

## **Appendix E Pandemic**

### **Primary Agencies**

Mohave County Department of Public Health  
Mohave County Emergency Management  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
Department of Emergency and Military Affairs  
City Emergency Managers  
Hospitals, Clinics, Health Care Providers  
Center for Disease Control  
County Medical Examiner

### **Support Agencies**

All County Government Departments  
Fire Districts/Departments  
EMS  
Mohave County Sheriff's Office  
City Police Departments

## **I. Purpose, Scope, Situation, and Assumptions**

### ***Purpose***

- To provide a general overview of procedures for effective and rapid response to a pandemic emergency, including direction and coordination protocols; a detailed Pandemic Response Plan has been prepared by Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) and is kept under separate cover.
- To provide a summary of agency and department roles and responsibilities in a pandemic event, including those for employee protection as well as event response support.

### ***Scope***

- A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. This appendix discusses key portions of the Global Influenza Preparedness Plan developed by the World Health Organization and describes the responsibilities of county departments in preparing for and responding to a pandemic at the local level.

### ***Situation***

- A pandemic occurs when a new virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population and which spreads rapidly via sustained human to human contact. It is highly unlikely that a vaccine will be available

for a pandemic flu outbreak until the initial pandemic waves of infection have passed.

- The World Health Organization has developed the Pandemic Influenza Risk Management Guidance that breaks down the pandemic threat into four global phases.
  - **Inter-pandemic Phase:** Period between influenza pandemics.
  - **Alert Phase:** Influenza caused by a new subtype has been identified in humans.
  - **Pandemic Phase:** Global spread of human influenza caused by a new subtype.
  - **Transition Phase:** Reduction in global risk, reduction in response activities, or progression toward recovery actions.
- In the United States, the Pandemic Intervals Framework (PIF) describes the progression of an influenza pandemic using six intervals. This framework is used to guide influenza pandemic planning and provides recommendations for risk assessment, decision-making, and action in the United States. These intervals provide a common method to describe pandemic activity which can inform public health actions. The duration of each pandemic interval might vary depending on the characteristics of the virus and the public health response.
- Several governmental organizations conduct pandemic surveillance on a routine basis and provide information about how to recognize, prepare for, and deal with a pandemic.
  - **Federal level:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its parent organization, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
  - **State level:** Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).
  - **County level:** Mohave County Department of Public Health.
- There are four essential steps that employees and the public can take to reduce the spread of the disease:
  - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or handkerchief when coughing or sneezing.
  - Wash your hands frequently with warm water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers when soap and warm water are unavailable.

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Increase your social distance (avoid crowds and mass gatherings).

### ***Assumptions***

- A vaccine for the virus will not be readily available.
- Any vaccines or medicine available for use will be limited in quantity and will need to be dispensed based on priority of need.
- Mohave County government will be severely affected by a pandemic. It is estimated that 20% to 30% of the workforce is likely to be directly affected by the disease, and additional employees will likely need to stay home to care for sick family members. At the height of the pandemic, up to 40% of the workforce may be unavailable. In addition, the delivery of such basic commodities as fuel, groceries, etc. will be severely disrupted.
- Health care facilities will be overwhelmed and will have to alter their basic operating procedures and enhance their normal capacity and use all available space for patients.
- Mortuary Services will be overwhelmed both at the public and private sector levels and immediate assistance from sources outside the county will be needed.

## **II. Concept of Operations**

- When a Pandemic Alert Phase has been declared by the World Health Organization, the Mohave County Public Health Department will issue news releases to inform both the County work force and the public about how to deal with its effects. These efforts will be intensified and more specifically targeted when a pandemic appears likely to develop. The County Joint Information System may be utilized to coordinate common message news releases among the various jurisdictions.
- All County departments will implement actions to deal with the pandemic and its effects, including activation of individual department Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP's) and conformance with protective actions issued by MCDPH. These actions will focus on two primary areas:
  - Protecting the health of employees and their families.

