

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Primary Agency: NJDHSS is responsible for:

1. Serving as the lead agency for pandemic influenza preparedness and response
 - In the event the Governor declares a public health emergency, NJDHSS oversees the uniform exercise of the EHPA. Local boards of health are subject to the department's exercise of this authority.
2. Providing subject matter expertise (e.g., surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, infection control, clinical guidelines)
3. Providing accurate and timely medical and health information to stakeholders and the public
4. Serving as liaison with HHS during planning and response activities
5. Planning for statewide prophylaxis and vaccination
6. Working with county and local public health agencies to guide coordinated planning and response
7. Providing planning guidance to healthcare entities (hospitals, long term care facilities [LTCFs], home health agencies and hospice agencies, emergency medical services [EMS], primary care centers, private health professionals, alternate care sites)
8. Maintaining a State Strategic Stockpile (SSS) of pharmaceuticals and antivirals
9. Distributing resources from the SSS and Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
10. Providing epidemiological guidance for response activities

B. Support Agencies

1. LINCS Agencies are responsible for planning, coordination, and delivery of specialized services related to public health emergencies. They are to work with the LHDs and acute care hospitals in their jurisdictions to develop influenza pandemic plans and facilitate coordination with Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs).
2. LHDs are responsible for developing and implementing plans in coordination with their LINCS agencies and acute care hospitals and LTCFs in their jurisdictions.
3. NJ Department of Human Services (NJ DHS) is responsible for:
 - a. Developing plans to deliver psychosocial support services
 - b. Working with NJDHSS to develop educational materials
 - c. Ensuring availability of Disaster Response Crisis Counselors
4. NJ Hospital Association is responsible to work with their members to:
 - a. Develop influenza pandemic plans that include appropriate infection control, surge capacity, and cross-training of staff.
 - b. Comply with NJDHSS guidance issued as the situation unfolds.

5. Acute Care Hospitals are responsible for:
 - a. Developing, training to, and implementing influenza pandemic plans that include appropriate infection control, surge capacity, and cross-training of staff.
 - b. Complying with NJDHSS guidance issued as the situation unfolds.
6. Health Care Association of New Jersey and the New Jersey Association of Homes and Services for the Aging are responsible for providing influenza pandemic related guidance to their agency members.
7. Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) are responsible to collaborate with their area hospitals' requests regarding surge capacity plans and to comply with NJDHSS guidance issued as the situation unfolds.
8. Rehabilitation hospitals, long term acute care hospitals, and other specialty hospitals are responsible to collaborate with their area hospitals' requests regarding surge capacity plans and to comply with NJDHSS guidance issued as the situation unfolds.
9. Home Care Association of NJ is responsible for providing influenza pandemic related guidance (infection control, voluntary isolation and quarantine) to agency members, and potentially non-member agencies who attend/avail themselves of the educational offerings of the Home Care Association of NJ.
10. Home Health Agencies and Hospice Agencies are responsible for providing information and education to staff and influenza pandemic related guidance (infection control, voluntary isolation and quarantine) to patients in the home.
11. New Jersey Primary Care Association is responsible for providing influenza pandemic related guidance to their association members.
12. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are responsible for planning to serve as screening, triage, and treatment centers.