

# Oklahoma Catastrophic Health Emergency (CHE) Plan



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Oklahoma State Department of Health  
Creating a State of Health

**Executive Summary**  
**December 18, 2018**

Oklahomans are uniquely familiar with disaster preparedness and response. This is aptly demonstrated by the recognized tradition of the “Oklahoma Standard” when others in our Nation refer to our ability to respond. In today’s changed world, where the unimaginable has been realized, emergency response planning assumes renewed urgency. The principal responsibility of government is to protect the health, safety and well-being of its citizens. This responsibility must be exercised without unduly interfering with civil rights and liberties while allowing for the recognition of diverse cultural differences, norms and traditions. New threats and uncertainties - including acts of terrorism, resurgent infectious diseases and mass casualty incidents - pose serious and potential imminent threats to the population. These issues demand an integrated and coordinated planning effort in which response roles are realigned and new partnerships are forged.

The Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act (O.S. 63:6101) was enacted by Oklahoma’s leadership to secure Oklahoma, to protect the safety of Oklahomans and to ensure that our State is ready and able to provide a coordinated emergency response during disasters. The Act mandates a renewed focus on essential government functions pertaining to the prevention, detection, management, and containment of public health emergencies. The Act names the required membership of the Catastrophic Health Emergency (CHE) Task Force and details the thirteen functions to be included in the CHE Plan. The Act requires the plan be distributed to responsible parties, that interested persons and the public be allowed to review and comment and that the plan undergo an annual review. The CHE Task Force and numerous stakeholders worked diligently to compile and update the Catastrophic Health Emergency Plan.

Although this plan began as a response to possible terrorist acts, not all catastrophic health emergencies result from intentional or human-caused events. Our world and our State also continually face the threat of nature in the form of emerging infectious diseases. Public health and all state agencies along with the partners in the business and private sectors must prepare for a statewide response to outbreaks of highly contagious diseases, more specifically pandemic influenza. In history, pandemic influenza has caused high morbidity and mortality leading to severe disruption of the healthcare system, economy, and daily lifestyle. By planning and preparing for an event of this magnitude, Oklahoma will take one step closer to be prepared for nearly any catastrophic health emergency.

Oklahoma has long recognized these differences and relied upon the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management to develop, maintain and distribute the State Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The State EOP serves as a framework to assign disaster-related responsibilities to a variety of State agencies, commissions, and boards as well as non-governmental organizations. The State EOP is a living document that promotes disaster-related mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery efforts using an “all hazards” approach.

The CHE plan currently addresses thirteen functions identified in Title 63, Section 6105 by assigning responsibilities and framing standard operating guidelines. These thirteen functions are:

1. Notification and communication with the public
2. Central coordination of resources, manpower and services – State, Local, Tribal and Federal

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3. Location, procurement, storage, transportation, maintenance and distribution of essential materials (medical supplies, drugs, vaccines, food, shelter, clothing and beds)
4. Role of Law Enforcement
5. Method of evacuating people and housing/feeding evacuees
6. Identification and training of healthcare providers to diagnose and treat those with infectious disease
7. Treatment of those infected or exposed
8. Safe disposal of contaminated wastes and human remains
9. Safe and effective control of persons treated
10. Tracking the source and outcomes of infected persons
11. Ensure that each city and county identifies:
  - a. sites where medical supplies, food and other essentials can be distributed
  - b. sites where public health and emergency workers can be housed and fed
  - c. routes and means of transporting people and materials
12. Recognition of cultural norms, values, religious principles and traditions
13. Other measures deemed necessary

The Catastrophic Health Emergency (CHE) Plan serves as an addendum to Emergency Support Function #8, Health and Medical Service Annex of the State EOP. Likewise, the CHE Plan references several other existing plans and projects. The Oklahoma State Department of Health's (OSDH) Strategic National Stockpile and Mass Medication Plans, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's Mass Fatality Plan, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security's Strategic Plan, and the Oklahoma Management and Enterprise Service (OMES) requirements for disaster recovery and continuity of business operations are referenced.



## **CHE Function #1**

*Notification and communication with the public*

### **RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK Office of Homeland Security  
OK Office of Personnel Management  
OK Department of Public Safety  
OK Military Department  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
OK Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry  
Local County Health Departments  
All OK State Agencies, Commissions and Boards

The OK Department of Emergency Management, upon declaration of a Catastrophic Health Emergency (CHE), will establish a Joint Information Center (JIC) for the purpose of notifying and communicating with the public. The lead Public Information Officer (PIO), designated by the OK State Department of Health (OSDH), will work closely with the lead PIO from the OK Department of Emergency Management to coordinate support of PIOs from other supporting agencies. Official statements, notifications and instructions to the public will be made in accordance with the OSDH *Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications (CERC)* plan.

### **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK State Department of Health** will notify the healthcare system through the Oklahoma Health Alert Network (OKHAN), EMResource® (web-based hospital notification tool) and an internal recall of PIOs at Local County Health Departments. In coordination with all notified PIOs, and in accordance with the *CERC* plan, OSDH will develop and establish mechanisms to rapidly receive and respond to public requests for information via the telephone information line, emergency response Web sites, email inquiries, and agencies' social media accounts. In addition, OSDH will work with subject matter experts to create situation-specific fact sheets, frequently asked questions sheets and situational updates for media release. Event specific information related to the CHE will be updated on the OSDH website. Additionally, the OSDH PIO will work with [www.ok.gov](http://www.ok.gov) and **OK Human Capital Management** web administrators to provide, on their homepages, event related updates and/or links for state employees and public access.

The **OK Department of Emergency Management** (OEM) will establish and operate the JIC in a manner consistent with its *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #15)*. Information may be disseminated using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System



(IPAWS). This may include emergency broadcast over radio, television and wireless emergency alerts delivered to mobile devices.

