the state.

Some of you may already know or have heard of MNTrac but may not know its full potential.

MNTrac is a database-driven, password-protected web application designed to track bed capacity including National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) responses, pharmaceuticals and resources from all hospitals within the state to support surge capacity needs. Additionally, the application provides for real time updates to hospital diversion status, emergency incident planning, emergency communication, and emergency alert notifications.

WHY

Why is this important for SNF's? During any crisis or disasters, one of the very first things that fail is communications. Lacking accurate and timely information often results in adverse consequences for facilities and more importantly, staff and residents. MNTrac serves as a valuable tool for facilities and regional partners in providing immediate situational awareness, resource sharing, and patient and bed tracking. MNTrac can help eliminate lags in information or dissemination of inaccurate information.

During several recent events in Minnesota, SNF's and other long term care (LTC) settings were directly impacted and needed multiple forms of

assistance. Some facility administrators needed help evacuating their residents while others needed help with sheltering in place. Behind the scenes, other healthcare partners, in conjunction with those involved in the response, coordinated efforts to assist and capture pertinent information to implement a successful response. For example, partners collaborated to gather the following information from impacted facility: resident data, point of contact information, resources in need, estimated time of action needed. Being able to use the MnTrac system will save time and allow SNF's to communicate situational awareness without going through third parties who may not always accurately relay the situation or needs. MNTrac also allows for SNF's to better track residents in the event of the need to evacuate (to a single or multiple locations).

What is MNTrac

An expandable system, MNTrac, currently includes the following disciplines: Hospitals, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Local Public Health (LPH), Emergency Management (EM), regional caches, Medical Resource Control Centers (MRCC), Poison Control, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF). Additional agencies may be added to MNTrac based on need and system capabilities. The system provides for:

- Live website (day-to-day operations)
- Demo website (training, practice and testing)
- Resource tracking
- Patient tracking
- Fatality tracking
- Emergency alerts / advisory notifications
- Emergency communication tools

- Hospital diversion status reporting
- Report writer
- Facility information
- Resource library

The system allows for inter-facility virtual communication and tracking of patients, bed capacity, pharmaceuticals and resources (e.g., ventilators, personal protective and decontamination equipment). Hospital bed diversion status, emergency event planning, emergency chat, and alert notifications are supported in real time. Information is aggregated from all facilities and can be transported to other systems and agencies to improve communications and share pertinent information. Standard and ad hoc reports can also be generated to turn data into useful information.

What's Changing? Why should SNF's be involved?

Currently we utilize an online survey for SNF's to request bed count data which is then downloaded and sent to the facility that may be in jeopardy of needing to evacuate. This process takes time to allow facilities to complete the survey, to interpret the results, and then send the results forward to appropriate individuals. With the online survey, each facility needs to enter data each time an update is requested. Using MNTrac, data only needs to be changed IF there is a change in information and data in specific area. In other words, much of the data will be static and does not need to be re-entered each time. We also have uploaded into MNTrac several surveys that can be used if needed. These include questions that CMS may want to know during an incident.

With MNTrac, facilities can identify several methods of notification and can enter data and view it in real time. MNTrac also provides instant chat capabilities for all involved partners needing to communicate in a centralized location.

This chat function can host documents that can be posted including data from MDH, charts, graphs, etc. These can be uploaded and used by personnel during a response. This capability has proven success in both gathering accurate information and

assisting in the decision making process of the impacted facility.

Additionally, resource requests can be handled through MNTrac. A facility can request specific resources or supplies and other facilities can see these requests and may be able to provide assistance and support.

Patient tracking is another function currently being tested and should be up and running soon. This will give the sending and receiving facilities a better ability to identify and track individuals that may have been relocated due to an evacuation.

While use of MTrac is not mandated, it is the system we will be using to acquire bed data and other information during a crisis from SNF's. MNTrac allows for much more efficient methods of communicating and connecting the healthcare community in a way that hasn't been done previously among SNF's. Skilled Nursing Facilities that have been connected with their regional healthcare coalitions and have needed help during a crisis have had positive results. This is one more way to stay connected with an ultimate goal of fostering a safe environment for staff and residents.

How Can You Help?

