

Madison County Incident Specific Annex – Ebola Virus Disease

Coordinating Agencies

Madison County Emergency Management

Primary Agencies

Madison County Health Department

Non-Governmental Organizations

American Red Cross

Mississippi Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

Mississippi Licensed Hospitals

Mississippi ESF-8 Healthcare Coalition

State Coordinating Agency

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency

Mississippi Department of Health

State Cooperating Agencies

Mississippi Board of Animal Health

Mississippi Department of Education

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration

Mississippi Department of Human Services

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

Mississippi Department of Public Safety

Mississippi Department of Transportation

Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission

Mississippi Military Department

Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning

Mississippi State Board of Community and Junior Colleges

Office of the State Medical Examiner

Introduction

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is the lead agency for disease prevention and control. During normal operations, MSDH responds to numerous infectious disease outbreaks of varying types and magnitude. If an event occurs that presents an imminent threat to the public, or exceeds the county Health Department's day-to-day capacity, the Madison County Emergency Management Agency may, at the discretion of the Board of Supervisors, activate the Madison County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Upon activation, Madison County EMA will coordinate local-level emergency management activities and the engagement with other stakeholders, including local, state and tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, other states, and the private sector.

Purpose

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), previously known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains. Ebola can cause disease in humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees). The purpose of this annex is to establish a framework for a coordinated local response to one or more suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola Virus Disease within the county.

Scope

In conjunction with the Madison County CEMP, this annex establishes specific policies and guidelines for the county when responding to a:

- monitored international traveler who becomes symptomatic for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)
- contact of a suspect or confirmed Ebola patient
- suspected or confirmed case of Ebola Virus Disease

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This annex provides structures for implementing local-level policy and operational coordination. It can be partially or fully implemented in anticipation of a significant event, or in response to an incident. Selective implementation allows for a scaled response, delivery of the exact resources needed, and a level of coordination appropriate to the incident. It is also used when Madison County's capabilities are exceeded, and State government response is requested.

Situation Overview

Ebola viruses are found in several African countries. Ebola was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in Africa.

The natural reservoir host of Ebola virus remains unknown. However, on the basis of evidence and the nature of similar viruses, researchers believe that the virus is animal-borne and that bats are the most likely reservoir. Four of the five virus strains occur in an animal host native to Africa.

The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa. Symptoms of Ebola include:

- Fever
- Severe headache
- Muscle pain
- Weakness
- Fatigue
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal (stomach) pain
- Unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising)

Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola, but the average is 8 to 10 days. Signs and symptoms of EVD are also symptoms of other, more common illnesses like influenza. This may become a complicating factor during influenza season.

Recovery from Ebola depends on good supportive clinical care and the patient's immune response. People who recover from Ebola infection develop antibodies that last for at least 10 years.

Ebola virus causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever with a high fatality rate. Ebola virus can be transmitted by direct contact with blood, body fluids, or skin of EVD patients or persons who have died of EVD. Several U.S. healthcare personnel working in West Africa have become infected with EVD and have returned to the United States for evaluation and treatment. In addition, people in several states who have had recent travel to West Africa and have developed fever and other symptoms have been evaluated at U.S. hospitals for possible EVD. The U.S. has seen imported cases, locally acquired cases in healthcare workers and deaths from EVD.

Assumptions

- Local agencies and non-governmental organizations will develop plans to accomplish roles and responsibilities listed in this annex.
- The spread of disease will be minimized through active monitoring of international travelers and contacts of suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

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- There are sufficient statutory authorities to enact appropriate isolation and quarantine measures as needed.
- Currently there is no known cure or approved vaccine for EVD.
- Space will be available in a designated Madison County isolation and treatment facility or regional bio-containment unit to receive suspected or confirmed cases of EVD.
- Every licensed hospital in Madison County will have sufficient personal protective equipment, trained staff, processes and procedures to identify a potential EVD patient, isolate that patient, properly handle any medical waste and contact the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) for further guidance.
- Confirmed EVD patient waste will be transported, with appropriate federal permits, to an approved medical incinerator.
- State teams and assets will be available to assist Madison County if there is a confirmed case of EVD.
- The Local Joint Information System will be activated to provide the timely release of accurate information coordinated across involved agencies should the state identify a suspected or confirmed case of EVD.
- Bodies of confirmed EVD patients will be cremated and the ashes returned to appropriate family members.