**All supporting agencies, commissions and boards** will send appropriate representatives to the JIC.

The **OK Office of Homeland Security** will activate its “Threat Alert System,” including the notification of critical infrastructure through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) if the incident is terrorist related.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will activate an enhanced hotline for persons needing behavioral health counseling, and assist with the creation/dissemination of appropriate behavioral health materials

**CHE Function #2:**  
*Central coordination of resources, manpower and services –  
State, Local, Tribal and Federal*

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK Department of Emergency Management
  
- B. Supporting:**
  - OK State Department of Health
  - OK Office of Personnel Management
  - OK Military Department
  - OK Medical Reserve Corps
  - OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters
  - All Local, State, Tribal and Federal agencies
  - Non-Governmental Organizations

In times of disaster, support of Local Emergency Managers and partnering agencies through facilitation and coordination of resources, is the main objectives of the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In the event of a catastrophic health emergency declaration, such support will likewise be accomplished through the activation of the State EOC pursuant to the provisions of the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #5)*. The required State agency liaison officers will report to the State EOC to coordinate representative agency activities. Tribal authorities will coordinate primarily with Local representatives in the area of the incident and will work with the State EOC as necessary. Federal authorities may coordinate through the State EOC and/or establish a Federal Disaster Field Office. Local jurisdictions may activate Local EOCs to facilitate and coordinate the incident at the Local level.

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will activate the State EOC as detailed in its *State Emergency Operations Plan* and call upon and coordinate the provision of Federal mass care resources (food, water, cots, tents, etc.), as required.

The **OK State Department of Health** will activate the Situation Room (Health EOC) to coordinate requests for medical assets pursuant to a catastrophic health emergency. Additionally, a liaison will be sent to the State EOC to coordinate requests of unmet needs from the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) as well as keep the State EOC informed on health and medical activities occurring in the State. Based on the assumption that a catastrophic health emergency will exhaust state resources, OSDH, in coordination with the Office of the Governor and the OEM, will request Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets detailed in its *Oklahoma Strategic National Stockpile Plan*. In the event of a pandemic influenza, OSDH will also follow protocols as outlined in its *Oklahoma Pandemic Response Plan*. Regular updates will be provided to the Federal Health and Human Services Region VI Emergency Coordinator during any catastrophic health emergency.



The **OK Military Department** will follow their *JFHQ-OK Functional Plan to OK-Pandemic Influenza/Biological Threat* and support the pandemic preparedness, surveillance, response, and containment efforts led by the OSDH and support the civil authorities by fully integrating into the joint-interagency team at the State Emergency Operations Center coordinated by the OK Department of Emergency Management.

The **OK Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC)** will be activated by the OSDH to provide coordination of volunteer resources. These volunteers are pre-identified and pre-credentialed medical volunteers, as well as community volunteers that respond to public health emergencies.

The **OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (OKVOAD)** as well as various **non-governmental organizations** at both the State and Local level will be requested to provide and distribute prepared and shelf items (food/water) to displaced citizens and responders.

**All supporting agencies** will send appropriate representatives to the State EOC. In addition, each state agency may report workforce status to determine absenteeism rates and need for additional personnel during a pandemic influenza or other catastrophic health emergency that threatens to affect a large percentage of the workforce.

### CHE Function #3

*Location, procurement, storage, transportation, maintenance and distribution of essential materials (medical supplies, drugs, vaccines, food, shelter, clothing and beds) during a catastrophic health emergency*

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:

- A. Primary:** OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** OK Department of Public Safety  
OK Department of Transportation  
OK Military Department  
OK Office of Management and Enterprise Services  
OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters  
All OK State Agencies

Upon declaration of a catastrophic health emergency or upon the discovery of the need to mass medicate (immunizations, antivirals, prophylactic antibiotics or nerve agent antidotes) the public, the OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM) will support the OK State Department of Health (OSDH) with instituting procedures to obtain appropriate supplies. While the OEM coordinates logistical support for all responses as described in CHE Function #2, during a catastrophic health emergency the OSDH will focus on medical equipment and medications either using internal stocks, requisitioning instate supplies or by requesting medical materiel from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The SNS plan to request, receive, store, stage, inventory and distribute medication to dispensing sites is established, agreed upon by partner organizations and maintained as an operational plan pursuant to the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #8)*.

The SNS is a Federal program that provides medical supply assistance in the event of a public health or medical emergency, regardless of the cause. The program is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The State of Oklahoma and CDC have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the SNS. Oklahoma's plan is assessed annually to ensure maintenance and improvement.

CHEMPACK is a subset of the SNS that strategically pre-positions medicines in locations that can be accessed when needed to treat nerve agent attacks. CHEMPACK assets are to be used as a secondary defense whereas existing State and Local assets are the primary defense. CHEMPACK containers are strategically stored across the state whereby medical and response agencies can access them quickly.

DTPA (Diethylenetriamine Pentaacetic Acid) is another subset of the SNS that pre-positions a chelating agent used to treat individuals contaminated with plutonium, americium or curium. Oklahoma will pre-deploy this asset to locations within the state that can treat trauma victims



evacuated from a dirty bombsite, or first responders early on the scene without proper personal protective equipment.

Local planners (County/City Emergency Managers and OK State Health Department Local staff) are continuing to identify pharmaceutical caches that may be utilized in the event the SNS is not received in a timely manner. Local partners are coordinating efforts with area hospitals, pharmacies and medical suppliers. These efforts are being done in the event of a worst-case scenario where Locals may have to wait for receipt of State or Federal assets.

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK Department of Emergency Management** will coordinate requests for assistance. As well as coordinate the provision of the following: the delivery of Federal mass care resources (water, food, cots, tents, etc.), mass feeding, mass sheltering, emergency first aid, disaster welfare inquiry and bulk distribution of disaster relief supplies for disaster-displaced citizens and responders pursuant to the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Functions #6)* and the *Oklahoma Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan*.

The **OK State Department of Health** will maintain and upgrade the *Oklahoma SNS Plan* to coordinate the request of Federal mass care resources (pharmaceuticals, medical supplies & equipment, etc), continue to maintain internal stocks of medication (antibiotics and antivirals) and continue to maintain external partnerships to maximize stocks of vaccines, antivirals, antibiotics, nerve agent antidotes and chelating agents.

The **OK Department of Public Safety** will coordinate security in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #13)* as well as provide transportation or security escorts of the medication (pursuant to the *Oklahoma SNS Plan*).

The **OK Department of Transportation**, in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #1)* and the *Oklahoma SNS Plan*, will coordinate distribution, routes and means of transporting evacuees, materials and equipment with the assistance of identified support agencies.

