

Northampton County Emergency Operations Plan

3.8 ESF #8 - Public Health and Medical Services

Primary Department

Northampton County Emergency Medical Services

Primary Support Agency

Virginia Department of Health - Eastern Shore Health District

Support Departments

Northampton County Emergency Management
Northampton County Cooperative Extension Service
Northampton County Sheriff's Office

Other Support Agencies

Riverside Shore Memorial Medical Center
911 Communications Center
Community Services Board
Eastern Shore Rural Health Regional Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)
American Red Cross – Salisbury, Maryland
Virginia Funeral Directors Association
Virginia State Police

Purpose

ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) coordinates the provision of medical care and the dissemination of public health information necessary to support an emergency response, recovery effort, or other disaster assistance initiative.

Scope

This annex identifies the key policies, concepts of operations, roles and responsibilities, and capabilities associated with ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) in Northampton County. Specific operating procedures and protocols are addressed in documents maintained by the participating departments/agencies.

Potential operations include the following:

- Identifying health hazards
- Disseminating public health information
- Conducting triage and providing treatment
- Operating field hospitals
- Controlling patient loads at hospitals
- Importing medicines, medical professionals, or supplies into the affected area
- Offering crisis counseling
- Organizing disaster assistance teams

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ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) Primary Department	Roles/Tasks
<p>Preparedness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop MAAs with other governmental agencies and private-sector organizations to assist during a medical emergency, to include any incidents impacting access and functional needs populations. • Conduct annual ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) exercises to test and validate the capability of the ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) annex. • Conduct an impact evaluation of prior ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) efforts and other studies, as needed, to improve future operations. • Integrate planning efforts with the Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness
<p>Response – Initial Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to the EOC or make initial contact with the EOC via telephone within one hour of activation, or as directed. • Establish communication links with support agencies, healthcare units, and organizations. • Obtain an initial medical situation report through established intelligence procedures; determine the appropriate management response to meet the request for assistance; obtain and distribute, through appropriate channels, incident contact information to emergency responders mobilized through ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services).
<p>Response – Continuing Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain, maintain, and provide incident situation and damage assessment information through established procedures. • Coordinate resource needs, and determine and resolve, as necessary, issues regarding resource shortages and resource ordering issues. • Coordinate the transportation of seriously ill or injured patients. • Implement provisions for mass fatalities • Monitor the health of the general population and access to functional needs populations. • Coordinate behavioral health response to provide psychological aid for victims, families, and the overall community. • Coordinate public information with the County PIO function. • Coordinate with appropriate state and/or federal agencies. • Maintain a complete log of actions taken, resource orders, records, and reports. • Consult with the Eastern Shore Health District Surge Capacity Plan.
<p>Recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid in the restoration of permanent healthcare systems in order for them to return to normal operational status. • Aid in the restoration of pharmaceutical services in order for them to return to normal operational status. • Aid in the restoration of the local emergency services infrastructure until the system returns to normal operational status. • Maintain communications and situational awareness with the Virginia Department of Health. • Continue providing epidemiological surveillance, as necessary and required.

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ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) Primary Support Agency	Roles/Tasks
Virginia Department of Health – Eastern Shore Health District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct annual ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) exercises to test and validate the capability of the ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) annex. • Work with healthcare facilities to develop protocols for patient discharge, evacuation, and relocation in the event of a medical disaster emergency. • Develop protocols and procedures to protect the public from communicable diseases. • Develop protocols and procedures to monitor public health information. • In coordination with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, develop plans and procedures to identify, transport, process, and release fatalities during a disaster incident. • Report to the EOC or make initial contact with the EOC via telephone within one hour of activation, or as directed. • Establish communication links with support agencies and healthcare units and organizations. • Determine the status of the MRC and evaluate the need for its deployment. • Determine if there is a need to implement the Strategic National Stockpile program. • Obtain, maintain, and provide incident situation and damage assessment information through established procedures. • Coordinate resource needs, and determine and resolve, as necessary, issues regarding resource shortages and resource ordering issues. • Coordinate behavioral health response to provide psychological aid for victims, families, and the overall community. • Aid in the restoration of permanent healthcare systems in order for them to return to normal operational status. • Aid in the restoration of pharmaceutical services in order for them to return to normal operational status. • Maintain communications and situational awareness with the Virginia Department of Health. • Continue providing epidemiological surveillance, as necessary and required. • Plan for and identify locations that can possibly be used as alternate care sites in the event a healthcare facility is unavailable during a medical disaster emergency. • Develop protocols and procedures to interact with Disaster Mortuary Operational Readiness Teams. • As necessary, coordinate with ESF #13 (Public Safety and Security) to provide security to any food/water sources.

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ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) Support Departments	Roles/Tasks
<p>Northampton County Emergency Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure NIMS concepts and principles are integrated into all planning efforts. • Maintain a resource inventory list of all medical and nonmedical supplies in the County. • Obtain an initial medical situation report through established intelligence procedures; determine the appropriate management response to meet the request for assistance; obtain and distribute, through appropriate channels, incident contact information to emergency responders mobilized through ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services). • Collect, compile, and report information and data, as appropriate. • Identify and develop MAAs with private-sector organizations capable of assisting with decedent services during a medical disaster emergency. • Coordinate with ESF #1 (Transportation) for medical equipment, supplies, human blood, organs, and tissues. • Assist ESF #10 (Oil and Hazardous Materials Response) in making public safety recommendations for hazardous materials incidents. • In cooperation with ESF #11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources), ensure the safety and security of regulated foods. • In cooperation with ESF #11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources), ensure the safety and security of food-producing animals. • Coordinate with ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Resources) to provide medical support to mass care facilities. • In coordination with ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Resources), provide psychological support to displaced populations. • In coordination with ESF #6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Resources), ESF #9 (Search and Rescue), and ESF #11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources), support the care and well-being of household pets, and service and companion animals.
<p>Northampton County Cooperative Extension Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support in matters pertaining to agricultural food sources and outbreaks among livestock.
<p>Northampton County Sheriff's Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide security services, as needed, for food/water sources. • Provide security at the scene of a large-scale medical incident.

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ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) Other Support Agencies	Roles/Tasks
Virginia State Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide security services, as needed, for food/water sources. • Provide security at the scene of a large-scale medical incident.
Virginia Funeral Directors Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in services for handling mass fatalities. • Conduct surveillance to identify casualty trends.
Riverside Shore Memorial Medical Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop protocols for patient discharge, evacuation, and relocation in the event of a medical disaster emergency. • Develop protocols to decompress a facility in the event of a medical surge event. • Aid in the restoration of permanent healthcare systems in order for them to return to normal operational status. • Report bed vacancy to the County EOC. • Provide means for disposal of medical waste.
Eastern Shore Rural Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide nursing staff and medical supplies to support medical operations.
Regional MRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify medical personnel who can be deployed to disaster areas. • Coordinate the deployment of medical personnel.
911 Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatch and track County EMS resources. • Communicate status of County EMS to EOC. • Coordinate with EOC to request additional resources as incident dictates.
American Red Cross – Salisbury, Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide medical personnel as available to assist in public health needs. • Acquaint families with available health resources and services. Support reunification efforts.
Community Services Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services for the psychological support of displaced populations. • Provide SME for access and functional needs populations.