

Webinar Series on Critical Resource Continuity

Securing Blood, Oxygen, and Saline for Health System Resilience

Virtual | May 4, 11, 18, 2026 | 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. ET



Webinar Series Overview

Blood products, intravenous saline, and medical oxygen are foundational to modern health care delivery. Despite their essential role, recent public health emergencies, natural disasters, supply chain disruptions, and market shocks have exposed significant vulnerabilities in the systems that produce, distribute, and sustain access to these critical resources. The purpose of this webinar series is to scope and understand the vulnerabilities, dependencies, and systemic challenges that affect the continuity of blood, saline, and medical oxygen supplies. The series will provide a forum for candid, cross-sector dialogue to surface experiences, perspectives, and lessons learned. The series is not intended to produce formal recommendations, but rather to clarify challenges, elevate key insights, and identify questions or areas where further analysis, coordination, or innovation may be warranted. By the end of the series, participants will aim to:

- Examine domestic and global supply chains for blood, saline, and medical oxygen, and identify key fragilities including manufacturing concentration, logistics, workforce, and infrastructure dependencies.
- Surface concrete use cases that illustrate key gaps and challenges, as well as adaptive strategies and promising solutions across sectors.
- Explore policy, regulatory, and market/ transportation dynamics that shape incentives, resilience, and investment in critical medical resource systems.
- Propose models and strategies that support sustainable and resilient systems, including redundancy, diversification, public-private coordination, and regional or national approaches.
- Surface cross-cutting insights and questions to inform future research, convenings, and preparedness efforts.

[Webinar 1 \(May 4\): Blood — Ensuring Continuity and Resilience of the U.S. Blood System](#)

[Webinar 2 \(May 11\): Medical Oxygen — Building Resilient Oxygen Systems](#)

[Webinar 3 \(May 18\): Saline — Strengthening Resilience of Intravenous Saline Supply](#)

Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies

This webinar series is being convened under the auspices of the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies, a standing activity of the National Academies. The Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies provides a neutral venue to identify and elevate critical issues in medical and public health emergency preparedness and response proactively—with a focus on bridging the gaps between research, policy, and practice. The Forum fosters in-depth discussion and collaboration to examine barriers, identify research, explore innovative operational and policy solutions, and inspire action among stakeholders in support of sustaining and advancing health security. Formed in 2007, the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies convenes and engages leaders at federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels

WEBINAR 1 – BLOOD: Ensuring Continuity and Resilience of the U.S. Blood System

Monday, May 4, 2026, 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. ET

SESSION I WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

2:00 PM Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jon Krohmer, *Forum Member*

Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
College of Human Medicine
Michigan State University

Welcome and Opening from the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies Forum

W. Craig Vanderwagen, *Forum Co-Chair*

Co-Founder and Director
East West Protection, LLC

SESSION II SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEM OVERVIEW AND KEY FRAGILITIES

2:15 PM

This session will examine how the system functions today, including domestic and global supply chain dynamics, infrastructure and workforce dependencies, and regulatory or market structures. This session will identify key fragilities and structural risks that affect continuity.

Meghan Delaney

Immediate Past President of the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB)
Chief of the Division of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Director of Transfusion Medicine
Children's National Hospital

Susan Leppke

Vice President, Government and Public Affairs
America's Blood Centers (ABC)

Bill Block

President/CEO
Blood Centers of America (BCA)

Courtney Hopkins

Vice President, Corporate Medical Director
Vitalant

SESSION III DISRUPTIONS, GAPS, AND ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES

3:15 PM

This session will explore recent or recurring disruption events. This session will surface data and visibility gaps, coordination challenges, and system blind spots, as well as adaptive strategies and promising practices that have emerged in response.