The **OK Military Department** will provide transportation and security as coordinated by OK Department of Emergency Management in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan* and the *Oklahoma SNS Plan*.

The **OK Office of Management and Enterprise Services** will provide emergency assistance to procure goods and services that are required in an expedited manner.

**OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (OKVOAD)** at the State and Local level will be requested to provide support to responders and volunteers helping with mass care efforts in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #6)*.

## **CHE Function #4**

### *Role of Law Enforcement*

#### **RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK Department of Public Safety
- B. Supporting:** OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK State Bureau of Investigation  
OK Office of Homeland Security  
OK State Fire Marshal's Office  
OK Military Department  
OK Department of Transportation  
OK Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs  
OK Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry  
OK Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission  
OK Department of Wildlife Conservation  
OK Attorney General's Office  
OK State Department of Health  
OK Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services  
Tribal Law Enforcement  
Local County Health Departments  
Local Law Enforcement

The OK Department of Public Safety (DPS), upon the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will secure the delivery of medications and the state warehouse. Local Law Enforcement partners will secure Local county warehouses, delivery of medications, and mass medication sites, as well as ensure the safety of those providing and obtaining services at mass medication sites. In the event isolation or quarantine of individuals or groups is required, Law Enforcement will develop and initiate appropriate protocols, in cooperation with State Health Officials, in an attempt to control the inflow and outflow of all vehicular and pedestrian traffic of the isolated or quarantined area.

#### **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK Department of Public Safety**, upon declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will work with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) to determine the appropriate level of security needed for the event. If a quarantine or isolation is identified, DPS will establish a Mobile Command Communications and Operations Center at the scene to coordinate perimeter control and help establish designated transportation routes to and from the area. DPS will also coordinate the establishment of roadblocks by Law Enforcement to control both vehicular inflow and outflow around an affected area if quarantine or isolation is imposed. If the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is requested, resources will be directed at escorting and securing the assets from the state level to the local level pursuant to the *Oklahoma SNS Plan*.



The Oklahoma Highway Patrol's Aircraft Division will provide support in areas of fugitive apprehension, damage assessment, perimeter control or any other legitimate request for service as needed or required. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol's Lake Patrol Division will provide waterway support as needed or required. DPS will also coordinate any emergency relays of equipment, personnel and/or evidence to and from an event as needed or required pursuant to the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #13)* and Title 63 Section 6404.

The **OK Department of Emergency Management** will assist in facilitating and coordinating resources and agencies in support of the incident. This includes the request of emergency federal law enforcement assistance or federal military assistance outlined in the Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Act (42 U.S.C. 10501).

The **Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI)** has been mandated by the Governor of Oklahoma to prepare an internal standard operating procedure that identifies how the OSBI will respond to a terrorist act within the State of Oklahoma. For this procedure, a terrorist act is defined as, "a violent act, or an act dangerous to human life, in violation of criminal laws of the United States or of the State of Oklahoma, designed to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

If a terrorist event occurs on State governed land, OSBI will be responsible for coordinating the Law Enforcement activities of the State. All other State Law Enforcement agencies including DPS, OK State Fire Marshal's Office, OK Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS), OK Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (OBND), OK Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission, OK Department of Wildlife Conservation, County Sheriffs' Departments, Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies and Local Law Enforcement will assist the OSBI as needed or requested. The OK Military Department, the OK Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Oklahoma Attorney General's Office will also support Law Enforcement efforts as needed or required.

The **OK State Department of Health** will provide updated information about the delivery of medications and the exact location of mass medication distribution sites. Likewise, the OSDH will establish the terms, conditions, types, and methods of isolation or quarantine that may be necessary and coordinate a level of security necessary to maintain these conditions.

The **OK Department of Public Safety, the OK Department of Transportation and the OK Military Department** will provide security (under the direction of DPS), logistical support, transport and/or supply support for assets distributed from the warehouse to treatment areas and/or mass prophylaxis sites and provide for the utilization and assignment of military assets in support of the incident through the Director of Military Support.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will provide, coordinate and/or facilitate training, education and consultation, as necessary, to involved Law Enforcement agencies regarding the effects of traumatic stress on personnel and the public and coordinate provision of trained behavioral health personnel to assist in the response to and reduction of critical incidents during a catastrophic health emergency.

**CHE Function #5**  
*Method of evacuating people and housing/feeding evacuees*

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK Department of Emergency Management
  
- B. Supporting:** OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster  
OK Department of Transportation  
OK State Department of Health  
OK Department of Public Safety  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
Local County Health Departments  
Local Law Enforcement

The OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM), with assistance from supporting agencies identified in the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #6)* will coordinate mass care and emergency individual assistance. Local jurisdictions have Emergency Operations Plans that identify special populations that require assistance if an evacuation is ordered. OEM and OK State Department of Health (OSDH) will coordinate with Local jurisdictions on Access and Functional Needs populations and immediate needs for required medical or accessible transportation support.

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will support Local Emergency Management with the establishment of the methods/routes of evacuation and the availability of shelters. Public information regarding evacuation routes and available shelters will be shared by OEM through periodic situation updates. If warranted, evacuation and available shelter information maybe disseminated using the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). This may include emergency broadcast over radio, television and wireless emergency alerts delivered to mobile devices.

The **OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (OKVOAD)** at the State and Local level will be requested to provide mass feeding, mass sheltering, emergency first aid, disaster welfare inquiry and bulk distribution of disaster relief supplies for displaced citizens and responders.

The **OK Department of Transportation (ODOT)**, with the assistance of the identified support agencies and in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #1)*, will coordinate routes and means of transporting evacuees, materials and equipment.



The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** will provide updated information about terms and conditions requiring an evacuation due to a catastrophic health emergency. If public transportation is used for a mass evacuation, OSDH will provide public notices in all accessible formats including American Sign Language (ASL), concerning proper distancing and other non-pharmaceutical interventions that may be required to help contain spread of a disease.

The **Local County Health Departments** will conduct routine health and sanitarian checks at the sheltering site(s).

The **OK Department of Public Safety (DPS)** will ensure the safety of the evacuees during the evacuation process and will coordinate security with **Local Law Enforcement** at the sheltering site(s).

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will provide and/or coordinate provision of behavioral health support to those in sheltering sites and assist in providing messages to Oklahomans.

