



PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Pandemic Response Plan is to enhance and develop the capability of the local Health Departments and community partners to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a pandemic event.

This plan was developed by an interagency, multidisciplinary team representing Health Departments of Portage County, Ravenna City, and Kent City, Robinson Memorial Hospital (RMH), Robinson Health Affiliates (RHA), Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (PC OHS/EMA), Portage County Coroner's Office, Portage County Mental Health and Recovery Board, American Red Cross, and Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED).

II. SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation:

A pandemic event is an epidemic of infectious disease that spreads through human populations across a large region; for instance multiple countries, or even worldwide, and that requires resources above the capability of everyday resources.

B. Assumptions:

1. A pandemic situation will require a variety of professionals and organizations to deal with issues related to the overwhelming of medical resources. Coordination will require building of relationships and coordinated education of everyone in incident management and response.
2. Portage County local health departments have resources through the various agencies to handle most situations in the initial stages. The county will need to augment some activities with regional, state and/or federal agencies.
3. The Portage County Health Commissioner will be responsible to determine the need for regional, state and/or federal assets (i.e. Strategic National Stockpile) and the PC OHS/EMA will help coordinate the arrival and set up of the resources.
4. Mental Health Services may be needed for both civilians and response personnel. The Portage County Mental Health and Recovery Board will coordinate this activity through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The

Portage County Critical Stress Management (CISM) team will initially manage the emergency responders.

5. Robinson Memorial Hospital is the only hospital in Portage County and there is a plan for surge capacity.
6. Emergency Medical Services will be used to triage patients with special protocols to relieve the necessity to transport all patients to medical facilities.
7. Portage County, Ravenna City and Kent City Health Departments have the primary responsibilities for command and control, community containment, epidemiological investigation, disease surveillance, and prophylaxis when indicated.
8. The Portage County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) will assist in any capacity deemed necessary by the incident commander (IC).

III. CONCEPTS OF OPERATIONS

A. Preparedness

1. Portage County public health and RMH have surveillance and information systems in place to facilitate early detection and mitigation of disease, including electronic syndromic surveillance systems such as EpiCenter.
2. Public health, RMH and PC OHS/EMA are working in conjunction with other Portage County community partners related to preparedness planning for emergencies in which pandemic response measures must be activated.
3. Portage County ESF 8, Health and Medical Plans, including Medical Surge Plan, Epidemiology Plan, Mass Fatality Plan, Mass Dispensing Plan, etc, are in place and reviewed and updated annually.
4. Training and exercises will be conducted to assure agencies are aware of their role related to pandemic response; these will be coordinated between public health, hospital, and PC OHS/EMA. MRC Volunteers will be included in training and exercises.
5. Pre-event public information activities will be coordinated by the Portage County Public Information Officer (PIO) workgroup.

B. Response

1. Physicians, hospitals, and laboratories, etc will provide identification and reporting of infectious disease cases to the local health departments as required by OAC 3701-3-02 & 3701-3-13.
2. Activation of the Pandemic Plan is based on the World Health Organization (WHO) phases of pandemic influenza (TAB A), in consideration of pandemic cases in Ohio and/or Portage County, not the United States alone.
3. If a pandemic affects Ohio or Portage County, the decision to declare a public health emergency will be made by the local boards of health/health commissioners in consultation with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).
4. The local health departments will combine into a joint health district and determine their level of response and need for resources and will request additional resources through the PC EMA/EOC.
5. A Public Information Officer (PIO) will be designated by each responding agency to coordinate consistent public information (PI)/risk communications through the establishment of a Joint Information Center (JIC).
6. Risk communication will be provided to encourage the public to comply with strategies and community interventions to reduce the spread of disease, such as requiring sick people to stay home from work and closing schools.
7. Robinson Memorial Hospital will activate their Medical Surge Plan based on number identified pandemic cases identified by RMH Emergency Department and/or Infection Control.
8. Establishing Mass Dispensing Clinics for the distribution of vaccines and anti-viral medications will be directed by the Mass Dispensing Plan
9. The Center of Disease Control (CDC) Pandemic Severity Index (based on the case fatality rate) determines what public health measures to implement related to response.
10. Portage County levels of response are indicated in Table 1.