John Hagins

President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Blood Center
Chair of AABB's Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism

Randi Schaefer

EMS / Prehospital Blood Programs – Schaefer Consulting, LLC

Bill Bullock

San Antonio Fire - Blood Program Lead
South Texas Blood - Specialized Program Coordinator

Brent Lee

Director of Clinical Excellence and Performance Improvement
North American Partners in Anesthesia (NAPA)

SESSION IV PATHWAYS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SYSTEMS

4:15 PM

This session will examine potential models and strategies to strengthen resilience, including diversification, redundancy, coordination mechanisms, and policy or market levers. The session will identify cross-cutting insights and priority questions for further exploration.

Discussion with Panelists and Participants

SESSION V CLOSING REFLECTIONS

4:55 PM

Closing Remarks

Jon Krohmer, Forum Member

Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
College of Human Medicine
Michigan State University

W. Craig Vanderwagen, Forum Co-Chair

Co-Founder and Director
East West Protection, LLC

5:00 PM

ADJOURN WEBINAR 1

WEBINAR 2 – MEDICAL OXYGEN: Building Resilient Oxygen Systems

Monday, May 11, 2026, 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. ET

SESSION I WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

2:00 PM Welcome and Opening Remarks

Asha Devereaux

Pulmonary, Critical Care, Internal Medicine Physician, Sharp Coronado Hospital
Co-Chair Task Force for Mass Critical Care
Chief Medical Officer, California Medical Assistance Team (CAL-MAT) San Diego, CA

Welcome and Opening from the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies Forum

Asha M. George, Forum Co-Chair

Executive Director
Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense at the Atlantic Council

W. Craig Vanderwagen, Forum Co-Chair

Co-Founder and Director
East West Protection, LLC

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Asha Devereaux

Pulmonary, Critical Care, Internal Medicine Physician, Sharp Coronado Hospital
Co-Chair Task Force for Mass Critical Care
Chief Medical Officer, California Medical Assistance Team (CAL-MAT) San Diego, CA

Richard D. Branson

Professor
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati

Joseph Lewarski

Senior Vice President – Clinical Affairs
Drive Medical

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Eric Wei
Chief Executive Officer
NYC Health+Hospitals | Bellevue

Michael Hess
Senior Director of Advocacy and Regulatory Affairs
Project Lead, Oxygen360/World Oxygen Day
Project Lead, COPD Therapeutic Access Consortium
Chair, American Association for Respiratory Care Ambulatory & Post-Acute Care
Membership Section

Michael Lipnick
Professor of Anesthesia
Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Care
University of California San Francisco (UCSF)

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Pulmonary, Critical Care, Internal Medicine Physician, Sharp Coronado Hospital
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W. Craig Vanderwagen, *Forum Co-Chair*
Co-Founder and Director
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5:00 PM **ADJOURN WEBINAR 2**

WEBINAR 3 – SALINE: Strengthening the Resilience of Intravenous Saline Supply

Monday, May 18, 2026, 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. ET

SESSION I WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

2:00 PM **Welcome and Opening from the Forum on Medical and Public Health Preparedness for Disasters and Emergencies Forum**

W. Craig Vanderwagen, *Forum Co-Chair*
Co-Founder and Director
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SESSION II SUPPLY CHAIN SYSTEM OVERVIEW AND KEY FRAGILITIES

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CDR Emily Thakur
Team Leader
Drug Shortage Staff
Officer of the Center Director
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Erin R. Fox
Associate Chief Pharmacy Officer, Shared Services
University of Utah Health
Professor (adjunct) Dept. of Pharmacotherapy
University of Utah College of Pharmacy

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Rashid Hussain
Anesthesiologist
Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine

Sophia Görgens
Emergency Medicine Physician; EMS and Disaster Medicine Specialist
Department of Emergency Medicine
Yale University

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Co-Founder and Director
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5:00 PM **ADJOURN WEBINAR 3**

Staff Contact Information

Lisa M. Brown, M.P.H., Senior Program Officer lbrown@nas.edu

Learn more about our work here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/forum-on-medical-and-public-health-preparedness-for-disasters-and-emergencies>