**CHE Function #6**  
*Identification and training of healthcare providers to diagnose and treat those with infectious disease*

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** OK Office of Homeland Security  
OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK Medical Reserve Corps  
OK State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision  
OK State Board of Osteopathic Examiners  
OK Nurses Association  
OK State Board of Nursing  
OK State Board of Pharmacy  
OK State Board of Dentistry  
OK Board of Social Workers  
OK Psychology Board  
Statewide Medical Response Systems  
Local County Health Departments

The OK State Department of Health (OSDH) continues to work with a broad range of public and private partners to offer current medical education to a variety of healthcare providers. The establishment of a coordinated, well-trained, pre-identified and credentialed Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) remains a priority of the OSDH, the OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM), the OK Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS), the OK Nurses Association and the Statewide Medical Response Systems. In addition to the medical support needed, community volunteers are an essential component during a catastrophic health emergency.

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** will communicate/coordinate medical response efforts with the OK Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC) and communicate/coordinate with other State agencies and associations, as needed, for identified support during a public health or medical emergency pursuant to the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #8)*. In addition, OSDH will support the OKMRC in day-to-day functions to ensure consistent statewide badging procedures and training opportunities.

Messages on current health situations will be sent to medical systems (hospitals, physician offices, EMS) across the state via the Oklahoma Health Alert Network (OKHAN), EMResource®, email, blast faxes or phone messages to ensure consistency in diagnosis and treatment. Additional response information may also be disseminated through the Medical Emergency Response Centers (MERCs) and/or WebEOC.



The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will assist with volunteer coordination, other than OKMRC, for support of warehouse operations, patient care sites and/or mass immunization/prophylaxis strategy (MIPS) planning jurisdictions.

The **Medical and Mental Health Professional Licensing Boards** (OK State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, OK State Board of Osteopathic Examiners, OK State Board of Nursing, OK State Board of Pharmacy, OK State Board of Dentistry, OK State Department of Health, OK Board of Social Workers, and the OK Psychology Board), Local County Health Departments, Oklahoma Nurses Association and the **Statewide Medical Response System** (Metropolitan Medical Response Systems (MMRS), Regional Medical Response System (RMRS), and Medical Emergency Response Centers (MERCs)) will be called upon to assist in the volunteer recruitment and credentialing efforts and will assist to communicate/coordinate staffing needs. They may also be asked to forward OSDH communications to ensure wide coverage and receipt of current health issues, diagnosis and proper treatment.

The **OK Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC)** will identify, organize, train and sustain a cadre of medical, public health and community volunteers in order to augment and assist local response personnel during catastrophic health emergency operations. In addition, the OKMRC will provide a database of pre-identified volunteers willing to respond by maintaining current and verifiable information regarding identity, training and credentials based on the federal Electronic System for Advanced Registration of Voluntary Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP) Program.

## **CHE Function #7**

### *Treatment of those infected or exposed*

#### **RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** OK Hospital Association  
OK Medical Professional Licensing Boards  
OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
OK Military Department  
OK Department of Public Safety  
OK Department of Transportation  
OK Medical Reserve Corps  
Regional Medical Response System  
Local County Health Departments

The Oklahoma State Department of Health, as the public health authority, will have a primary role in the receipt and distribution of prophylactic medications and/or vaccinations to persons exposed to a biological agent, and the coordination of State medical services to ensure treatment of mass casualties that may result during a catastrophic health emergency.

#### **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

Various program areas at the **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** are responsible for duties in the event of a catastrophic health emergency. These include (but are not limited to):

##### OSDH - Emergency Preparedness and Response Service

1. Activate and staff the OSDH Situation Room pursuant to the *Situation Room Activation Procedures*.
2. Provide space and support for individuals responsible for the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #8)* activities in the Situation Room.
3. Communicate incident response information with the Medical Emergency Response Centers around the state.
4. Communicate, if needed, with coordinating centers at the Tulsa Health Department and the Oklahoma City/County Health Department.
5. Communicate and coordinate medical response efforts with the State Medical Response Systems (Metropolitan Medical Response Systems, Regional Medical Response Systems and Medical Emergency Response Centers).
6. Monitor and assess hospital capacity status statewide through EMResource®.
7. Provide operational reports and briefings to senior OSDH staff.



8. Plan for anticipated and contingent needs and provide input to senior decision makers.
9. Communicate and coordinate with other State agencies as needed to support the care of patients statewide.
10. Coordinate medical and community volunteers' availability to support staffing shortages through the OKMRC and other volunteer support organizations.
11. Provide clinical treatment suggestions/options based upon available professional input.
12. Monitor hospital equipment and supplies, and coordinate requisition and distribution of supplies in coordination with the MERCs.
13. Coordinate and oversee the assignment and utilization of OSDH clinical personnel used in treatment facilities.
14. Coordinate with the OEM to request the activation, deployment and sustainment of National Disaster Management System personnel.
15. Coordinate with the OEM to request the activation and deployment of Office of Force Readiness and Deployment personnel.
16. Coordinate with the OEM to conduct the assessment, request, receipt and distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for needed medical equipment, supplies and medications.
17. Assist Local County Health Departments with the coordination of location, structure, supply and staffing of Mass Immunization and Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS) sites should they become necessary.
18. Activate internal public health response teams.
19. Develop, maintain, and distribute an *Adapted Standards of Care Guidance* document.

#### OSDH - Acute Disease Service

1. Perform surveillance and epidemiological investigations to determine the actual and potential spread of the disease by both geography and patient population.
2. Determine the need for immunization or prophylaxis of the exposed population.
3. Determine the population at-risk to receive vaccine or medical countermeasures and/or direct prophylaxis based upon the causative agent and established Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, when available.
4. Communicate disease and epidemiological information through the OK Health Alert Network (OK-HAN system) and Joint Information System (JIS).
5. Coordinate actions with public health workers at Local County Health Departments to ensure an integrated epidemiological response.

#### OSDH - Public Health Laboratory

1. Provide laboratory testing, when available, of clinical and/or environmental samples to identify the agent(s) involved.
2. Facilitate receipt, processing and shipment of specimens to other regional or national laboratories for confirmatory testing or further agent characterization.
3. Assist in providing guidelines to first responder, laboratory and medical personnel to ensure safe specimen collection, handling and transport.

