

# Purpose of the Plan and the Guiding Principles

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**The purpose of the DHSS pandemic influenza plan is to assist public health officials and health care providers in preparing for and responding rapidly and effectively to an influenza pandemic.** The current plan has been updated in accordance with the federal guidance documents issued since 2006 and most recently after the novel H1N1 pandemic.

This plan is designed primarily to guide the operational response of the state response to pandemic influenza in Missouri, though segments of information contained within the plan will prove useful to guide activities of planners at the local level and to the general public. The plan is intended to provide the processes and informational resources for an effective response of DHSS to pandemic influenza. An effective response will reduce the impact on public health (i.e., reduce illness and save lives) and maintain essential services while minimizing economic loss.

The plan outlines general responsibilities for functional components and describes the concept of operations. The plan is intended to be further supplemented by other more detailed plans and guidance relative to the functional components, much of which is found in the technical support annexes, and can be deviated from as needed if better evidence and direction becomes apparent. This plan for pandemic influenza response integrates with the current DHSS Emergency Response Plan and the SEOP which would direct these activities into National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant Incident Command System (ICS) as needed and as further described in the “Concept of Operations” section.

## Guiding Principles

DHSS will be guided by the following principles in initiating and directing its response activities:

- 1) DHSS will follow the guidance and direction of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Pandemic Influenza Response Plan
- 2) DHSS will follow the concepts and principles of the National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in planning and response.
- 3) DHSS will work to build a flexible response system determined, in addition to the above, by the epidemiological features of the virus and the course of the pandemic.
- 4) DHSS will provide honest, accurate and timely information to the public.
- 5) In advance of an influenza pandemic, DHSS will work with federal, state and local government partners, and the private sector to coordinate pandemic influenza preparedness activities to achieve interoperable response capabilities.
- 6) In advance of an influenza pandemic, DHSS will encourage all Missourians to be active partners in preparing local communities, workplaces and homes for pandemic influenza and will emphasize that a pandemic will require Missourians to make difficult choices.
- 7) DHSS will strive to ensure that preparations made for an influenza pandemic will benefit overall preparedness for any public health emergency or disease outbreak and serve to build capability and capacity to protect the health of all Missourians.
- 8) In advance of an influenza pandemic, DHSS, in concert with federal and local partners, will work to achieve statewide reliable, efficient and rapid distribution mechanisms for vaccine and antiviral drugs through the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and local stockpiles.

- 9) DHSS will work with the federal government to procure virus vaccine and distribute it to LPHAs for pre-determined priority groups, based on pre-approved local plans, or as the epidemiology of the pandemic dictates.
- 10) DHSS, in collaboration with federal and local partners, will begin to distribute and deliver antiviral drugs from public stockpiles to health care facilities and others with direct patient care responsibility for treatment of the ill from the novel influenza virus.