

**STRATEGIC GOAL: Protect Citizens**

**Concluding Assessment for Alabama**

**Appendix B.12 - Integrate EMS and 9-1-1 into Pandemic Preparedness**

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0 = Response missing; documentation does not address activity.  
1 = Minimally responsive; documentation only indicates intention or beginning of planning for activity, or only a part of the activity has been addressed.  
2 = Substantial, but incomplete response; documentation indicates that State has largely addressed activity, but response is not complete or actionable.  
3 = Complete response; documentation indicates actionable plan.

**Score  
(0-3)**

**Reviewers  
Comments**

**Operating Sub-Objective B.12.1 EMS Planning**

Has the State adopted EMS pandemic influenza plans and operational procedures that define the role of EMS in preparing for, mitigating and responding to pandemic influenza?

1

Respondent states that they are adapting the US DOT EMS Pandemic Plan to State specific need.

Has the State established a Statewide program of pre-pandemic training and exercising to prepare EMS personnel for their role in preparing for, mitigating and responding to pandemic influenza?

1

Document states that they have used various means of media to train. There is no reference to specific training as defined in the question.

Did not specifically say that the training and education was aimed at EMS personnel. Also, did not specifically discuss EMS participation in PI exercises

Has the State established a method for developing and distributing pandemic influenza information, including clinical standards, treatment protocols and just-in-time training to local EMS medical directors and EMS agencies?

1

State has developed and will use various means to communicate information. There is no reference to development of specific information on Pandemic Influenza.

State did not specifically address dissemination of treatment protocols. They have set up a database of responders but did not say they have used it yet.

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| Has the State established methods to integrate best practices or lessons learned during the previous pandemic wave into EMS system operations and to issue an after action report?  | 2 | State says yes but provides no specifics.<br><br>Response indicates a process which is translatable to PI  |
| <b>Operating Sub-Objective B.12.2 The Role of EMS in Influenza Surveillance and Mitigation</b>  |   |  |
| Has the State established procedures for involving EMS agencies in ongoing disease surveillance?  | 1 | Response does not address question.  |
| Has the State identified procedures for involving EMS providers in pandemic influenza community mitigation strategies, including Targeted Layered Containment?  | 1 | State acknowledges need to address mitigation strategies and no reference to community. State only references PPE and non-specific training offered to EMS.<br><br>The State has started this process but admit they are still working on this issue |
| <b>Operating Sub-Objective B.12.3 Maintaining Continuity of EMS Operations During an Influenza Pandemic</b>   |   |  |
| Does the State have backup plans to augment the local EMS workforce if needed?  | 1 | Vague explanation. Non-specific in response to question.<br><br>The response did not specifically address this topic. No evidence of a back-up plan except for suspending regulations on EMT practice  |
| Does the State have backup plans to address disruptions in the availability of EMS equipment, supplies and services throughout the State?   | 2 | Respondent only indicates they will request it from the ADPD. No additional items or processes defined.  |
| Does the State have an effective, reliable interoperable communications system among EMS, 9-1-1, emergency management, public safety, public health and health care agencies?   | 1 | Information provided does not answer the question.<br><br>The medical system may be interoperable, but does not include emergency management and public safety agencies.   |
| Is there a Statewide communications plan, including communications equipment and radio frequency plan to support common hospital diversion and bed capacity situational awareness at the local, State and regional level? | 1 | Information provided does not answer question.   |
| <b>Operating Sub-Objective B.12.4 Legal Authority</b>   |   |  |

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| Has the state established procedures for EMS providers to deviate legally from their established treatment procedures to support mitigation of and response to pandemic influenza and other public health emergencies while still assuring appropriate education, medical oversight and quality assurance? | 2 | Addresses ability/authority to suspend and communicate changes.No reference to assuring appropriate education, medical oversight, and quality assurance. No supporting information or cross reference.                    |
| Has the state identified mechanisms to ensure freedom of movement of EMS assets (vehicles, personnel, etc.)?   | 2 | State acknowledges there are no barriers and state they have no means for free and safe movement. No supporting documentation.<br><br>Rules are in place, but mechanisms not yet identified to ensure freedom of movement |
| <b>Operating Sub-Objective B.12.5 Clinical Standards and Treatment Protocols</b>   |   |   |
| Is there coordinated Statewide medical oversight of EMS pandemic influenza planning, mitigation and response?  | 1 | Respondent acknowledges no plan exists. They plan to look for means to fund, train and integrate for PI planning, mitigation and response.  |
| Has the State developed mechanisms for rapid development, adoption or modification of prehospital clinical standards and triage/ treatment protocols before or during an influenza pandemic that are based upon the most recent scientific information?  | 1 | Information provided does not answer question.  |
| Has the State defined consistent, system-wide procedures for the rapid distribution of new or modified prehospital EMS treatment and triage protocols before or during an influenza pandemic?  | 1 | State answered yes but provides no supporting information.  |
| Has the State defined a process for providing just-in-time training for EMS agencies, EMS providers, EMS medical directors and PSAPs?  | 1 | Response does not address the question.   |
| Has the State defined the role of EMS providers in “treating and releasing” patients without transporting them to a healthcare facility?   | 2 | State answered yes based on existing protocol. No supporting documentation or cross reference.  |
| <b>Operating Sub-Objective B.12.6 EMS Workforce Protection</b>   |   |   |
| Has the State identified strategies to assist local EMS agencies with the protection of the EMS and 9-1-1 workforce and their families during an influenza pandemic?   | 2 | State answered yes based on existing protocol. No supporting documentation or cross reference.  |

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| Does the State have requirements or recommendations for EMS agencies for basic infection control procedures?   | 2 | State answered yes based on existing protocol. No supporting documentation or cross reference.   |
| Does the State have system-wide processes for providing vaccines and anti-viral medication to EMS personnel?   | 2 | State answered yes based on existing protocol. No supporting documentation or cross reference.<br><br>No specific plan for EMS even though Federally, EMS is considered a critical infrastructure. |
| Have State EMS agencies and public health agencies identified mechanisms to address issues associated with isolation and quarantine of EMS personnel   | 2 | State answered yes based on existing protocol. No supporting documentation or cross reference.   |
| Has the State defined processes to supplement local EMS agencies in offering support services, including mental health services, to EMS personnel and their families during an influenza pandemic? | 2 | State answered yes based on existing protocol. No supporting documentation or cross reference.   |
| <b>Sum of Ratings</b> <b>32</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Number of Activities</b> <b>22</b>  |   |  |
| <b>Corresponding Percentage</b> <b>48%</b>   |   |  |
| <b>Assessment</b> Inadequate Preparedness  |   |  |

Facilitator:

State:

EMS State Assessment '08

| <b>EMS State Assessment</b>  |                        |                               |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Activity points with no supporting materials and/or documentation</b>     |                        |                               |
|  | <b>Score<br/>(0-3)</b> | <b>Reviewers<br/>Comments</b> |
| <b>EMS Planning</b>  |                        |                               |
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| <b>The Role of EMS in Influenza Surveillance and Mitigation</b>              |                        |                               |
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|  |                        |                               |
| <b>Maintaining Continuity of EMS Operations During an Influenza Pandemic</b> |                        |                               |
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| <b>Legal Authority</b>   |                        |                               |
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| <b>Clinical Standards and Treatment Protocols</b>                            |                        |                               |
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| <b>EMS Workforce Protection</b>  |                        |                               |
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