#### OSDH - Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

1. Coordinate in-state EMS resources to ensure an adequate supply of both emergency and non-emergency transport units are available.
2. Coordinate and control out-of-state transport resources.
3. Provide authorization, guidance and coordination for the use of non-traditional modes of transport.
4. Assist with licensing/credentialing of out-of-state EMS personnel.

#### OSDH - Medical Facilities Service

1. Review and modify existing hospital regulations, or authorize emergency rules as needed to facilitate an effective response to the incident.
2. Authorize and provide regulatory guidance to the establishment of alternative care facilities.

The **Oklahoma Hospital Association**, during the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will:

1. Provide executive-level communications within the Oklahoma hospital system.
2. Provide public information about the hospital system's needs and response efforts to the Joint Information System for appropriate dissemination.
3. Assist the hospitals in the State with the application for financial support and reimbursement documentation.
4. Facilitate executive level decisions that will result in new or altered system policies and procedures.
5. Serve as the point of contact for hospitals and hospital systems outside of Oklahoma seeking information, offering assistance or requesting aid.

The Oklahoma Medical Professional Licensing Boards (**Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners, OK State Board of Nursing, OK State Board of Pharmacy, OK State Board of Dentistry, OK State Department of Health, OK Board of Social Workers and the OK Psychology Board**), during the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency will:

1. Provide information and notification, in coordination with the OK State Department of Health, to the medical professionals represented by the organization.
2. Assist with credentialing issues for medical personnel responding to patient care needs.
3. Assist with liability questions for medical personnel responding to patient care needs.
4. Establish an after-action review process with each respective professional discipline and provide OSDH with a post-incident analysis and recommendations.

The **Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will:

1. Process appropriate State or Federal Disaster Declarations and requests for federal assistance as appropriate.
2. In support of the OSDH act as a State-Federal interface for support actions to meet the needs of patient care.



3. In support of the OSDH will assist with the coordination of obtaining, prioritizing and distributing supplies and equipment requested by facilities and agencies providing patient care.
4. In support of the OSDH will assist with volunteer coordination for the support of patient care sites and/or Mass Immunization/Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS) sites.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**, during the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will:

1. Provide consultation and assessment of the behavioral health needs of the affected population and provide input to senior decision makers.
2. Coordinate and/or provide behavioral health services to meet the needs of patients, first responders and others affected by the disaster.
3. Coordinate the provision of additional behavioral health personnel or training to address behavioral health needs of patients.
4. Coordinate, in cooperation with the OK Medical Reserve Corps, the recruitment, sustainment and utilization of volunteer and/or short-term contract behavioral health professionals.
5. Coordinate and/or provide short-term post-incident behavioral health support and transition to available local behavioral health providers for long-term follow-up.

The **OK Military Department**, the **OK Department of Public Safety** and the **OK Department of Transportation** will assist in activating the *Oklahoma Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan* pursuant to a catastrophic health emergency to ensure necessary treatment supplies are delivered in a timely fashion.

The **OK Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC)**, during the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will assist with the:

1. Coordination of volunteers upon request from the OSDH or Local County Health Department(s).
2. Processing of spontaneous volunteers following the OKMRC procedures for background checks, credential checks, orientation and badging.

**Regional Medical Response System** (including the Metropolitan Medical Response System), during the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will:

1. Activate Medical Emergency Response Center (MERC).
2. Coordinate medical resources within their designated Homeland Security Region.
3. Coordinate transport of medical victims to an appropriate hospital, treatment center or alternate care site.
4. Provide situational updates to the OSDH Situation Room and local jurisdictional ESF-8 agencies.

**Local County Health Departments**, during the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will:

1. Activate local Mass Immunization/Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS) plans to provide mass prophylaxis to first responders, partner agencies and the general public in the affected area.

2. Work with the OSDH Acute Disease Service to perform surveillance and epidemiological investigations.



## CHE Function #8

### *The safe disposal of contaminated wastes and human remains during a catastrophic health emergency*

#### **RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** Office of the Chief Medical Examiner  
OK Department of Environmental Quality  
OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse  
OK State Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

The OK State Department of Health (OSDH), upon declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will contact the supporting agencies to develop and/or implement action plans. To the extent possible, attempts will be made to ensure that religious, cultural, family and individual beliefs of the deceased person or the family of the deceased person will be considered when disposing of any human remains. In addition, the OK Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services will coordinate behavioral health services for families experiencing related bereavement issues.

All contaminated waste as defined in the *Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act* will be handled in accordance with *Oklahoma Statutes Title 252, Chapter 515, Subchapter 23 - Regulated Medical Waste Management* unless the provisions of Section 14 from the *Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act* are implemented.

All human remains will be handled as required by the *Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act, Section 15* and the *Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's Mass Fatality Plan*. The OK State Department of Health will adopt and enforce measures to provide for the safe disposal of human remains. These measures may include, but are not limited to the embalming, burial, cremation, interment, disinterment, transportation and disposal of human remains pursuant to the recommendations of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

In the event of a declared catastrophic health emergency, the Commissioner of Health (or his designee) will have the authority to activate the *Mass Fatality Plan* in coordination with the Office of the State Medical Examiner.

It is likely that a catastrophic health emergency would be declared pursuant to a terrorist act. Under these conditions, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the OK State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) would coordinate with the OSDH and its partners to discuss the methods of crime scene preservation related to the response and recovery efforts. This could delay the burial of remains.

## **STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** will communicate and coordinate disposal/burial efforts with the **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)** and the **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** should there be a catastrophic health event. In addition, the OSDH Vital Records Division will implement a web-based death certificate submission, processing and tracking system which will assist the state in the processing and secure tracking of deaths during a catastrophic health emergency.

The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)**, after consultation with the Chief Medical Examiner and OSDH, will be responsible to request assistance from the Federal Disaster Mortuary Team (DMORT).

The **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** will be responsible to ensure the proper disposal of all contaminated waste as defined in the *Catastrophic Health Emergency Powers Act*.

Other agencies/organizations that may be called upon for support include **the Oklahoma Funeral Directors Association, Oklahoma Crematorium Directors Association, Civil Air Patrol and Hazardous Waste Transport, Storage and Disposal Vendors**.