Table 1. LEVELS OF RESPONSE

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Pandemic in Ohio CDC Category 3 (Pandemic Severity Index)	Pandemic in Region CDC Category 3-5	Pandemic in Portage County CDC Category 4-5
Prepare for Declaration of Emergency	Declare a public health emergency	Joint Information Center Established
Prepare Public Health Response Team	Initiate Community Containment measures (Isolation and Quarantine)	Activate Medical Surge Capacity Plan
Public Information	Laboratory Testing	Provide Mass Care
Consolidation of Local Health Resources	Increase Surveillance	Activate Mass Fatality
Surveillance	Enhanced public information Health Alert Notices (HAN)	
Activate DOC	Activate MRC	
	Activate EOC/DOC	

11. Public Health will make recommendations regarding:
 - a. Community containment practices such as social distancing to ensure that by traveling less, working from home or closing schools, there is less opportunity for the virus to spread.
 - b. Respiratory hygiene: advising people to cover their coughs and sneezes.
 - c. Hand-washing hygiene: advising frequent hand-washing with soap and water (or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) especially after coughing or sneezing and after contact with other people or with potentially contaminated surfaces (such as handrails, shared utensils, etc.).
 - d. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): masks that meet or exceed the NIOSH N95 standard recommended by the WHO; health-care workers wear N95 masks and patients wear surgical masks.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

A. General- Proper response to an incident involving a pandemic requires the coordinated actions of numerous city and county departments. Rapid communication must be utilized to inform responsible officials of the situation, in order to facilitate decision-making. The following tasks are not intended to be all inclusive nor are they presented in order of execution priority. They represent a guide for actions to be taken during a pandemic.

B. Tasks Assignments

1. Portage County Coroner

- a. Has established fatality management plans for handling significant increases in fatality and will determine level of response necessary and what additional resources are needed.
- b. Communicate with or establish Public Information Officer to handle Media.
- c. Call for appropriate transport system for deceased.
- d. Call for Ohio Mortuary Response Team and coordinate arrival with IC and EOC.
- e. Notify appropriate regulatory authorities based on cause of situation.

2. Portage County Public Health

- a. The joint Health District will serve as command and control and as the registrar of vital records in Portage County in accordance with but not limited to ORC 3701 and 3705.
- b. Health Departments oversees plans related to Community Containment, Mass Dispensing (vaccines and anti-viral medications), and Epidemiology.
- b. The Health Departments will provided medical guidance for worker safety and PPE.
- c. The Portage County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) will provide Nursing and other healthcare related volunteers to assist with Pandemic response.

3. Robinson Memorial Hospital

- a. Responsible for case identification triage, special admission procedure, supply procurement, placement and transport procedures, infection control precautions and reporting requirements necessary during periods of potential or confirmed community outbreaks.

4. Portage County Fire Service

- a. Assist with the location, mapping, and removal of human remains from site to the transport are under the direction of the Portage County Coroner and/or Incident Commander.

4. Portage County Emergency Medical Services/Private Ambulance Services

- a. EMS will provide emergency response to all calls for medical assistance.
- b. EMS will forward patient contact information for patients not transported.
- c. EMS will assist the Hospital with inter-facility transfer to relieve overcrowding when available and appropriate.
- b. Ambulance services under contract with the PC Coroner's office will provide transport of human remains to appropriate facilities from the site.
- c. EMS will provide on-scene medical care and surveillance of response

personnel.

d. EMS will stand-by and assist at the Family Assistance Center

5. Portage County Law Enforcement

a. Provide crowd control at the hospital and other identified shelters and alternate care facilities.

b. Provide security for the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

c. Provide forensics assistance under the guidance of the PC Coroner.

d. Assist the Health Department in enforcement of community containment measures (isolation and quarantine).

