

**2008 Concluding Assessment - Alabama**  
**Strategic Goal: Protect Citizens**

<b>Appendix B.3 Implement Community Mitigation Interventions</b>		
<b>Lead Individual name: Virginia Johns</b>		
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<b>Supporting Activity</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Prepare</i>		
Sub-objective B.3.1 - Implement strategies for isolation and treatment of ill individuals.		
The State has identified clear triggers that follow CDC guidance for initiating community mitigation interventions (including detailed actions to take by pandemic severity) and has distributed these guidelines to all local health departments.	2	Describes process of consultation with state epidemiologists for determination of triggers that will "closely approximate CDC guidance," however; applicant does not give examples of specific triggers, and does not state whether or not these triggers and guidelines for detailed actions have been distributed to local health departments.
Identify the State spokesperson who will provide messages to local health departments, the public and the media to initiate community mitigation interventions as well as the second person in the line of succession for this function.	3	State Public Health Officer and individuals have been identified to provide community mitigation information in the absence of the state public health officer, and those who will provide information to the media
The State has collaborated with local health departments to develop plans for rapid remote identification of possible cases (e.g., hotlines, influenza triage centers), including processes to train volunteers/others who will staff the hotline and/or triage	3	State poison control centers will be used for the public to call and report symptoms and to get referral information for evaluation and testing. Volunteers will be used to staff hotlines and will be trained at the poison control centers.
The State has provided initial guidance to local health departments to develop communications and education to the general public as to how to access hotlines, when and where to seek medical care, how to care for ill persons at home, how to protect family	3	The state has produced and provided, at no cost, a variety of informational materials for distribution to the general public by the local health departments. Materials address topics related to prevention and where the public can access services in case of an influenza outbreak. Resources available on the internet

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Supporting Activity	Rating	Comments
The State has provided guidance to local health departments to coordinate their pandemic treatment plans with community Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and 911 services and develop established protocols and algorithms.	3	The state has produced and provided, guidance materials to EMS and 911 services statewide; however details of these materials and their distribution is not provided.
The State has identified case definitions for presumptive/definitive diagnosis of pandemic influenza and distributed these to local health departments and hospitals in the State. Provide citation.	3	The state has identified case definitions and distributed these with sample specimen kits throughout the state. These definitions are also available on the website.
The State has developed processes to train and communicate with private sector and public sector health professionals, during the early and later stages of a pandemic, on case definitions and methods for determining influenza diagnosis.	3	The state has developed processes to train and communicate with private and public health providers during the early and later stages of a pandemic.
The State has developed strategies for advising hospitals and other treatment facilities to recommend patients with ILI to remain at home, with triage protocols to identify critically ill patients.	2	State describes plans to provide triage protocols to medical treatment facilities, however, distribution of these protocols lacks sufficient detail to assure distribution and receipt of these protocols in the event of a pandemic.
The State has developed specific plans to distribute treatment medications to ill individuals in isolation. Provide a full description of how ill individuals will access antiviral medication for treatment.	1	State has no method to mail medications and must rely on family members of individuals in isolation to pick up medications at pre-determined sites. The state has no clear plan how to deliver medications of individuals in isolation who have no family members or any other means to access medications.
Activity Added by State		

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Supporting Activity	Rating	Comments
Subobjective B.3.2 - Provide clear policies and procedures for advising voluntary quarantine of household contacts to a known or suspected case, including processes to monitor households under quarantine.		
The State has initiated plans for communications and education to the general public regarding recommendations for voluntary household quarantine for family members if there is a sick person at home, and how long to stay home. Provide citation that descri	1	State provides a plan of action for communication, however does not include a citation for specific information and/or education for those who may be quarantined at home.
The State has developed a method to provide information to households under voluntary quarantine and a method of identifying those households.	1	State has a plan to provide information to the public but is not clear on how they will target information to households in voluntary quarantine.
The State has designed an interview form and has distributed it to local health departments to capture demographic characteristics of household members (both ill and contacts) and has a developed a clear plan for how these data will be collected.	2	State plans to modify existing surveillance forms and has a clear plan on how to collect data, but is not clear on what data will be collected and how it will be used.
The State has worked with local health departments to create plans for follow-up (monitoring) of known or suspected households under voluntary quarantine in the community at the State/local level.	1	State will work with local public health staff to monitor households under suspected quarantine, however plan does not include questions that will be asked on follow-up, or describe frequency on the monitoring
The State has provided guidance to local public health departments for their work with community organizations to distribute medications, vaccine and other subsistence (e.g. food, water, if needed) items to households in isolation.	1	State has a plan, however it is not clear if guidance has been distributed to local public health departments or if the local health departments have actually established agreements with community organizations to distribute materials, medications etc. to those in isolation

