

Wilson County Emergency Operations Plan

Public Health Outbreak/Pandemic Event

I. Purpose

This section predetermines actions to be taken on a county level to provide for the care of public service personnel and citizens in the event of a public health outbreak/pandemic event.

II. Situation, Assumptions and Concept of Operations

A. Situation

- A public health outbreak/pandemic event will impact a large portion of Wilson County.
- It will be necessary to coordinate health response activities between local, state, federal, and private resources.
- Facilities (mass care and treatment) will need to be established for care and application of protective measures for both public service personnel and private citizens.
- All local government entities within Wilson County will need to share information regarding available personnel and facilities.
- Wilson County Health Department is the leading authority and the legally responsible entity for information and direction in the event of a public health outbreak/pandemic event and maintains an operations plan specifically designed for this type of an event as well as a plan for implementing the Strategic National Stockpile if needed. These plans are maintained by the HD Preparedness Coordinator.

B. Assumptions

- A situation of this type will heavily tax all public safety response and medical agencies within the county.
- Impact of a situation of this type can be diminished by limiting public gatherings.
- A large portion of public service and private medical personnel will be unavailable to report for duty due to impact on themselves and their families or may be unwilling to report for duty due to fear of infection. This will place further constraints on response capability.
- Mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions may be unavailable to respond due to impact within their own jurisdiction.

- Mutual aid from non-impacted areas of the state or outside the state may be unwilling to respond for fear of infection.
- Adequate medications for large numbers of people may be unavailable.
- News media will be placing unusually high demands on public service entities.
- A potential lack of personnel at retail facilities will make staple items difficult to obtain.
- Other services (electrical and water distribution, public transportation, governmental services, etc) may be impacted.

C. Concept of Operations

- The Wilson County Health Department, by NC statute, will be the lead agency in the event of a public health outbreak/pandemic event.
- The Wilson County Health Director or designee will assume the role of incident commander. Public health personnel will also assume the role of Operations Section Chief. The Wilson County Public Health Pandemic Plan will be activated.
- Other modules within the Operations Section will be established as needed and will be managed by respective operational supervisory personnel.
- The Wilson County Chairman of the Board of Commissioners will declare a countywide state of emergency if necessary. Emergency action, under the authority of the state of emergency will be implemented as necessary by order of the Incident Commander.
- Activities will be coordinated between local, state, and federal entities.
- All departments and agencies of Wilson County will assist as needed within the scope of their operational procedures.
- The Wilson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated if needed and will serve as EOC and multi-agency coordination center.
- Wilson County Emergency Management will assume the Planning Section Chief responsibilities and will utilize public health personnel as Technical Specialists.
- As needed, external resource requests will be made through existing mutual aid agreements and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.
- A Joint Information System will be established to provide information to the media and the public.

- Public service personnel will be provided necessary personal protective equipment.
- Public service personnel will be provided protective medications based on potential for exposure.
- Non-essential services may be terminated during the event to limit the potential for further spread.

(08 January 2009)