



Health / Medical Emergency Response: Infectious Disease Plan

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Purpose, Scope, Situation overview and Assumptions

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for health and medical coordination in support of emergency events at the University of Kansas. This document can provide the mechanism for personnel and resources to support prevention, preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation in support of the primary emergency management objectives.

Scope

This document is an independent document that is meant to supplement the University of Kansas Emergency Management Plan, Pandemic Planning documents, and associated plans at the Watkins Health Services. This document describes the actions required to coordinate public health and medical services during a disaster. It addresses:

- Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department notification, coordination and response
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) activities
- Coordination among community hospital partners
- Mass fatality partnerships
- Community planning with other health care providers
- Behavioral health (mental health) activities

Situation Overview

Most of the agencies involved in public health and medical services activities throughout the University of Kansas and the community have existing emergency plans and procedures. This document is not designed to take the place of those plans, rather it is designed to complement, support, and reference existing plans and procedures.

For this document, public health and medical services include: medical needs associated with behavioral health needs of victims and responders, medical needs of "at risk" populations, and environmental health concerns associated with activities that support an emergency or disaster response.

Capabilities Assessment

The University of Kansas has and maintains medical staff and facilities at the Watkins Health Services Facility during regular business hours. Watkins Health Services is the organization that is responsible for regular and urgent care for students at the University of Kansas. Overall emergency response capabilities are outlined in the University Emergency Management Plan:

Concept of Operations (General)

Normal Operations

During times of normal operations the health and medical section will be operated by this Emergency Support Function Coordinator. Normal operations will be conducted at the Watkins Health Center and will comply with Standards Operating Procedures that are currently adopted for use by their health facility.

During normal operations Watkins Health Services is able to provide services in the following areas:

- General Health
- Sexual Health
- Mental Health
- Nutrition & Fitness
- Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Other Health Topics

Emergency Operations

When conditions exceed the capabilities of Watkins Health Services, services will transition from “Normal” to “Emergency” operations. There are many conditions that Watkins Health Services may not be able to handle adequately due to a lack of facilities, staff or resources. During times of emergency operations, the health facility will continue to operate to the maximum extent feasible and will use mutual aid support from the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and Lawrence Memorial Hospital when available.

Watkins Health Center has the ability to provide a sufficient level of emergency care to the University of Kansas; however, the facility and staff are primarily focused on preventative care and general practice, and therefore, would require assistance from the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Emergency Operations at Watkins Health Center will be accomplished in accordance with the Watkins Health Services Emergency Response Plan that is maintained locally.

The decision to activate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be made in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the Emergency Management Plan and by the direction of the Emergency Manager.

Information collection and Dissemination

During times of disaster information flow will be critical for an effective and efficient response. Information will be gathered from all sources and compiled into situation reports using the WebEOC interface. This information will allow the University Administrators to make executive decisions regarding the status of the emergency. WebEOC is useful as a tool for remotely monitoring the status of the disaster, while limiting individual’s exposure to each other during a possible pandemic event.

All information that is disseminated to the public should be done so through the University of Kansas Public Affairs department, in coordination with the Douglas County Public Information Officer working group. This will ensure that there is a consistent and accurate message provided regarding the status of the disaster or pandemic event.

Communications efforts, processes, and procedures will be accomplished in accordance with the University of Kansas Emergency Management Plan.

Direction and Control

Operations will be guided by Watkins Health Services senior staff and actions will be coordinated with the KU EOC and Douglas County EOC, and/or incident command. Depending on the situation, some operations may be conducted with the use of external direction or control and will be coordinated with Watkins Health Services senior staff.

During a state of emergency, University of Kansas health and medical response activities will be coordinated through the KU EOC; which will serve as the source of all direction and control. The KU EOC will provide mission assignments, mutual aid, contracts for goods and services, and recovery and mitigation activities.

During emergency activations, all management decisions regarding University of Kansas are made through the University of Kansas EOC. The Incident Command System structure will be used at the University of Kansas to assist the incident commander in carrying out the overall mission. Resources for response are scalable, depending on the type, size, scope and complexity of the emergency or disaster.