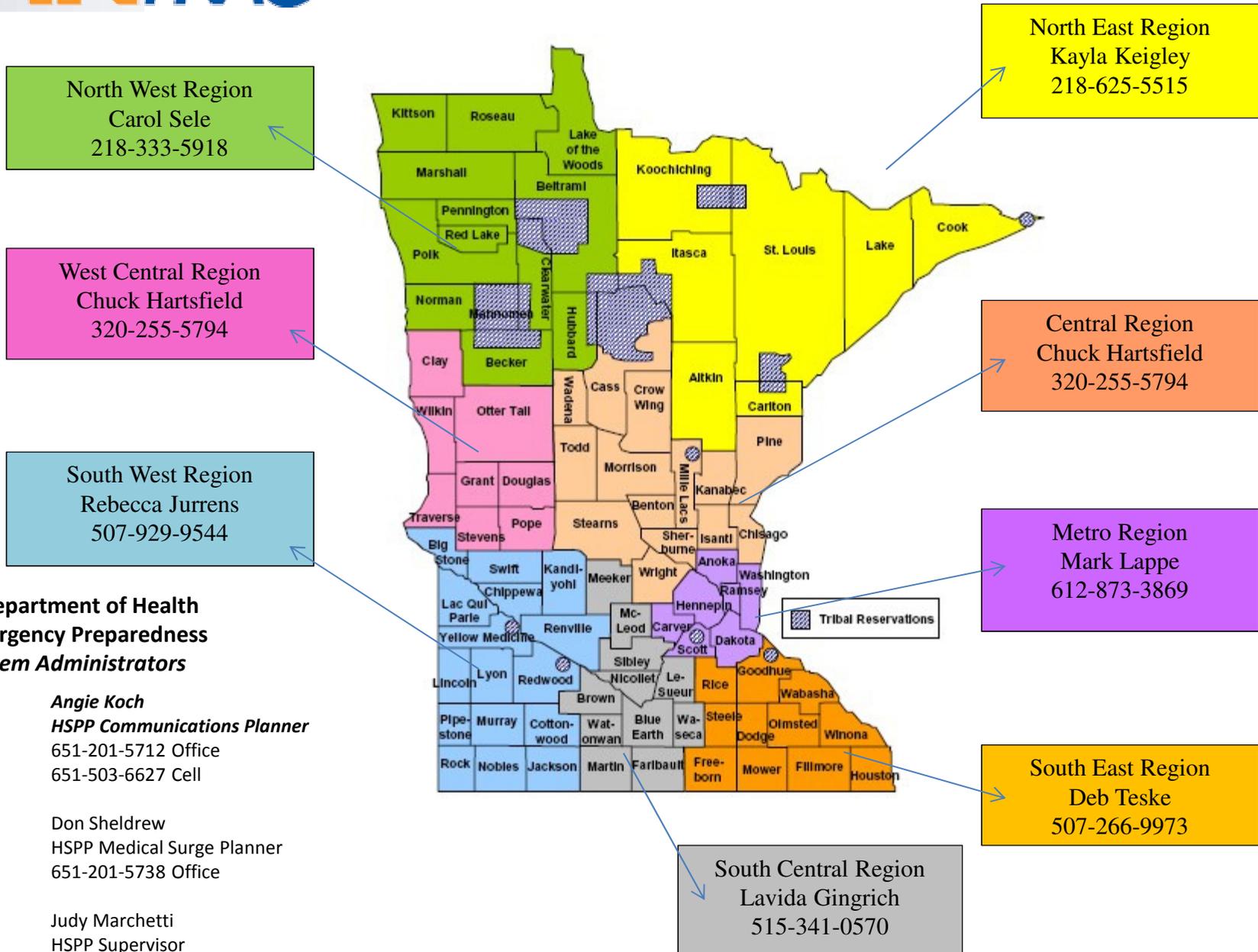
We are asking for your partnership in promoting to providers the use of this tool. As you and your staff are talking with facilities, please consider discussing and promoting the use of MNTrac and its overall benefit for all involved. It is important for facilities to have a hands-on approach and engage in training on the system and exercising its capabilities. We look forward to partnering with you and together promoting this system; the results will be noticed down the road in an emergency when a facility needs help.



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