



## South Carolina Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Report November 1, 2022

*This report is submitted by the Department of Health and Environmental Control in compliance with General Appropriations Act of 2021-2022, Part 1B, Section 34.31.*

### **South Carolina's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness**

**Planning:** DHEC maintains the *Pandemic Influenza Plan* and the *Medical Countermeasures Plan* to guide South Carolina's response to a pandemic influenza event. These plans will be supplemented by a new *Respiratory Pandemic Response Plan* and an updated *Infectious Disease Plan*, both to be published in late 2022. These plans will serve as "parent" documents for the *Pandemic Influenza Plan* and the *COVID-19 Response Plan* and are guiding documents for the *Medical Countermeasures Plan*. These plans will capture lessons learned and best practices from the COVID-19 response. DHEC and partners will:

- Provide current public health information regarding the pandemic.
- Encourage and facilitate provider participation in influenza surveillance.
- Test laboratory specimens for public health surveillance purposes.
- Receive, allocate, and distribute federal public health resources.
- Manage public vaccine and/ or antiviral sites.
- Coordinate the distribution of pandemic influenza vaccine.
- Coordinate response for health care service delivery.
- Facilitate communication with response partners.

**Medical Countermeasures Readiness:** The Medical Countermeasures Plan outlines how the State may distribute federal public health resources to the people of South Carolina during a public health emergency. Updates to the Medical Countermeasures Plan are scheduled for quarter four 2023. An intra-agency Medical Material Distribution and Dispensing Synchronization Committee involving Preparedness, Immunizations, COVID-19 and Nursing staff will have an inaugural meeting in 2022. The Synchronization Committee will streamline agency wide plans, policies, and preparedness strategies involving the distribution and dispensing of all medical material during a public health emergency.

**Distribution:** DHEC successfully implemented portions of the MCM Plan in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic the state of South Carolina has distributed more than:

- 12 million PPE products
- 2,099,500 COVID-19 Vaccines <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Does not include federal direct shipment to providers via commercial distributors.

- 97,400 COVID-19 Therapeutics

**Stockpile:** DHEC maintains a cache of 500 antiviral courses to support early public health response in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak.

The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) maintains a cache of personal protective equipment, ventilators, oral, IV, and Inhalation antiviral drugs specifically to prepare for a pandemic flu. Supplies in the SNS can be delivered to requesting states in 48 hours or less.

In 2021 DHEC and SCEMD established a state PPE stockpile. More than 22 million products are managed at the stockpile including:

- 14 million Gloves
- 2 million N94, N95 and KN95 Masks
- 2 million Surgical Masks
- 290,000 Cloth Masks
- 900,000 Gowns

**Training and Exercise:** Beginning July 1, 2019, DHEC implemented a new training program to align with the CDC's pandemic flu response guidelines. The program establishes readiness to vaccinate:

1. Critical workforce personnel with two doses of pandemic influenza vaccine, separated by 21 days, within four weeks of influenza vaccine availability, and;
2. 80% of the state's population with two doses of pandemic influenza vaccine, separated by 21 days, within 12 weeks of pandemic influenza vaccine availability.

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Training and exercises emphasize timely general population vaccination. Analysis indicates that if vaccine supply had been unlimited during the COVID-19 pandemic, South Carolina's participating providers could reach the goal to vaccinate critical workforce personnel classified in phase 1A in four weeks. Vaccination of 80% of the general population may require up to twenty-eight weeks without additional resources and community participation.

	Population Size	Providers	Statewide Weekly Capacity	Weeks Until Complete
<b>Critical Workforce<sup>2</sup></b>	280,000	950	260,000 <sup>3</sup>	4
<b>80% of General Population</b>	3,700,000			28

The following matrix outlines the status of planned exercise activities relating to pandemic influenza preparedness over five years beginning July 1, 2019 to align with Public Health Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement.

<b><u>Planned Pandemic Influenza Activities</u></b> <b><u>July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024</u></b>		
<b><u>State</u></b>	Update state Pandemic Influenza Plan.	Pan Flu Plan updates will be performed once the new parent document is complete. The Respiratory Pandemic Response Plan is under development. Completion is expected in late 2022.
	One Functional Exercise focusing on vaccination of at least one critical workforce group.	Requirement fulfilled. DHEC coordinated vaccination clinics for First responders including EMS and police during the COVID-19 pandemic. This requirement has been reset for a new 5-year grant cycle beginning in 2023.
	Demonstrate operational readiness through the completion of a Distribution Full-Scale Exercise once every five years.	Requirement fulfilled. DHEC has performed more than 780 days of consecutive distribution of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical supplies for COVID-19 pandemic. This requirement has been reset for a new 5-year grant cycle beginning in 2023.
	Complete three annual drills.	Requirements are fulfilled by daily COVID-19 activities. Sustainment drills will resume in 2023.
<b><u>Public Health Regions</u></b>	Vaccine clinic set up checklist complete.	Requirements are fulfilled by daily COVID-19 activities. Vaccine clinic set up exercises will resume in 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Critical Workforce does not include vulnerable populations included in phase 1 of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>3</sup> Analysis assumes that each provider has 2 vaccinators, working 5 days a week and 7 hours a day. The calculation is based on CDC formula and planning recommendations. Large providers have higher throughput. The majority of providers remain small medical practices and pharmacies.

	Tabletop Exercises	Regional tabletop exercises will resume in 2023.
	Vaccination drill.	Requirement fulfilled. DHEC has the capacity to administer 14,500 vaccinations per week at agency specific locations. Drills will resume in 2023.
	One Functional Exercise	Regional functional exercises requirements were met by COVID-19 activities. This requirement has been reset for a new 5-year grant cycle beginning in 2023.
	Full Scale Exercise within five years.	Requirement fulfilled by DHEC's testing and COVID-19 vaccination sites. This requirement has been reset for a new 5-year grant cycle beginning in 2023.

**Improvement Planning:** An After-Action Review (AAR) of the COVID-19 pandemic response was conducted and published in April 2022. An improvement plan is in development.