6. Portage County Mental Health

a. Provide professional assistance at the scene in conjunction with the Portage County Critical Incident Stress Management Team (PC CISMT).

b. Provide professional assistance at the hospital, identified shelters and alternate care facilities, and Family Assistance Center.

c. Assist the PC Coroner/Funeral Directors in dealing with grieving families.

7. Portage County Critical Incident Stress Management Team

a. Provide on-scene peer support and monitoring of response personnel.

b. Provide on-scene guidance to IC for appropriate rotation of responders.

c. Provide after-action defusing and debriefing as needed.

8. Portage County Faith Based Agencies and Organizations

a. Provide assistance at the scene in conjunction with the Portage County Critical Incident Management Team (PC CISMT).

b. Provide assistance at the Family Assistance Center.

9. Portage County Red Cross

- a. Will provide all aspects of Mass Care as needed for responders, victims and families.

10. Portage County Medical Reserve Corps

- a. Nursing and other healthcare-related volunteers that will support local public health, emergency and medical services as available.

11. Portage County Homeland Security and Emergency Management

- a. Provide logistic support and resource management for all responding agencies.

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

A. Departmental Operations Center (DOC) will handle specific agency coordination utilizing their Incident Command System (ICS) structure and coordinated response.

B. When incident requires the PC EOC be activated the response agencies will shift assignment of staff to report to the EOC. Coordination of all DOC's will occur at the EOC through a Multi Agency Coordination (MAC) group.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. Logistics

1. Resource Management

a. When the situations exceeds the capabilities of local governments, requests for County/Regional/State/Federal assistance will be initiated by the IC, and made by the Chief Elected Official or by another official duly authorized.

b. Requests for assistance from local, private and public sector groups will be made as appropriate by contracting agencies listed in the County Resource Manual (ESF 7). The Manual will be maintained by the PC OHS/EMA Director. It identifies agencies or groups that can provide assistance along with telephone number and contact person.

2. Relationship to Other Plans-

a. Emergency Operations Plan-the County's all-hazard Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) creates an umbrella for protecting the health, safety, and property of the public from all hazards.

- b. Mass Fatality Plan- Directs mass fatality processes including standard protocols for transport, storage, identification, determination of cause and manner of death, and evidence collection.
- c. Mass Dispensing/Mass Prophylaxis Plan- Directs process to request, receive, store, and dispense SNS materials.
- d. Epidemiological Plan- Outlines the procedures to manage communicable disease and outbreaks including surveillance, agent identification, mitigation and follow-up.
- e. Mental Health Plan- Outlines the mechanisms to deliver mental health and substance abuse services to individuals affected by an incident.
- f. Community Containment Plan- Outlines community disease containment issues including social distancing, isolation and quarantine.
- g. Medical Surge Plan- Directs activities related to an event that exceeds the daily capabilities of pre-hospital and hospital systems.

VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Portage County Health Departments will be responsible for development and maintenance of the Pandemic Plan in accordance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Response Plan's Target Capabilities and Planning Scenarios guidance documents.

B. All Agencies assigned in this plan are responsible for developing or updating internal procedures that will assure a continuing acceptable degree of response. This plan shall be reviewed annually and also following any exercise or actual incident at the post-incident review to discuss changes needed to the plan and incorporate lessons learned.

C. To evaluate this Plan, the Health Commissioners are responsible for scheduling, designing, conducting and evaluating pandemic preparedness exercises at the regional and/or local level on a schedule in accordance with the public health exercise plan. Exercises and evaluations will be conducted following applicable Ohio Homeland Security and Emergency Management (EMA) requirements.

IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

A. Local Laws/Ordinances, State Laws, Federal Laws, and references are outlined in the

Continuity of Operations Plan (2013)

1. State of Ohio “Emergency Action Plan” ESF-8, 2006
2. Center of Disease Control, Flu Surge Predictive Software for Pandemic Influenza related fatalities
3. Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response: A WHO Guidance Document Geneva: [World Health Organization](#); 2009.

X. TABS

- A. World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Influenza Phases

XI. AUTHENTICATIONS

The Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has reviewed this plan and finds it to address the Target Capabilities as outlined by U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s National Response plans.

Director, PC OHS/EMA

Date
