

Executive Summary

The New Jersey State Pandemic Influenza Response Plan provides statewide guidance to governmental, commercial and private agencies and communities for the planning and response to an infectious disease capable of claiming thousands of lives and adversely impacting community infrastructure. This plan provides New Jersey with a description of the operating conditions and response expectations for those addressing the health of the state's residents and survivability of the state's infrastructure should there occur an influenza pandemic. This Plan is an attachment to ESF#8, the Public Health Annex to the State Emergency Operations Plan and conforms to NRP/NIMS principles and guidelines.

The Plan relies on acceptance of common assumptions and conditions by response agencies to enable pre-pandemic understanding of necessary and complimentary response activities.

Although the basis of this plan is a public health emergency, the challenge of Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government is equal to the challenge of treatment of the ill. Consequently, a large portion of this plan concentrates on the maintenance of critical infrastructure when faced with a significantly reduced workforce, atmosphere of apprehension and fear, and threat of continuous illness, disease and death.

This Plan encompasses all of New Jersey's governmental agencies, and sectors identified by the Domestic Planning Security Task Force Infrastructure Advisory Committee. Additional organizations, both public and private will integrate expected response activities as the plan matures and develops.

This Plan is based on health and supporting agency responses to a pandemic outbreak as defined by the World Health Organization and Federal pandemic influenza phases and further by New Jersey defined pandemic Situations. The State's Situations are similar; however, not identical to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Government Response phases and transition from one Situation to another indicates a required change in activities of one or more NJ agencies.

This Plan addresses a zoonotic outbreak with little to no human-human transmission, and, human-human transmission of a novel influenza virus.

New Jersey's Pandemic Influenza planning effort is described in five coupled efforts:

1. The New Jersey State Pandemic Influenza Response Plan (this document, the overarching state plan).
2. ANNEX 1: The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Pandemic Influenza Plan (focused on the public health response to a pandemic).
3. ANNEX 2: The New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) plan (focused on healthcare facility response to a pandemic).
4. ANNEX 3: Individual NJ county and municipal pandemic plans.
5. ANNEX 4: Individual business and private sector pandemic plans.

Note: Contents of ANNEX 4 are not held or controlled by the State.

Within this Plan, activities are general in nature and guidance is provided to partners that frames the development of individual plans. When response preparedness or response activities require greater specificity or detail, this Plan references appropriate supporting plans. It is a living document that is designed for growth and modification.