The **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)** may activate the *Mass Fatality Plan* upon the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency. The *Mass Fatality Plan* details the examination and identification of human remains in such an event. Operational aspects of the *Mass Fatality Plan* will be conducted through the (OCME). The following duties and responsibilities have been drafted to augment the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's *Mass Fatality Plan*:

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** will:

1. Work with the supporting agencies, as needed.
2. Provide documentation that regulations have been suspended, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a declared catastrophic health emergency.

The **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)** will:

1. Take possession or control of any human remains.
2. Order the disposal (through burial or cremation) of any human remains of a person who has died of a transmissible disease within hours after death, to the extent possible - considering religious, cultural, family and individual beliefs.
  - a. Any human remains prior to disposal will be clearly tagged with all available information to identify the decedent and the circumstances of death.
  - b. Any human remains of a deceased person with a transmissible disease will have an external, clearly visible tag indicating that the human remains are infected and, if known, the transmissible disease.



- c. Every person in charge of disposing any human remains during a catastrophic health emergency will maintain a written or electronic record of the human remains and all available information to identify the decedent and the circumstances of death and disposal.
3. Work with **Oklahoma Funeral Directors and Crematorium Directors** for the proper burial or cremation of human remains released from the Office of the Medical Examiner.
4. Follow the procedures in the most updated version of the *Mass Fatality Plan*.

The **OK Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** will:

1. Adopt and enforce measures to provide for the safe disposal of contaminated waste as may be reasonable and necessary to respond to the catastrophic health emergency. Such measures may include, but are not limited to the collection, storage, handling, destruction, treatment, transportation and disposal of contaminated waste.
2. Require any business or facility authorized to collect, store, handle, destroy, treat, transport and dispose of contaminated waste under the laws of this State, and any landfill business or other such property, to accept contaminated waste, or provide services or the use of the business, facility or property if such action is reasonable and necessary to respond to the catastrophic health emergency as a condition of licensure, authorization or ability to continue doing business in the State as such a business or facility.
3. Be responsible for ensuring all bags, boxes or other containers for contaminated waste are clearly identified as containing contaminated waste and the type of contaminated waste (if known).
4. Work with **Transportation, Storage and Disposal Vendors** to ensure they work in accordance with rules and procedures from the (DEQ) regarding the proper handling and disposal of contaminated waste.

The **OK Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services** will coordinate behavioral health services with local providers to care for victims and families of the deceased.

The **Bureaus of Investigation** will coordinate all investigations relating to a terrorist incident and may require contaminated waste or human remains be held for investigative purposes prior to disposal.

**CHE Function #9**  
*Safe and effective control of persons treated*

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** Local County Health Departments  
Local & State Law Enforcement Agencies  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
OK Poison Control Center  
OK Medical Reserve Corps

The OK State Department of Health (OSDH) has developed a statewide plan and guidance document for mass medicating Oklahomans – Mass Immunization/Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS). Rather than require a MIPS plan in each Local jurisdiction, the statewide MIPS plan employs a catchment area concept that no individual should drive more than 60 miles to seek medication. At the time of this update, thirty-five areas, coordinated by local county health departments, have been identified across the state to coordinate a MIPS response. The MIPS plans are a sub-section of the *Oklahoma Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan* and focus on local resources to distribute and dispense medical countermeasures to those who want them. Each MIPS response requires a great number of medical professionals and volunteer staff as well as the inclusion of community/regional partners.

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** maintains and distributes a *MIPS Template* as well as guidance to MIPS sites for providing medical countermeasures to the public. This document details requirements for transportation, security and quality control for dispensing and immunization, as well as an integrated Local incident command structure. This document is reviewed annually and updated as needed with the latest information and requirements of the CDC. Likewise, OSDH is working with numerous stakeholders to coordinate a targeted, concise and consistent public information campaign to address the proper way to take medication and to address mental health concerns, pursuant to its *Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) Plan*.

**Local County Health Departments** coordinate local planning efforts and implement their local MIPS plans. This requires the large coordination effort of all local first responders and planning partners in communities across the state to prepare for dispensing sites in their area. To ensure plans are operational, all thirty-five sites have conducted at a minimum one full-scale exercise that tested their command structure, partnerships, mass dispensing, volunteer coordination and logistics. OSDH also conducts yearly assessments on their written plans using CDC's review tool. To further local plans and expand on local mass dispensing points, local county health



departments are working with other agencies and organizations to implement a Push Partner Plan.

**Other agencies/organizations** that may be called upon for support of Push Partner Plans include, the Federal Executive Board, OK Department of Corrections (DOC), the OK Department of Human Services-Aging Services, military installations and bases, large private organizations, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living centers. All these agencies are partnered with the OSDH and Local County Health Departments to implement a Push Partner Plan which focuses on medical countermeasure dispensing for employees, employees' family members and clients/patients.

**Local Law Enforcement** is included in MIPS planning to develop security plans that address crowd control, traffic control and medical asset security at mass dispensing and distribution sites.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will coordinate and/or provide assistance to MIPS clinic workers/volunteers as well as to MIPS clinic patients in an effort to alleviate the anxiety that is certain during a catastrophic health emergency. Likewise, the OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services shall coordinate with the OSDH to ensure proper behavioral health messages are developed and disseminated.

The **OK Poison Control Center** maintains a 24/7 call center that is manned by medical professionals (pharmacists, nurses). The Center has agreed to serve as the first point of contact for medical concerns arising from the administration of mass medications.

The **OK Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC)** will assist in the activation and coordination of volunteers to provide support for mass dispensing efforts or other catastrophic health responses.

## CHE Function #10

### *Tracking the source and outcomes of infected persons during a catastrophic health emergency*

#### RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** OK Hospital Association  
OK Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry  
OK Department of Environmental Quality  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
OK Military Department  
OK Poison Control Center  
Local County Health Departments

The OK State Department of Health (OSDH) will be responsible to coordinate staff and resources to direct and conduct epidemiologic investigations to determine the cause, source and persons at risk pursuant to a catastrophic health emergency.

#### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** assumes the following roles and responsibilities during a catastrophic health emergency:

1. Coordinate personnel and other agency resources to direct and conduct an epidemiologic investigation to determine the cause, source and persons at public health risk.
2. Develop an efficient and effective interagency system to identify persons exposed to a catastrophic health emergency agent and determine health outcomes at various stages of the incident.
3. Communicate disease and epidemiological information to private healthcare providers through the Oklahoma Health Alert Network (OKHAN), EMResource® and other available messaging systems.
4. Through the State Public Health Laboratory (PHL), provide appropriate testing or referral of clinical specimens from symptomatic individuals.
5. Coordinate data collection, retrieval and entry from various reporting sources and investigation teams, including hospitals, private healthcare providers, commercial reference laboratories, county health departments, other State health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
6. Communicate summary epidemiologic findings with State executives, the CDC and other Federal agencies as needed, particularly if the catastrophic health emergency is a multi-state event.
7. Provide support and guidance that enables **Local County Health Departments** to:



- a. Augment personnel, logistics and communication support for the epidemiologic investigation.
- b. Regularly update the State Epidemiologist and OSDH Situation Room on epidemiologic investigation status and resource needs.
- c. Facilitate tracking of infected persons hospitalized in facilities within their public health jurisdictions.
- d. Work with local school jurisdictions to track absenteeism rates and provide guidance to school officials for closing due to high infection rates.

The **OK Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry** assumes the following roles and responsibilities during a catastrophic health emergency:

1. Direct and conduct investigation of possible catastrophic health emergency agent/source potentially associated with animals or food-borne (meat, dairy or eggs) source.
2. Ensure appropriate collection, handling and testing of samples to determine animal or food-borne source.
3. Report findings of source investigation and laboratory test results to collaborating agencies.

The **OK Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** assumes the following roles and responsibilities during a catastrophic health emergency:

1. Assist with investigations of possible catastrophic health emergency agent/source potentially associated with a public water supply or environmental source.
2. Ensure appropriate collection, handling and processing of environmental samples for laboratory testing.
3. Provide leadership and technical expertise relating to industrial wastes and chemical or radiological sources.
4. Report findings of source investigation and environmental testing to collaborating agencies.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will provide and/or coordinate training and consultation as needed to applicable agencies regarding the behavioral effects of stress and traumatic stress that may be experienced by response workers and other persons impacted by the catastrophic health emergency.

The **OK Military Department** assumes the following roles and responsibilities during a catastrophic health emergency:

1. Assist with source investigation and collection of environmental samples.
2. Conduct rapid field-testing of environmental specimens and forward to OSDH PHL or other Laboratory Response Network certified-laboratory, as appropriate, for confirmatory testing.
3. Communicate findings to collaborating agencies.

The **OK Hospital Association** assumes the following roles and responsibilities during a catastrophic health emergency:

1. Provide information to the hospital system about the OSDH patient tracking mechanism and their respective roles and participation in reporting patient identifier data, symptomatology, laboratory findings, treatment and discharge information to the public health authority.
2. Assist with patient tracking and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance concerns.
3. Communicate issues, obstacles or resource needs at the hospital system level to the OSDH for review and resolution.

The **OK Poison Control Center** assumes the following roles and responsibilities during a catastrophic health emergency:

1. Assist with syndromic surveillance by tracking numbers of poison center calls and patient symptomatology.
2. Provide and/or coordinate training and consultation as needed to applicable agencies.
3. Communicate issues to the OSDH for review.



## CHE Function #11a

*Ensure that each city and county identifies sites where medical supplies, food and other essentials can be distributed*

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** Local County Health Departments  
Local Emergency Management  
Federal Executive Board  
OK Department of Corrections  
OK Department of Human Services – Aging Services  
Local non-governmental agencies  
OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK Military Department  
OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters

The OK State Department of Health (OSDH) has developed a statewide plan and guidance document for mass medicating Oklahomans – *Mass Immunization/Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS) Template* – as part of *Oklahoma's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan*. Rather than require a MIPS plan in each Local jurisdiction, the statewide MIPS plan employs a catchment area concept that no individual should drive more than 60 miles to seek medication. Thirty-five areas, coordinated by local county health departments, have been identified across the state to coordinate a MIPS response. The MIPS plans are a sub-section of the *Oklahoma Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan*. Each MIPS response requires a great number of medical professionals and volunteer staff as well as coordination relating to location, volunteers, security, transportation, logistics and medical assistance within the Local area.

### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:

The **OK State Department of Health** (OSDH) will maintain Oklahoma's stockpile of medical material and maintain the ability to request, receive, store and distribute mass medications pursuant to the Strategic National Stockpile requirements. OSDH will maintain a regional team to assist Local areas to coordinate efforts with Local agencies within that area (county emergency management, city emergency management, Law Enforcement, Tribal, emergency medical services, hospitals, federal entities, prisons, schools, nursing homes, assisted living centers and non-governmental organizations) for MIPS plans.

**Local County Health Departments** will coordinate planning efforts with Local agencies to not only identify logistical response issues but also to identify secure locations to receive, distribute and dispense these assets during an emergency. Each of the thirty-five response areas has identified receiving warehouses for medical assets as well as Point of Dispensing Sites (PODS) across the state to dispense/administer medical assets to the public.

**Local Emergency Management** plays a key role at coordinating local planning efforts and is the main coordinator for non-medical material (food, partners and other essentials) in the area. Local Emergency Management will assist in maintaining agreements with partners to support the local distribution and dispensing sites.

**Other agencies/organizations** that may be called upon for support include, the **Federal Executive Board, OK Department of Corrections, the OK Department of Human Services-Aging Services, OK Military Department**, large private organizations, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living centers. All these agencies are partnered with OSDH and Local County Health Departments to implement a Push Partner Plan which will identify secure locations to receive and dispense these assets through an internal MIPS response for employees, employee families and clients/patients.

The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will coordinate requests in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #7)*. OEM has the ability to request the deployment of **Federal Health Resources** such as Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), National Pharmacy Response Teams (NPRT), Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (DVAT) and National Nurse Response Teams (NNRT).

**OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (OKVOAD)** at the State and Local level will be requested to coordinate the feeding of volunteers/workers. In addition, OKVOAD has experience in warehousing and may identify and man locations to distribute these assets.