A staffing directory for the EOC is available in the Emergency Management Plan.

Logistics

During times of disaster there will be a need for resource management to help support the medical response actions. Requests for equipment, supplies, or personnel, will be processed through the EOC by the Emergency Manager. Resource management processes will be completed in accordance with the University Emergency Management Plan, which outlines the procedures for submitting logistics and resource requests. This process is standardized to ensure the accuracy and timely procurement of all items.

Note: Specific Logistics processes and procedures relating to emergency response, are outlined Watkins Health Center Emergency Plan. Requests for supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile must be made through Douglas County Emergency Management.

In some situations, Watkins Health Services may procure equipment and supplies through vendors and suppliers without a formal logistics request. However, as much as possible during an emergency, logistics requests will be coordinated with the KU EOC.

Mutual Aid

Not all emergency situations will be within the capabilities of the University of Kansas. Emergencies that are beyond the capabilities that currently exist within the University of Kansas will require requests for assistance. When the University has exhausted its resources, request for mutual aid will be made with neighboring agencies, counties, the State of Kansas and private organizations that can provide assistance. The process of requesting mutual aid is outlined in the University Emergency Management Plan and is consistent with the Douglas County Emergency Operations Plan, and the State of Kansas Emergency Response Plan. The University of Kansas and Douglas County are part of the pre-established state mutual aid agreement.

Communications

The University currently has a communications plan that guides communications during a disaster. The communications plan is part of the Emergency Management Plan. Communications for all emergencies will be in compliance with the Emergency Management Plan's communications plan; however, there may be communications efforts outside of what is documented in that plan, specifically for a health-related emergency (e.g. disease or virus outbreak or pandemic). During health-related emergencies, communication efforts will be coordinated through the KU EOC, Watkins Health Services, and University Public affairs.

The University of Kansas is a member of the county wide Public Information Officer group. Communications during a crisis will utilize this group as a means of providing timely and accurate information to the University, and Lawrence community.

Command, Control, and Notification

This document is organized to be consistent with the University of Kansas Emergency Management Plan, the requirements of the National Response Framework, the National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System (ICS). This structure and system supports incident assessment, planning, procurement, deployment, and coordination and support operations to the University of Kansas EOC, and Coordination with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, to provide a timely and appropriate response to an emergency or situation.

Procedures, protocols and plans for disaster response activities are developed to govern staff operations at the University of Kansas EOC. These are in the form of the Emergency Management Plan and corresponding appendices, including this document. Periodic training and exercises are also conducted to enhance effectiveness.

In a large event requiring local, county, or state mutual aid assistance, University of Kansas Emergency Management will work with Douglas County Emergency Management, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Department and Lawrence Memorial Hospital to seek, procure, plan, coordinate and direct the use of required assets and personnel. All agencies involved in the response effort will complete response actions in accordance to ICS principles.

When an event is focused in scope to a specific type or response mode (e.g. hospital evacuation, biological threat, hazardous materials release, pandemic disease or radiological event) technical and subject matter expertise may be provided by an appropriate person(s) from a supporting agency with skills pertinent to the type of event, who will advise and/or direct operations within the context of the ICS structure.

Throughout the response and recovery periods of a disaster, agencies/departments identified in this document will provide information regarding the situation and their response efforts directly to the University of Kansas EOC. Notification will be accomplished in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Watkins Health Services Emergency Response Plan

If additional support is necessary, agencies/departments will contact the KU EOC and/or the Watkins Health Services, in accordance with the communications procedures and processes outlined in the Crisis Communications section of the Emergency Management Plan.

