



**REGION 11
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM
POLICY**

Title: Hospital Preparedness Program

Section: Hospital

Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium

Effective: December 17, 2025

HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Regional Hospital Coordinating Center (RHCC): The lead hospital in a specific Public Health and Medical Services Response Region (PHMSRR) / EMS region responsible for coordinating disaster medical response upon the activation of the [IDPH Emergency Support Function \(ESF-8\) Plan](#).

II. HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) shall distribute federal grant funds as available to hospitals and as identified by IDPH. The Chicago Public Health Department (CDPH) is a separately funded jurisdiction in the federal Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and works directly with the Region 11 RHCC to ensure the preparedness of all Chicago hospitals. This coordination happens primarily through the regional healthcare coalition: The Chicago Healthcare System Coalition for Preparedness and Response (CHSCPR).
- B. All hospitals regardless of whether they receive federal funds are required to meet the appropriate tier level classification, participate in IDPH's preparedness activities, and comply with IDPH rules. Each hospital shall meet the minimum disaster/all-hazards requirements outlined in one of the tiers below.

II. HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM TIERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Tier Level 3 – Participating Hospitals

1. Designate a contact person for disaster/all-hazards preparedness. This person should be registered with the CHSCPR (<https://chscpr.org/>) and listed in EMResource (<https://emresource.juvare.com/login>)
2. Participate in disaster/all-hazards planning and disaster/all-hazards exercises on a regional basis.
3. Have reference information on treatment of biological agents on site or post the phone number of Illinois Poison Center (IPC).
4. Implement the System-Wide Crisis Policy and the IDPH ESF-8 Plan and provide ongoing education to staff on both.
5. Have functional medical emergency radio communication of Illinois (MERC1) radio and redundant hospital to hospital communication.
6. Develop a plan to identify, receive, and distribute the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile and/or the State Pharmaceutical Stockpile to hospital staff.
7. Make training in the recognition and treatment of weapons of mass destruction available to the hospital staff.
8. Maintain disaster bags and supplies as outlined in the IDPH ESF 8 Plan.



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B. Tier Level 2 - Non-Regional Hospital Coordinating Centers

This level includes all hospitals that are not Regional Hospital Coordinating Centers (RHCC) as identified in the IDPH ESF 8 Plan. These hospitals include Resource Hospitals, Associate Hospitals and/or trauma centers as designated by IDPH.

1. Meet all Tier Level 3 capabilities as outlined above.
2. Have communication capability with prehospital care personnel.
3. Assist with disaster planning and exercises.
4. Provide list of staff to a RHCC as part of a Regional Emergency Medical Response Team (REMRT), if available.
5. Resource Hospitals Only – Act as a resource for disaster planning and actively participate in the development, education, and implementation of the Regional Response Plan. The Regional Response Plan is developed by the Regional EMS Advisory Committee. In Region 11, CHSCPR maintains an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and hazard specific annexes complementary of Region 11 EMS response plans and the IDPH EST-8 Plan. EMS stakeholders are engaged in EOP review and approval.

C. Tier Level 1 – Regional Hospital Coordinating Centers (RHCC)

A Tier Level 1 hospital is the highest level for a preparedness hospital. A Tier Level 1 hospital shall be an IDPH-designated RHCC hospital as identified in the IDPH ESF8 Plan. The Region 11 IDPH-designated hospital is Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center (AIMMC).

1. Meet all the requirements of Tier Level 3 and Tier Level 2 capabilities as outlined above.
2. Identify a disaster preparedness coordinator to work with the State coordinator for planning and response. As Chicago is a separately funded jurisdiction, in Region 11 the RHCC identifies a coordinator to work with the CDPH HPP coordinator. CDPH and the State work collaboratively on state and regional response plans and during response activations, as appropriate.
3. Perform as the lead hospital in a regional or State preparedness exercise.
4. Perform as the lead in planning and developing a Regional Response Plan, including but not limited to the following: inter-hospital transfers; intra-region transfers; medical surge; disaster bags; medical response teams; and the dissemination of information as it pertains to EMS system activities and the reporting and feedback of such information for EMS providers and emergency departments within the region. Identify members of the regional healthcare coalition committee, including, at a minimum:
 - a. Emergency Physicians
 - b. EMS Coordinators from Resource & Associate Hospitals



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- c. Designated contact disaster person at Participating Hospitals
- d. Local health department representative
- e. Hospital administrator
- f. Hospital security representative
- g. Physician specializing in pediatrics, trauma, and obstetrics
- h. Representative from a specialized hospital/rehabilitation center
- i. Representative from police, fire, and EMS (public and private providers)
- j. ED Nurse Manager
- k. Infectious disease physician or registered nurse
- l. Legal representative

5. Maintain regional response equipment and identify staff for a REMRT as available.

6. Support training and educational programs for health professional staff in region.

III. SELECT EMERGENCY PLANS REFERENCED

A. Region 11 EMS

- 1. System Wide Crisis Policy

B. CHSCPR

- 1. Emergency Operations Plan
 - a. Communications Annex
 - b. Medical Surge Annex (Including Burn and Pediatrics)



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REGION 11 HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM TIERS

This list includes only hospitals located within the City of Chicago

TIER LEVEL 1 – REGIONAL HOSPITAL COORDINATING CENTERS (RHCC)

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center (Region 11)

TIER LEVEL 2 - NON-REGIONAL HOSPITAL COORDINATING CENTERS

Advocate Trinity Hospital
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Ascension Saint Joseph Hospital - Chicago
Community First Medical Center
Holy Cross Hospital
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
Mount Sinai Hospital
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Prime Healthcare Resurrection Medical Center
Prime Healthcare Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital
Rush University Medical Center
UChicago Medicine

TIER LEVEL 3 – PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS

Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital
Humboldt Park Health
Insight Hospital & Medical Center
Jackson Park Hospital & Medical Center
Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Loretto Hospital
Provident Hospital of Cook County
Roseland Community Hospital
Saint Anthony Hospital
South Shore Hospital
St. Bernard Hospital & Health Care Center
Thorek Memorial Hospital
UI Health