

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM RESPONSE PLAN

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Hospital Preparedness Program Committee is to promote hospital and community hazards preparedness through education, financial assistance, and training while integrating state-wide preparedness activities at the local level,

THE CURRENT SCOPE OF WORK CAPABILITIES WILL BE DISCUSSED AT HPP MEETINGS



HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM RESPONSE PLAN

PINEY WOODS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL - TSA-G RESPONSE PLAN - Revised 12/15/2022

In 2009 the Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council — RAC-G, Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program Year 2 Response Plan was first developed in January 2003 in response to the national smallpox immunization program. The Smith County hospitals initially developed this plan to determine those individuals who would be immunized against smallpox. This plan was broadened to cover the entire Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council — RAC-G due to the need to regionalize the plan and due to the need to distribute 2002 hospital Bioterrorism funds in a manner that would strengthen the regional plan. With the change during YR 4 from Bioterrorism to "All Hazards" Preparedness, the response plan needed a few changes, except for converting the wording from BT to Hospital All-Hazards Preparedness. In addition to the wording change, the HRSA grants were taken over by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The grant became known as the ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program.

In the 2019 pandemic surge, Coronavirus (COVID-19) had many challenges for all Hospitals, Clinics, and Long-Term Care facilities in the RAC-G Region during the COVID pandemic surge. The COVID cases were increasing dramatically daily. On March 13, 2019, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency. Governor Greg Abbot declared a statewide public health disaster and authorizes using all resources. March 16th, 2019, businesses were restricted in capacity. Health care facilities ER departments in RAC-G and TSA-F were at saturation level with some in divert. Due to the pandemic, this plan was broadened to cover infectious diseases for the entire Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council — RAC-G to regionalize this plan.

Although East Texas contains many strong hospitals and hospital systems, none of the hospitals could individually effectively manage a true regional-wide infectious disease pandemic without financial assistance from state and federal funds. However, by working together, the regional hospitals have great combined strength. These strengths include the following:

- ✚ The Level I and II Trauma Centers at Christus Trinity Mother Frances Tyler and UT Health Tyler
 - ✚ The Tuberculosis Isolation Ward at UT Health North Campus Tyler
 - ✚ Negative pressure isolation room(s) at each facility
 - ✚ The Public Health Laboratory of East Texas on the campus of UT Health North Campus Tyler
 - ✚ A large dedicated medical community
 - ✚ Several excellent ambulances and air ambulance systems
 - ✚ Advanced telecommunication systems
 - ✚ The Center for Pulmonary and Infectious Disease Control based at UT Health North Campus
 - ✚ Tyler
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- ✚ Vast networking with both Public Health (local and regional) and local Department of State Health Services Region 4/5 North, which encompasses most of the RAC-G region
 - ✚ Establishment of a Medical Special Needs Shelter with a contract for roll-out at the University of Texas at Tyler's Patriot Gymnasium with a capacity for a 200-bed special medical shelter facility. The use of their nursing staff is part of the contract.



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- ✦ Equipment for an additional 200-bed Medical Special Needs Shelter
- ✦ A network of satellite phone communications systems
- ✦ Implementation of WebEOC, a web-based emergency reporting mechanism to be used statewide
- ✦ Unified incident command structure with all trauma hospitals meeting NIMS compliance elements for disaster response
- ✦ Hospital-trained decontamination teams for 24/7 response

Following an infectious disease pandemic, patients overwhelm the emergency rooms they normally utilize. However, the hospitals with large emergency rooms in East Texas have very limited respiratory isolation capacity. Conversely, UT Health North Campus Tyler has one of the largest respiratory isolation capacities in Texas but has a small emergency department. Also, UT Health North Campus Tyler is not conveniently located for many citizens in East Texas. Likewise, East Texas has many small hospitals with no respiratory isolation capacity, and those hospitals are not equipped to handle and do not have the experience of caring for patients with contagious infectious diseases. Therefore, the following plan was developed:

Patients requiring respiratory isolation following will be sent to Trauma I and Trauma II hospitals, preferably if beds are available.

Prior to transferring any patients to the hospitals, the hospital's administration must be notified and accept the transfer.

For UT Health North Campus Tyler to open its negative pressure ward, the tuberculosis patients that reside there will need to be transferred off the ward. Many of these patients no longer require respiratory isolation so they can be transferred to another bed at UT Health North Campus Tyler. Some patients, however, will need to be transferred to an isolation room at another East Texas facility. UT Health North Campus Tyler may also need to transfer noncontagious patients to regional East Texas facilities to care for the new patients requiring isolation. The RAC-G hospitals will accept these patients as part of the regional plan.

Patients who do not require respiratory isolation following a positive diagnosis will be cared for at the hospital they present to unless that hospital cannot deliver the required care.

Trauma Level I and Trauma Level II hospitals have established off-site triage capability for potential pandemic/mass casualty events.

If the initial hospital cannot provide the needed care, the patient will be transferred to one of the larger regional hospitals if the receiving hospital has available beds and can provide the needed care. These larger regional hospitals include Christus Trinity Mother Frances Tyler, Christus Good Shepherd Longview, Longview Regional Medical Center, UT Health Tyler, and UT Health North Campus Tyler.

Once patients are no longer contagious, they will need to be transferred from UT Health North Campus Tyler back to one of the regional hospitals.

Hospitals within the East Texas area will postpone elective surgery during an infectious disease pandemic so that scarce resources such as blood products, ventilators, and pharmaceuticals can be available to the victims.



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Any portable equipment purchased directly by the Piney Woods Regional Advisory Council - RAC-G will remain the property of the RAC but will be distributed to hospitals in the RAC Trauma Service Area. These hospitals will be responsible for maintaining these items and keeping them in good working order. If an infectious disease event or an event requiring UT Health North Campus Tyler to increase its respiratory isolation capacity quickly, the RAC purchased equipment can be transferred and delivered to UT Health North Campus Tyler.

Rules for the distribution of Piney Wood's PPE stockpile are contained in a separate document and will be followed during an infectious disease event.

Emergency transport ventilators purchased by RAC-G will be made available as needed during a public health emergency.

EMResource

- ✚ RAC-G maintains a System Administrator for the EMResource Bed Availability and Resource Management System.
- ✚ Upon notification of a major event or regional exercise, the System Administrator will initiate an EMResource event and post it for all users.
- ✚ EMResource events and/or notifications will be specific to the hazard and users impacted.
- ✚ The System Administrator and designee will receive notifications from DSHS on State and Federal HA vBED alerts and will subsequently activate regional HA vBED events from RAC-G hospitals.

WebEOC

- ✚ RAC-G maintains a System Administrator for the WebEOC Crisis Information Management System.
- ✚ Upon notification of a major event or a regional exercise, the System Administrator will initiate a WebEOC Incident and post it for all users.
- ✚ The System Administrator is designated as the secondary Administrator for WebEOC and serves as a backup to the Primary Administrator for the regional system.
- ✚ The System Administrator receives a notification on exercises and events from all local, regional, and state agencies to maintain situational awareness for incident activation.
- ✚ The System Administrator will promote system best practices and user training to all RAC