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Supporting Activity	Rating	Comments
The State has outlined a process to use by local health departments to identify vulnerable populations and to make plans for support and outreach to these populations during a pandemic.	1	The state is working on this plan. They are currently in the process of identifying members to participate in the planning process.
The State has advised local health departments to conduct outreach to community and faith-based organizations to develop plans that will be coordinated with those organizations for meeting the needs of vulnerable households who may be quarantined during a	2	The state currently has a subcommittee of the statewide pandemic influenza planning committee to develop a plans to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, however it is not clear if the plans have not yet been fully developed.
The State has developed a plan to monitor the implementation of and effectiveness of community mitigation interventions.	1	The state has a plan, however, the survey tool is not yet developed
Activity Added by State		
Subobjective B.3.3 - Develop clear policies and procedures for advising social distancing practices in the community and at the worksite.		
The State has developed specific recommendations for community social distancing. Include the levels of social distancing that will be recommended based on the Pandemic Severity Index.	3	The plan has been developed
The State has recommended to local health departments to conduct outreach to community partners to promote social distancing including public transportation, operators of large venues for sporting events and other activities, businesses, education, faith-	3	The state has provided education and training to local health department staff on social distancing and other non-pharmaceutical interventions - educational materials are also available.

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Supporting Activity	Rating	Comments
The State has developed processes for distribution on informational materials to workplaces and the community at large explaining the rationale and steps to take regarding social distancing.	3	State has a variety of materials available for distribution including a website for the public to access for information regarding pandemic influenza.
The State has disseminated guidance to local health departments to share with community businesses and organizations for canceling large public gatherings.	3	State has included guidance to local public health agencies to share with businesses and community organizations on how to cancell large public health gatherings
The State has identified processes to help businesses to encourage ill employees to stay home and identify ill individuals in the workplace (including guidance regarding who needs to be sent home or for treatment and where they should go).	2	State has been working with state personnell offices on policies related to sick leave policies for pandemic influenza, however state should develop specific processes that will encourage ill persons to stay at home
The State has identified processes to help businesses adjust leave policies to facilitate sick employees to stay home.	2	The state is working with personnel to identify specific processes to assist businesses to institute leave policies related to pandemic influenza.
The State has an identified process for monitoring the secondary and tertiary effects of community mitigation interventions and recommended solutions to prevent excessive community disruption.	3	State has specifc plans or this process
Activity Added by State		
<i>Respond</i>		
<b>Sub-objective B.3.4 - Implement steps for cessation of community mitigation interventions</b>		
List steps for recommending cessation of community mitigation activities. Include clear triggers for these recommendations that follow CDC guidance for cessation of community mitigation interventions.	3	State has specifc steps in place to accomplish this objective

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Supporting Activity	Rating	Comments
Identify the State spokesperson who will provide messages to local health departments, the public and the media to cease community mitigation interventions during the recovery stage, as well as the second person in the line of succession for this function	3	State has identified essential spokespersons who will provide information to the public on issues and activities related to pandemic influenza.
List steps the State will take to provide recovery/reopening guidance to businesses, workplaces and large venues for sporting events and other activities that closed during a pandemic.	3	State has identified essential spokespersons who will provide information to the public on issues and activities related to pandemic influenza including when to open large public venues and businesses
List steps the State will take to monitor the effects of the cessation of community mitigation interventions.	3	State has steps identified
Activity Added by State		
<b>SUM OF RATING</b>	<b>64/81</b>	
<b>CORRESPONDING PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>80%</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>A FEW MAJOR GAPS</b>	<b>NOTE: Columns B and C are hidden</b>