Concept of Operations

This annex incorporates the concepts and requirements found in federal and state laws, regulations and guidance. It takes into consideration the regulations and guidelines found in the Madison County CEMP, National Response Framework (NRF), and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Furthermore, this annex identifies the responsibilities and actions required to protect lives, property, and the environment as it relates to Ebola Virus Disease.

This plan takes into account the involvement of various local, state, tribal, and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector that should develop, exercise, and maintain individual emergency operations plans.

The Madison County Emergency Management will coordinate the mobilization of local resources to assist local and state response efforts and coordinate requests for additional support from federal and interstate resources. The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) will be the coordinating agency for response operations and will work within existing coordination and communication structures as appropriate. However, a request may be made for the Governor to declare a state of emergency (MS Code 33-15-11) to enact emergency powers and enhance the ability to support response operation for any of the following reasons:

- The scope of coordination exceeds the capacity of MSDH to manage it, requiring the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center.
- The scope of response becomes, or is anticipated to become, too costly to accommodate with existing funds.

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- The response includes significant federal involvement requiring specific coordination systems to be in place.
- There is a need for agencies and/or individuals to operate outside of existing rules/regulations for a temporary period of time.

Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

Madison County and Subsequent Municipalities

Madison County has the responsibility for emergency action, direction, control and coordination through both its elected and appointed officials. Tribal, county and municipal governments will function in an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) event in accordance with local laws and community requirements. To prepare for an EVD event, these jurisdictions and public health entities are responsible for coordinating healthcare activities within the community and should work with local hospitals and other local ESF-8 partners to:

- Improve information sharing and communication with medical care providers and healthcare organizations.
- Ensure managers of 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), EMS Agencies, EMS systems, law enforcement agencies, fire service agencies and other responding agencies review the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) guidance for EVD.
- Conduct contingency planning, training and exercises for an EVD event.
- Monitor costs associated with an EVD event.
- Coordinate with MEMA consistent with the Concept of Operations in the CEMP Base Plan.

In the event of a suspected or confirmed EVD patient, the local or tribal government is primarily responsible for the safety and security of the residents and properties related to the patient. This includes the decontamination of any settings where an individual with confirmed Ebola has been known to have spent time while symptomatic and the sheltering, housing, and support needs for any contacts of the EVD patient that are identified by MSDH.

State

- Various state agencies and non-governmental organizations are tasked to offer support and resources for preparedness, response and recovery from an EVD event.
- The Governor is responsible for declaring that a state of emergency exists, and at such time, directs all available state and local resources, as reasonably necessary, to cope with the event utilizing National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) doctrine. This includes the designation of a state level Incident Commander (IC) as needed.
- The State of Mississippi is responsible for providing assistance to any political subdivision within the state that requests emergency assistance.

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- The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) will coordinate and mobilize state resources as needed.
- The MEMA Director will execute intrastate and interstate agreements and compacts as needed.
- The MEMA Director will work with the Office of the Governor to request federal or state funding as required.
- The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) will be the coordinating agency for response operations and will work within existing coordination and communication structures as appropriate.

