







New Hampshire's Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

While the hope is that community transmission will be limited, the New Hampshire (NH) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and partners have been preparing for a potential influenza pandemic for many years. In addition to developed state and regional emergency response plans, which can be readily adapted for COVID-19, the partnerships built through this planning and through prior emergency responses position NH well to respond to COVID-19. Public health emergency preparedness and response activities are organized in six domains based on the capabilities that states are required to develop when receiving federal public health emergency preparedness funding.

 <p>Incident management: Coordinating an effective response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH DHHS Incident Management Team activated on Feb 2nd to coordinate the state's response Incident briefings held Mon/Wed/Fri with situation summary reports issued to responders 	 <p>Biosurveillance: Investigating and identifying health threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspect case identification and investigation Traveler monitoring Coordination of specimen collection and testing Implementation of local testing capability
 <p>Information Management: Making sure people have information to take action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health alert messages with guidance and information issued to healthcare and public health partners Statewide webinars held to share updates, guidance, and answer questions Regular messaging to public on personal prevention through traditional and social media platforms Availability of 24/7 phone line to answer healthcare provider and public questions State and CDC COVID-19 websites are available and updated regularly 	 <p>Surge Management: Expanding medical services to handle large events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring healthcare equipment and supply needs Procurement of PPE for state cache Plans and procedures in place to access strategic national stockpile Federally-funded state contract in place to maintain NH's statewide healthcare coalition to support healthcare preparedness and response Medical surge planning teams established with stakeholder participation
 <p>Countermeasures and Mitigation: Getting medicines and supplies when and where they are needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State authority to implement isolation and quarantine in place to mitigate spread Travelers from China are being self-quarantined CDC guidance is available for making decisions around community mitigation strategies (e.g. school closures) Personal prevention strategies are widely promoted NH's Regional Public Health Networks stand ready to vaccinate the public when a vaccine is available 	 <p>Community Resilience: Preparing for and recovering from emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular coordination and communication with federal, state, and local partners State and local community partners are distributing state and CDC information Guidelines issued to assist businesses, schools, and healthcare facilities to prepare for COVID-19 NH's Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team is available to provide support to communities