Continuity of Operations

Continuity of operations establishes policies and guidance to ensure the essential business functions of the healthcare system at the University of Kansas are continued in the event that a manmade, natural or technological emergency disrupts or threatens to disrupt normal business operations. Watkins Health Services is in the process of establishing a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

Medical Surge

In the event of a disaster or emergency, it may be necessary to use surge capacity to provide emergency care and appropriate definitive management of patients. Watkins Health Services has limited resources for handling extremely critical patients or large numbers of patients. Watkins Health Services would utilize Lawrence Memorial Hospital as the primary location for care of patients originating from the University of Kansas. The Douglas County Emergency Operations plan and Lawrence Memorial Hospital Emergency plan outline the surge capacity available to our jurisdiction. The hospital has internal policies, plans, and procedures for patient surge within their facilities, including requesting medical material and pharmaceuticals and coordinating mass fatalities.

The University of Kansas EOC and Douglas County EOC would coordinate with the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Emergency Room (through a hospital liaison) to maintain awareness of the availability of beds at hospital and/or the need to send patients to surrounding counties. Hospitals in the northeast region of Kansas will be requested to update their bed availability at the time of a disaster or large-scale emergency through a HAvBED alert initiated at the regional and state level.

Watkins Health Services has limited access and capabilities for decontamination. The health center has some trained individuals who can assist and perform decontamination activities for patients arriving from the scene of emergencies and disasters, but would rely heavily on mutual aid from Lawrence / Douglas County Fire Medical and the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The numbers of patients seen, their disposition, and the status of these patients will be coordinated with the EOC as requested. Hospitals will follow HIPAA regulations when reporting patient information.

In the event KU is in need of additional transportation to health and medical facilities outside of the University of Kansas, the EOC will coordinate with transportation authorities to procure transport. Transportation needs will be accomplished in accordance with the University of Kansas Emergency Management Plan, and in coordination with Douglas County Emergency Support Function #1.

Epidemiology and Surveillance

Watkins Health Service is responsible for conducting disease surveillance and investigation throughout the University of Kansas and will coordinate actions with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, who is responsible for surveillance and investigation throughout the County.

Fatality Management

The University of Kansas recognizes the need to coordinate with local agencies and resources to plan for and respond to an incident resulting in catastrophic loss of life. Natural disasters frequently overwhelm local systems that care for the deceased. Consequently, the responsibility for the immediate response falls on local organizations and communities. Management of the dead requires coordination of body recovery, short and long-term storage, identification, burial arrangements, and support of victims and relatives.

University of Kansas EOC will coordinate with Douglas County EOC to access the county coroner, and local funeral directors to ensure required resources, assessment activities, and the responsible agencies implement appropriate plans through coordination with the State Funeral Directors Association.

Following an emergency, University of Kansas EOC, in coordination with its partner organizations, will assist or help identify resources to support the local district coroner, medical professionals, and law enforcement agencies in:

- Establishing temporary morgue facilities;
- Collecting ante mortem data in a compassionate and culturally competent fashion from authorized individuals;
- Performing postmortem data collection and documentation;
- Coordinating with behavioral health, social workers, counselors, and community mental health centers in support of victims and relatives.

During an event, first responders will follow appropriate policies, procedures, and guidelines to ensure safety precautions are appropriate and implemented.

Pre-hospital Care

The University of Kansas promotes local and regional coordination and cooperation in emergency pre-hospital care for mass casualty events, including those that involve students, faculty, staff, or children. During an emergency, pre-hospital care may involve more than one jurisdiction, therefore the Incident Command System will be used to help standardize organizational structure and common terminology and to ensure a useful and flexible management system is practical for incidents involving multi-jurisdictional and multi-agency response. Medical mutual aid may be necessary and implemented during a mass casualty or large-scale emergency.

Medical Countermeasures

The primary goal of the University of Kansas mass dispensing program is to provide life-saving medical countermeasures to the KU community in response to a health and medical emergency. This program will be coordinated by Watkins Health Services with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. Watkins Health Services uses the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Mass Dispensing Standard Operating Guide (SOG), which will be used during an emergency as a guide for providing vaccines and pharmaceuticals at Point of Dispensing (POD) sites for the public.