- Ensuring their ability to provide essential services when faced with a severely reduced workforce and the disruption of services and supplies essential to their operations.
- Mohave County Public Health Department (MCDPH) will activate its Pandemic Influenza Response Plan and such supplemental plans as may be needed.
- MCEM will activate the Mohave County ERRP Basic Plan and all applicable Annexes as needed to support pandemic response actions.

## **II. Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities**

- **Mohave County Department of Public Health will:**
  - Facilitate countywide pandemic planning and preparedness efforts.
  - Coordinate the county's public health response in conjunction with Mohave County Emergency Management.
  - Decide that a county health emergency exists and recommend that the BOS enact a declaration of emergency.
  - Recommend to County Manager specific protective and mitigation measures for county government departments, including telework options and restriction or closure of certain facilities if necessary.
  - Educate the public, health care, response partners, businesses, community-based organizations and elected leaders about influenza and preventive measures.
  - Conduct countywide surveillance to track the spread of the disease and its impact on the community.
  - Implement disease containment strategies and authorities.
  - Provide guidance to the health care system's planning and response efforts.
  - Direct mass vaccination efforts and plans for antiviral dispensing.
  - Communicate effectively with the public, media, elected officials, health care providers, law enforcement, first responders, and business and community leaders.
  - Coordinate news releases through the County Joint Information System.

- Provide workforce support & psychosocial needs response.
- **Mohave County Emergency Management will:**
  - Recommend to the County Administrator the activation of the Mohave County ERRP and all applicable annexes.
  - Provide liaison officer to the Public Health Emergency Response Team and Health Department Operations Center.
  - Recommend activation of the County Emergency Operations Center as needed and coordinate MCEOC operations and staffing scheduling.
  - Support the Health Officer in establishing necessary social distancing measures.
  - Support all County Departments in development and implementation of Continuity of Operations Plans to protect county employees while maintaining essential services.
  - Assist development of plan addressing emergency transportation needs and provision or temporary use of facilities for pandemic influenza response (*e.g.*, vacant space for Influenza Care Centers, critical services provision, staffing, equipment, *etc.*).
  - Support Public Health Department Director in preparation of a disaster declaration and facilitate the declaration process with the Board of Supervisors.
  - Provide communication and coordination between county departments, cities, tribes, emergency service agencies, the State EOC, and the County EOC.
- **Board of Supervisors will:**
  - Consider Increased use of telecommuting and/or paid administrative leave by County departments.
  - Consider liberalized use of Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) time by county employees to encourage them to stay away from the workplace when feeling sick.
  - Make decisions on authorizing emergency funding for departments likely to incur extraordinary expenses because of the pandemic (*e.g.* Medical Examiner's Office, Public Health, *etc.*).

- **Arizona Department of Health Services will:**

- Coordinate planning and preparedness efforts, surveillance activities, and disease containment strategies at the state level and across multiple counties in the state.
- Operate a biosafety level 3 laboratory.
- Coordinate the receipt and distribution of pandemic information.
- Distribute antiviral medicines and vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile to local health departments.
- Provide public information messages.

- **The Mohave County Attorney's Civil Division will:**

- Assist the Health Officer in developing and refining Public Health orders for a Declaration of Emergency, Health Officer Orders, and other related disease containment orders.
- Assist in reviewing and resolving any legal issues that arise related to workplace, occupational health, labor relations and overall medical response activities.

- **Other County Departments will:**

- Activate Continuity of Operations Plans to maintain essential services in anticipation of high employee absenteeism.
- Implement social distancing actions for employees and customers in conformance with Health Officer directives, including encouraging sick employees to stay home.

- **Medical Examiner will:**

- Be responsible for planning the disposition of an increased number of deceased persons, consistent with the Mass Fatality Plan.
- Coordinate funeral homes in the planning and management of mass fatality events and for continuity of operations in the event of employee absenteeism.

