



## Department of Health

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Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 14, 2021

DAL 21-04 - Revised

Dear Hospital Chief Executive Officer:

The Department is announcing a new pilot project that is intended to help the State better understand hospital capacity more frequently than the once-a-day COVID-19 Daily Hospital Patient and Bed Management Survey, also known as the Hospital HERDS survey. This pilot, Hospital Capacity Direct Access, (HCDA), will act as a proof-of-concept regarding the ability to connect hospital bed management systems across the State and assess capacity without the need for manual data entry.

Understanding current capacity is very important when performing load balancing activities and time can make the difference in meeting patient needs. Under current processes, outside of Hospital HERDS, this information is manually collected from hospitals by the Department's Surge and Flex Center. The HCDA pilot will attempt creating a direct connection to hospital bed management software, in a read-only mode, to avoid having to take time away from hospitals during an emergency.

In order to accomplish the task of launching the new pilot, the Department is requesting that your hospital provide us with the following information via the 2021 Hospital Capacity Direct Access launch survey, a one-time HERDS survey. This survey will ask the following required questions:

Do you have a bed management system? Yes or No

If yes, please type the Name of Bed Management System

Please type the name of Bed Management Software provider

Please type the First Name of the person responsible for its management

Please type the Last Name of the person responsible for its management

Please type the Title of the person responsible for its management

Please provide the ten-digit Desk phone number of the person responsible for its management

Please provide the ten-digit Cell phone number of the person responsible for its management

Please provide the email address of the person responsible for its management

The 2021 Hospital Capacity Direct Access launch survey will be open at 8AM on 5/17/2021 with the information requested. Your hospital will have until noon on 5/21/2021 to complete the survey.

After the Department completes this survey, it will select a sample of hospital as the first wave of integrated hospitals. Additional waves will also be selected.

The success of HCDA will help eliminate work that now requires data manual entry and will speed state responses and hospital collaboration to manage bed capacity and load balancing.

Thank you again for your efforts to respond to the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Shulman, DrPH, MS  
Acting Director, Division of Hospitals  
and Diagnostic & Treatment Centers