## CHE Function #11b

*Ensure that each city and county identifies sites where public health and emergency workers can be housed and fed*

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:

- A. Primary:** OK Department of Emergency Management
- B. Supporting:** OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster  
OK Department of Transportation  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
Local Emergency Management

The Oklahoma Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (OKVOAD) at the State and Local level will be requested to provide care and feeding for public health and emergency workers during a catastrophic health emergency. In accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #6)*, the OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM) will be incremental in the coordination and support of these efforts.

### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:

The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will activate the State Emergency Operations Center pursuant to the *State Emergency Operations Plan*.

The **OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (OKVOAD)** at the State and Local level will be requested to provide mass feeding, mass sheltering, emergency first aid, disaster welfare inquiry and bulk distribution of disaster relief supplies for disaster responders.

The **OK Department of Transportation (ODOT)**, in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #1)*, with Local Emergency Management will coordinate routes and means of transporting evacuees, materials and equipment with the assistance of identified support agencies.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will coordinate and/or provide trained mental health personnel and consultation as needed to staging centers and housing sites for provision of appropriate behavioral health services to affected public health and emergency workers.

**Local Emergency Management** will coordinate onsite resources for housing volunteers transferred from other areas. In addition, in coordination with the OEM and OKVOAD, Local Emergency Management will plan meals for onsite workers during shifts, and all meals for volunteers transferred outside of their living area (if necessary).

## CHE Function #11c

*Ensure that each city and county identifies routes and means of transportation of people and materials*

### RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:

- A. Primary:** OK Department of Transportation
- B. Supporting:** OK State Department of Health  
OK Department of Emergency Management  
OK Department of Public Safety  
OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster  
OK Military Department  
OK Department of Corrections

The OK Department of Transportation (ODOT), upon the declaration of a catastrophic health emergency, will coordinate with the partner organizations to establish routes and means for transporting evacuees, materials and equipment.

### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:

The **OK Department of Transportation (ODOT)** with Local Emergency Management will work in accordance with the *State Emergency Operations Plan (Emergency Support Function #1 – Appendix on Evacuation)* and the partner organizations to determine the appropriate routes, means and methods to evacuate an affected population.

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** will provide information to the partner agencies regarding the terms of the evacuation and the boundaries of the affected area that may be subject to evacuation. OSDH will activate the *Oklahoma Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan* and request necessary assets to ensure transportation of medical material.

The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will coordinate requests for information and assistance related to the evacuation, as well as coordinate request for transport of medical materials with the **OK Department of Transportation ODOT, OK Department of Public Safety (DPS), OK Military Department and OK Department of Corrections (DOC)** as outlined in the *Oklahoma SNS Plan*.

The **OK Department of Public Safety (DPS)** will provide traffic control as required to safely evacuate an affected area and provide security escorts or transport for medical material (transport will only occur in instances where assets fit in highway patrol vehicles). In coordination with Local Law Enforcement to ensure open routes, DPS will escort or deliver these assets to the local MIPS warehouse sites.



The **OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster** (OKVOAD) establish shelters for the evacuees.

**CHE Function #12**  
***Recognition of cultural norms, values, religious principles and traditions***

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK State Department of Health
- B. Supporting:** OK Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
OK Department of Human Services  
Tribal Nations (residing in Oklahoma)  
OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster

The OK State Department of Health (OSDH) will work with the partners to ensure that messages, treatment options, treatment regimens and diagnostic processes/procedures account for individual's rights, cultural norms, values, religious principles and traditions, as well as functional needs, to the extent practical.

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** has established medical orders under which mass medications are dispensed at Mass Immunization/Prophylaxis Strategy (MIPS) sites statewide. These medical orders can be changed, pursuant to target groups, cultural norms, values, religious principles and traditions, to the extent practical. Likewise, special language services for those who are hearing impaired or do not speak English can be provided in numerous locations as well as services for those with visual impairments or reading disabilities.

The **OK Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives** will provide guidance and information on religious beliefs and values of special needs populations as they respond to disaster relief situations and related services and may provide assistance in identifying community religious leaders where appropriate.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will assist in identification of behavioral health service groups and help ensure the disaster response is appropriate to the cultural needs of affected populations.

The **OK Department of Human Services** (Division on Aging) will assist in the identification and services specific to the aging population.

The **Tribal Nations** residing in Oklahoma will provide guidance, information and training on cultural beliefs and values for Native Americans as they respond to disaster relief situations and related services.



The **OK Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (OKVOAD)** at the State and Local level will be requested to provide religious monitors/consultants for the mass medication or evacuation/shelter sites.

**CHE Function #13**  
*Other measures deemed necessary*

**RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES:**

- A. Primary:** OK Department of Emergency Management
- B. Supporting:** OK Office of Management and Enterprise Services  
OK State Department of Health  
OK Department of Public Safety  
OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services  
OK Office of Homeland Security  
OK Attorney General's Office  
All OK State Agencies, Commissions and Boards

Oklahoma has had experience in working many types of emergencies, either through real world experience or exercise. Each event may provide new challenges which will allow the OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM) to coordinate known resources to best address new measures deemed necessary. The possibility of a catastrophic health emergency requires the participation of all state agencies to conduct an assessment and create a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES:**

The **OK Department of Emergency Management (OEM)** will coordinate special requests and initiate appropriate consultations when other measures are deemed necessary to protect the citizens of Oklahoma pursuant to the conditions caused by a declared catastrophic health event.

The **OK Office** of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) will work with all State agencies, commissions and boards to ensure that the continuity of State government operations is maintained. This includes, but is not limited to, the protection of information systems as required by the policies, procedures and guidelines issued pursuant to O.S. 62:41.5a.

The **OK State Department of Health (OSDH)** will provide information to the partner agencies regarding the terms and conditions that require extraordinary containment and health measures.

The **OK Department of Public Safety (DPS)** will provide such actions necessary to protect the public safety.

The **OK Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** will coordinate behavioral health services to those affected by the catastrophic health emergency.



The **OK Office of Homeland Security (OKOHS)** will be responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of state continuity policies (as outlined in *Executive Order 2009-11*) and provide and share information as necessary.

The **OK Attorney General's Office** will coordinate requests for legal interpretation, information and assistance related to the required extraordinary measures.

**All OK State Agencies, Commissions and Boards** should ensure continuity of operations and ensure the maintenance of updated staff records and contact information in the event that a catastrophic health declaration requires the alteration of normal State business and/or the shifting of State employees.