Primary State Agencies

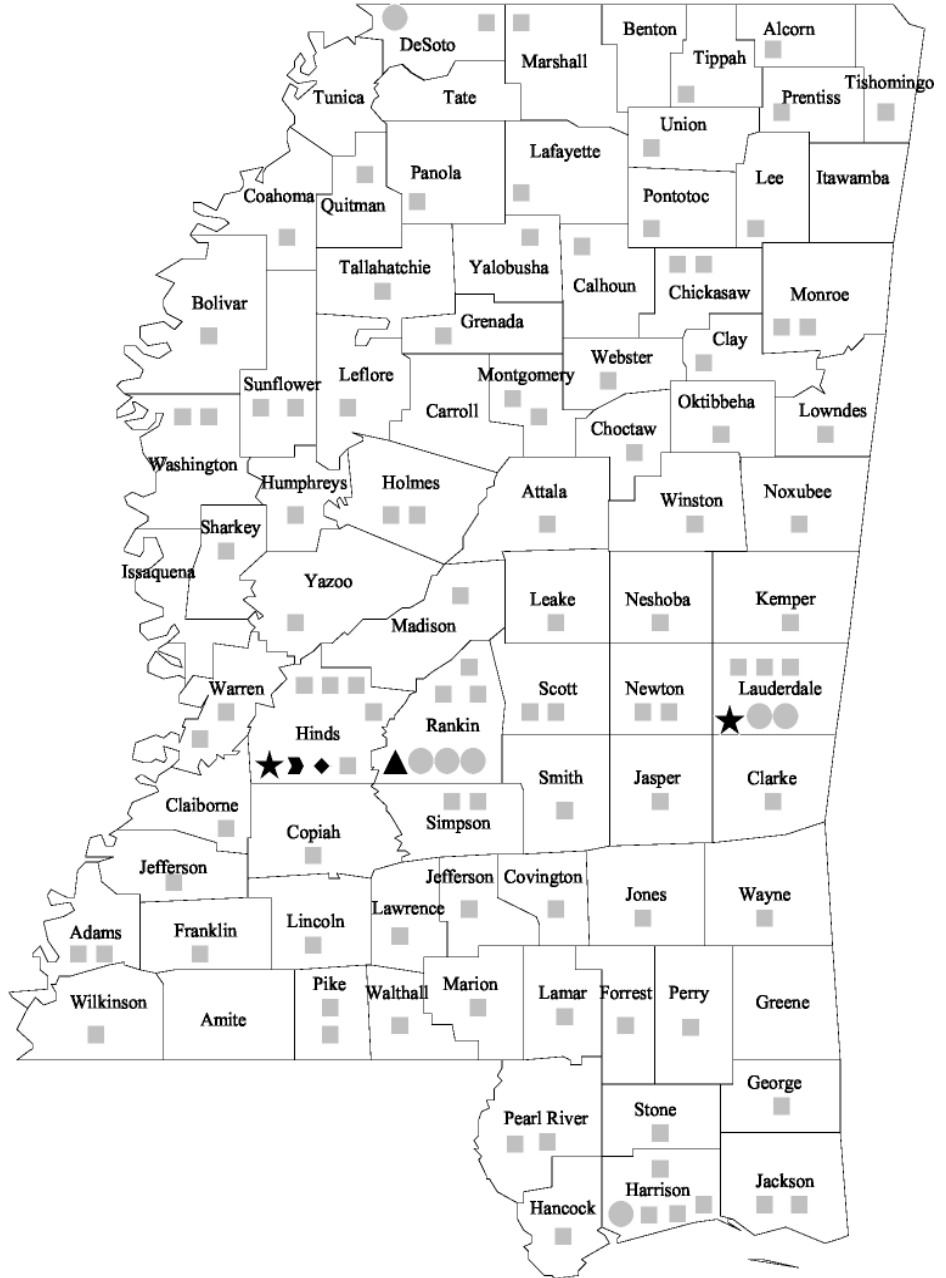
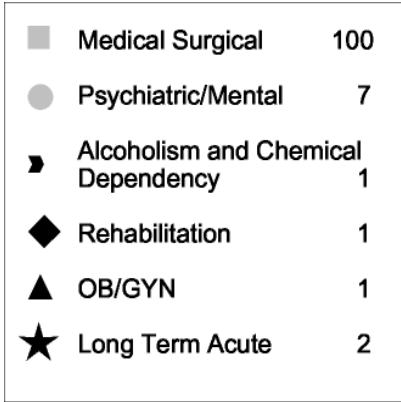
Madison County Health Department

- Madison County Health Department will be responsible for coordination of all operational components of the EVD event including assistance to fatality management. Coordination functions and command responsibilities related to public health operations will be accomplished at the Madison County Emergency Operations Center.

MSDH

- Plan, recruit, train, and exercise personnel to include traveler and contact monitors, coordination teams, transportation teams, and fatality management teams.
- Review and upgrade capabilities and capacities as needed.

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Note: Type of facility indicated represents the one category selected by the facility as being the best description of the type of service provided to the majority of admissions.

Includes East Mississippi State Hospital, Mississippi State Hospital, Oak Circle Center, and Whitfield Medical Surgical Hospital.