Medical Material Distribution

If local supplies and resources are exhausted or near exhausted, Watkins Health Services will make a resource request through KU EOC who will coordinate with Douglas County EOC for fulfillment. University Emergency Management Liaison will coordinate all requests with Douglas County Emergency Management and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

During extreme cases, State and Federal medical material and pharmaceuticals may be available to the University of Kansas. To access Strategic National Stockpile resources, Watkins Health Services will make a request through the KU EOC. The KU EOC will then coordinate the request with Douglas County Emergency Management for approval. The Douglas County Emergency Manager is the local position that has authority to make requests for access to the Strategic National Stockpile.

Specific procedures for requesting supplies, equipment, and vaccines are outlined in Standard Operating Procedures at Watkins Health Services. Requests will be coordinated through the KU EOC, Douglas County EOC, and Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department?

Health and medical entities have processes in place for requesting medical countermeasures, including but not limited to, the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), CHEMPACK (nerve agent and organophosphate antidotes), and Chemical Event Shipping Supply Location (CESSL) program.

Non- Pharmaceutical Interventions

The Kansas Isolation and Quarantine statute (K.S.A. 65-129) provides the template for control efforts in cases of large-scale outbreaks of naturally occurring diseases, like pandemic influenza, SARS or Ebola. Watkins Health Services and/or the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department may also issue advisories or recommendations for the closure of public buildings, events, and activities.

When necessary, the Emergency Operation Center will engage Public Safety and law enforcement to ensure the safety of public and community members related to isolation and quarantine.

Watkins Health Center maintains an appropriate HVAC system which is an essential tool for the control of infection. The health center has one negative pressure room and procedures to keep contaminants and pathogens from reaching surrounding areas within the facility. These procedures are outlined in internal Watkins Health Services policies and will be activated as outlined in those policies to prevent cross-contaminations from room to room. For larger and/or longer duration incidents, Watkins Health Services would be quickly overwhelmed and would ask for assistance from Lawrence Memorial Hospital and other mutual aid as available.

Responder Health and Safety

Health and medical officials at the University of Kansas may be requested to provide information related to agents or diseases and appropriate measures to take to protect the health of medical personnel and emergency services responders. Officials may be asked to serve as subject matter experts and information resources to make health and safety recommendations to incident management staff and safety officers.

The University of Kansas has adopted the processes and procedures for responder health and safety outlined by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Center for Disease Control, particularly for infections and pandemic diseases.

Watkins Health Services has access to personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure the safety and health of first responders.

Volunteer Management

Watkins Health Services may access the Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers (K-SERV) through the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. This system can be utilized as a volunteer database at the local and state levels. Each facility should utilize internal policies and procedures for verifying and credentialing. If volunteers are needed, Watkins Health Services will make a request through KU EOC who will coordinate the request through Douglas County EOC. Additional volunteer resources may be requested through the logistics resource request process.

The University of Kansas has a memorandum of understanding with the American Red Cross to provide sheltering and other services. The university would utilize the United Way to provide direction, control and tracking of spontaneous and unaffiliated volunteers following an emergency or disaster on campus. Douglas County also has a memorandum of understanding and agreements with multiple public, private and non-profit organizations that may be available to assist the university in times of disaster.

Behavioral Health

Watkins Health Center is home to the University of Kansas Behavioral Health Professionals, through the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS). This organization is responsible for providing mental and behavioral health services to students, and would be tasked with providing services to students, staff, faculty, responders, and the community following a disaster.

In the event that more mental health services were needed than are available at the University, the KU EOC will coordinate with Douglas County EOC to promote behavioral health response and recovery needs. Douglas County mental health is provided by Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center. Their resources would be requested to provide mental health on campus following a disaster. The Kansas All Hazards Behavioral Health Team may be used to provide additional mental health support.

Infectious Disease and Pandemic Plan

Executive Summary

There are many different infectious diseases that are prevalent through the world and can cause pandemic or epidemic if a large unprotected population is exposed. A pandemic is a disease outbreak that is global, and an epidemic is a disease outbreak that is limited to a community. Historical pandemics have caused massive health issues across the globe. It is difficult to predict when the next pandemic will occur and what impact it will have on the University of Kansas community, but this advanced planning document will provide some general guidelines, should an infectious disease outbreak occur.