- **Local Healthcare System Partners (Hospitals, Clinics, Providers) will:**

- Develop a pandemic influenza flu plan that details surge capacity, addresses staffing, bed capacity, and stockpiling of food, water, fuel, and patient care equipment and supplies.
- In the event of a pandemic, conduct enhanced surveillance among patients, staff, and visitors.
- Comply with public health orders for detecting, preventing, and reporting cases of pandemic influenza.
- Implement appropriate infection control measures.
- Develop and provide education and training to healthcare staff on recommended aspects of pandemic influenza.
- Comply with admission and triage guidelines provided by CDC, ADHS, or MCDPH.
- Cooperate with MCDPH by providing estimates of quantities of vaccine for healthcare staff and patients and develop a vaccination plan for own facility.
- Plan for additional site security for facility.
- Develop a plan for care of the deceased and cooperate in fatality management with guidance from the Medical Examiner and MCDPH.

- **Incorporated Cities will:**

- Implement Continuity of Operations plans that specifically address a flu pandemic.
- Take employee and customer protective and social distancing measures as recommended by MCDPH.
- Cooperate with MCDPH to provide resources for pandemic influenza response within the cities.

- **Fire Departments / Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) will:**

- Be responsible for prioritizing and providing patient transport.
- Plan for surge capacity needs due to increased demand for service.

- Prepare responders for effective infection control through training and provision of effective personal protective equipment.
- **Law Enforcement will:**
  - Provide security and assist in the enforcement of Health Officer Orders as necessary. Security will likely need to be addressed on some level at local hospitals, Influenza Care Centers, Medication Warehouse and Dispensing Clinics, and closed venues.
  - Plan for and train personnel in personal protective equipment and other disease and infection control measures.
  - Maintain continuity of operations plans and take steps to limit the spread of influenza within their workplaces.
- **Businesses will:**
  - Plan for a continuity of operations in the event of disruption of services and supplies due to high absenteeism among their own employees, suppliers, and utilities.
  - Be prepared to implement social distancing measures among employees and between employees and customers in accordance with directives from MCDPH.
- **Schools and Colleges will:**
  - Be prepared to take steps to limit the spread of flu within the school in accordance with social distancing measures directed from MCDPH, such as staff and students staying home if sick and implementing personal protective measures.
  - Develop contingency options if they are closed for long periods as part of a social distancing strategy (home schooling lesson plans, catch-up school calendars, etc.).
- **Community-based and Faith-based Organizations will:**
  - Be prepared to implement social distancing measures in accordance with MCDPH directives.
  - Maintain continuity of operations plans to allow continued implementation of organization specific emergency support tasks.



- **Mental Health Organizations will:**
  - Provide psychosocial services for responders and the community at large.
  - Maintain continuity of operations plans in anticipation of employee absenteeism and high client volumes.
- **News Media will:**
  - Have a primary role in providing public education during the alert period, as well as timely and accurate public information throughout the pandemic period.
  - Plan for their continued operations due to absenteeism.
  - With the guidance of MCDPH, consider providing personal protective equipment to reporters, camera operators and other personnel expected to work in a public and potentially contagious setting.
- **Individual Residents will:**
  - Need to take personal responsibility for keeping informed about the risk of pandemic influenza and take appropriate actions such as practicing good hygiene, personal protective measures, and preparing emergency supplies and kits. Individuals and families should implement personal protective measures in accordance with public service announcements from MCDPH. Households will need to make plans for things such as daycare and school closures.

#### **IV. Direction, Control, and Coordination**

- Mohave County Department of Public Health will activate and operate its Health Department Operations Center (HDOC) for the duration of the pandemic event or until it is determined that direction and control can revert to normal MCDPH operational procedures.
- The HDOC will provide direction and coordination for pandemic response measures to and among all county departments, city governments, the public health and medical sector, the business community, schools, the public, MCEM, and the Board of Supervisors.
- The HDOC will coordinate directly with ADHS, the CDC, and other support entities as needed in accordance with established procedures.
- The Mohave County Emergency Operations Center (MCEOC) will be activated as needed to coordinate resource requests and support with the HDOC, county

departments, the cities, county emergency services agencies, and DEMA or the SEOC.

- City Emergency Managers will coordinate with MCEM directly or through City EOC to MCEOC communication links if EOC's are activated.