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## NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

### Healthcare Business Continuity during COVID-19

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020. During the response to COVID-19, hospital and healthcare settings witnessed the largest pandemic the United States has ever seen. The onslaught of patients and staff infected with the disease brought on various other disasters within the pandemic that caused hospital leadership to look at how the healthcare facility would remain open during and after the pandemic is over. The purpose of this project is to show a need for further planning at the hospital level, to make sure the business end of the hospital can operate during a pandemic or other large scale disaster that can take supply chain resources and human resources away from the day-to-day operations of the hospital facility.

**Presentation Theme:** The project included a comprehensive definition of what Healthcare Business Continuity is, how COVID-19 has changed the way we look at hospital resiliency and what is needed to stay operational when other hospitals and agencies are vying for the same resources, and how to start or formulate a plan to start a business continuity program. Further, the project included a healthcare-specific Business Continuity Plan (HBCP)/toolkit to assist the healthcare setting with forming a plan and implementing the plan at the facility.

Due to various needs seen during the COVID-19, part of the project included looking for what hospitals needed the most. To do that, a survey or questionnaire was developed through a survey design platform, SurveyMonkey. The survey was sent

to Hospital Emergency Management professionals within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to find the biggest issues during the pandemic that a Healthcare Business Continuity Plan can assist with.

**Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:**

Jason Tomashunas - sole collaborator, Dr. Jean Bail – Advisor, Dr. Steve Parrillo – Advisor, Disaster Medicine and Management - Department

**Funding:** None

**Institutional Review Board Proof of regulatory committee approval:** Thomas Jefferson University IRB documents OHR-34 and OHR-36 were provided to the IRB for exempt approval. Approval was granted by Thomas Jefferson IRB before the study took place during March and April 2021.