Flu pandemics have occurred with some regularity when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity, and for which there is no vaccine. Influenza is a disease that spreads easily from person to person, causes serious illness, sweeps across the country and around the world in very short time and can overwhelm all existing support systems.

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever saw a record number of cases in 2014, causing fears of pandemic conditions. Ebola transmission between individuals is much more difficult than influenza, but there is no known vaccine for Ebola. As a result, there is a very high mortality rate associated with Ebola.

The University of Kansas, in response to global concerns about infectious diseases, has created this plan to guide our decision making when confronted by an infectious disease pandemic. The plan is consistent with and closely linked to the pandemic preparedness plans/guidelines of the World Health Organization, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Douglas County Emergency Management Plan, and the KU Emergency Management Plan.

The purpose of this infectious disease and pandemic response plan is to provide an outline/guide for timely and informed decision making as information regarding the unique aspects of an emerging pandemic becomes available.

The goals of the Pandemic Response Plan are:

- To save and protect lives and property.
- To insure institutional continuity and recovery.

Assumptions

The University of Kansas must consider the following unique aspects of an infectious disease and pandemic in comparison to other types of emergencies:

- Slow onset.
- Extended event/Long term impact.
- Global/Community-wide impact.
 - The University will be working with community and public health officials to define and implement appropriate responses/decisions. See Interim Pre-pandemic Planning Guidance:

- Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation in United States (see Appendices C, E and F).
 - Community/State/Federal resources will be profoundly overwhelmed and limited. Consequently, the University will need to depend on own resources.
- Pandemic waves will repeat several times over a period of 1-2 years.
 - Each wave estimated to last 6-8 weeks.
 - Closure of campus 8-12 weeks (to include 2 incubation periods without further disease before outbreak declared to be over).
- The mortality rate is speculative but could be as high as 50-60%.
 - Young healthy adults may be hit hardest by the virus.
 - Limited availability of effective pharmaceuticals and vaccine.
 - Federally funded programs to handle large numbers of fatalities will be overwhelmed. We will, therefore, need to work closely with our local emergency responders and coroner.
- The availability of staff and services will be significantly reduced (25-33%) due to:
 - Illness of staff and/or family.
 - Closure of schools/childcare services.
 - Restriction of travel.
- In the event of class cancellation or campus closure, not all KU students will be able to go home. Housing and other basic life support services will need to be provided to:
 - Students who are ill.
 - Students who have been exposed.
 - Students who are unable to travel home (ex: international students, student who have no available transportation).
 - Students living in the community who are unable to provide basic life support services for themselves.
 - Disaster preparation and emergency response for people with disabilities (see Appendix D)
- In the absence of a vaccine and/or widely available medication, the most effective means of controlling the spread of the virus will be social distancing. For purposes of this plan, we have assumed the implementation of the Social Distancing Policy (see Appendix B) during WHO Phase 6.

Authority and Succession

During emergency situations, including a pandemic, the line of succession is:

- Chancellor
- Provost
- Sr. Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs
- Vice Provost for Scholarly Support
- Vice Provost for Faculty Development
- Police Chief
- Assistant Police Chief

Response Guide Format

Pandemic Response Levels

- The University of Kansas is a member of the global community.
- Consequently, the University's response to a pandemic will be based upon a combination of the Pandemic Response Phases of the World Health Organization (WHO) and on the Response Levels of the University of Kansas Emergency Management Plan:

Response Outcomes

The University's response must address the following specific outcomes:

Leadership

The University's infectious disease and pandemic response will be guided by the members of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Management Group and KU Executive Policy Group. Large-scale policy decisions will be made and implemented during the evolving and extended timeframe of the pandemic.

Community Support/Service

The University's infectious disease and pandemic response efforts will be well coordinated with all relevant external partners.

