



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

OLGA DAZZO
DIRECTOR

March 05, 2012

Dear Nursing Home Administrator:

The Michigan Departments of Community Health and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs are committed to working with Michigan's skilled nursing facilities to establish plans during any type of emergency. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the 2010 wildfires in northern Michigan that temporarily displaced nearly 100 long term care residents reconfirm the need to ensure Michigan's health care system can successfully respond to any emergency disaster situation.

Attached you will find the State of Michigan Disaster Preparedness Guidelines, specifically for skilled nursing facilities. The guidelines are designed to assist the facility in building on existing emergency disaster preparedness plans to ensure that the facility is prepared for all hazards and disastrous incidents. The guidelines cover five main areas: surveillance, response, communication, security, and education. Bed availability becomes a critical resource in all health emergencies.

As highlighted in the guidelines, there is a great need to determine the number, type and availability of beds. Currently all licensed hospitals within the state of Michigan utilize a system for tracking beds and other medical resources. They are reporting items such as bed availability on a daily, weekly and often monthly basis, depending on the regional healthcare coalition where their facility resides. The Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness would like to extend the opportunity for your facility to participate in the state of Michigan's bed and resource tracking system, at no charge to the facility. The current system is EMResource, a proven inventory and resource management online tool that streamlines communications between medical response teams and healthcare providers. In addition, incident specific resources are easily tracked, such as decontamination capability, ventilators, isolation capabilities, pharmaceuticals, and specialty services. For more information and to gain access to EMResource contact your Regional Healthcare Coalition Coordinator (see attached contact information).

A key component of the disaster preparedness guidelines is the participation of skilled nursing facilities within the existing, community-wide emergency preparedness planning and response activities. It is strongly encouraged that your facility actively participates in the planning, practice, evaluation, and implementation of these emergency preparedness activities. For more information, resources and contact information please visit <http://go.usa.gov/aOm>.

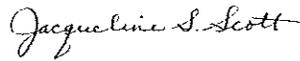
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We would like to thank you in advance for integrating these guidelines into your emergency preparedness planning. We are confident that in doing so it will ensure that skilled nursing facilities will be better able to address disaster response situations and protect the health and safety of staff and residents. If you have any questions regarding the attached guidelines, please contact Amber Pitts at the Office of Public Health Preparedness, 517-335-8150 or via email at pittsa@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,



Mike Pemble
Director
Bureau of Health Systems



Jacqueline S. Scott, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director
Office of Public Health Preparedness

Attachments: State of Michigan Disaster Preparedness Guidelines
Regional Healthcare Coalition Map