Essential Services

The identification of essential services/operations and supplies/resources that must be maintained in order to:

- Facilitate the University's responses.
- Protect and serve the human populations on campus.
- Assure the security of the campus.
- Protect the assets of the organization.
- Protect research projects.
- Care for the animal populations on campus.

Fatality Management

The University will work with relevant community partners (Lawrence / Douglas County Fire Medical and Coroner) in order to appropriately dispose of human remains in association with DMORT (federally coordinated effort of forensic experts and mortuary personnel) guidelines. These actions are outlined in this document and are consistent with ESF-8 from the Douglas County Emergency Operations Plan.

Healthcare Delivery

The utilization of all available resources will be required to meet the outpatient healthcare needs of the student and the Lawrence Community. This process is outlined previously in this document. Watkins Health Services will guide actions for processes not described in this plan and will coordinate with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, as necessary.

Infection Control/Social Distancing

Infection Control – Limiting the spread of the virus by providing:

- Training/Education:
 - Personal prevention measures
 - Promote the receipt of annual vaccination (for influenza)
 - Public health messages
 - Special needs of travelers
- Engineering controls: Altering the environment to impede the spread of the virus
- Administrative controls: (e.g. health screening of returning travelers from pandemic areas)
- Altered work practices: Altering regular work practices in order to reduce personal contact with others. Work will be accomplished to the maximum extent feasible via telephone, email, webinar, etc.
- Personal protective equipment for identified staff as well as symptomatic patients.

- Isolation of symptomatic students who are residing in University housing and are unable to leave campus.
- Quarantine of students who have been exposed but are not yet ill.

Social Distancing

The purpose of social distancing is to reduce the amount of time that individuals are in direct contact with each other. There are recommended measures to reduce the frequency, proximity and duration of contact between people. Some examples of social distancing:

- Cancellation of classes/special events.
- Elimination of services delivered to groups.
- Reduction/Elimination of work practices in group settings.
- Housing of a-symptomatic students who are residing in University housing and are unable to leave campus.

Learning Continuity

Learning and the delivery of education to students are essential functions of the University of Kansas that should be maintained to the maximum extent possible. In the event of an infectious disease pandemic that impacts the University, the Chancellor has final authority to cancel or reschedule classes. Communication and clarification on the status of the University will be handled as follows:

- Decisions regarding the cancellation of classes, events and research associated with the University's mission will be made available. This will be accomplished via all means available (email, text messages, KU alerts page, etc)
- Identification and implementation of systems and processes to support distance learning during the pandemic stage should be identified in advance. It may be possible to deliver some class material over webinar or teleconference. Capabilities relating to the Continuity of Learning is an area that requires continued improvement.
- Identification of existing research activity efforts that should be sustained during the pandemic and the appropriate actions to be taken regarding those that are not sustained.

Operational Communications

All available campus resources will be utilized to ensure that all stakeholders have access to consistent, accurate and timely information. Communications efforts should be conducted in accordance with the University Emergency Management Plan.

Public Information/Media

During an infectious disease outbreak or pandemic, the University of Kansas will provide accurate and timely information regarding the University's plan and response activities. Public information will be delivered by the University Public Information Officer and coordinated through the Douglas County Public Information Officers Group, if necessary.

Vaccination/Prophylaxis Distribution

The mass distribution of vaccine/medications to members of the University and citizens of Douglas County will be guided by the Center for Disease Control, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. In the event that there are no vaccinations available for an infectious disease, the University will follow recommendations from these agencies on how to best treat patients to help protect life safety.

Unit Specific Plans

In accordance with the University's Emergency Management Plan, all units/departments must prepare emergency planning guidance for their organization. The preferred method for unit/department preparedness documentation to be completed is in the form of Continuity of Operations Plans. Factors that are unique to a pandemic should be included in that document. Continuity of Operations Plans are developed and maintained in the BOLD planning solutions website (kansascoop.boldplanning.com)

Development, Maintenance & Training of Pandemic Response Plan

This plan will be updated regularly by the University of Kansas Emergency Management Coordinator. Training will be accomplished by emergency management staff, Watkins Health Center Services, and University Administration.