



VA PANDEMIC RESPONSE ACTION GRIDS – VHA FACILITY ACTION

Following is a grid that lists steps in responding to pandemic influenza. It reflects the text in Section 3 of the VA Pandemic Influenza Plan and provides numbers of subsections (e.g., 3.1.2 Coordination) for cross reference. The grid provides a snapshot of key actions and enables the user to note responsible offices and individuals to carry out these steps and keep records of what was done.

Responding to Pandemic Influenza: VHA Facility Action Grid					
Section	VHA Response Action	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Completion Date (Planned)	Completion Date (Actual)
3.2.2 Coordination Response					
	Collaborate on information, guidance, vaccines, antivirals with VISNs and facilities as well as Federal, state, and local partners				
	Act on VA Communications Principles in Appendix D-3				
3.2.3.1 Surveillance Response					
	Implement surveillance plans				
	Access & use provisional CDC case definition				
	Use recommended diagnostics				
	Use CDC diagnostic and procedure codes for surveillance				

Responding to Pandemic Influenza:

VHA Facility Action Grid

Section	VHA Response Action	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Completion Date (Planned)	Completion Date (Actual)
3.2.3.2 Refocusing Patient Care Priorities					
	Postpone elective admissions & appointments				
	Discharge patients capable of being cared for at home				
3.2.3.3 Infection Control Response					
	Implement appropriate infection control measures (e.g. airborne/contact, droplet)				
	Ensure use and availability of PPE				
	Continue to promote and practice respiratory & hand hygiene practices				
	Screen incoming patients for influenza-like illness				
	Implement visitor restriction policies according to criteria				
	Use rapid testing for influenza A				
	Follow quarantine & other public health measures according to Federal, state, and local agencies				

Responding to Pandemic Influenza:

VHA Facility Action Grid

Section	VHA Response Action	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Completion Date (Planned)	Completion Date (Actual)
3.2.3.4 Support and Management of Exposed and Ill Staff					
	Initiate surveillance & triage systems				
	Use lab diagnostic systems				
	Utilize lab reporting & disclosure system				
	Treat & monitor suspected and/or confirmed infectious staff				
3.2.3.5 Countermeasure Response					
	Use antiviral medications				
	Administer available vaccine				
	Utilize lab & diagnostic resources				
3.2.3.6 Workforce Response					
	Implement staffing plans				
	Implement check-in procedures for availability of work and health status				
	Supplement staffing where necessary				
	Allow broadened scope of practice standards				

Responding to Pandemic Influenza:

VHA Facility Action Grid

Section	VHA Response Action	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Completion Date (Planned)	Completion Date (Actual)
3.2.3.7 Patient Care Response					
	Expect surge of patients				
	Execute telephone advice lines				
	Employ plan for triage, diagnosis, and isolation of infected patients				
	Expand & use alternative space and sites				
	Employ altered standards of care as needed				
3.2.3.8 Medical Materiel Response					
	Activate plans for use of medical materiel				
	Assess & track supplies				
	Consider use of national supply stockpiles of consumable materiel				
3.2.3.9 Security Response					
	Ensure entry to and exit from facilities is limited & secure				
	Enforce visitor restrictions				

Responding to Pandemic Influenza:

VHA Facility Action Grid

Section	VHA Response Action	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Completion Date (Planned)	Completion Date (Actual)
	Ensure security of countermeasures & supplies				
	Activate agreements with local law enforcements				
3.2.3.10 Fatality Management Response					
	Provide supplies such as PPE to staff				
	Use identified refrigeration				
	Coordinate mass fatality plans with local and state agencies				
3.2.3.11 Mental Health Response					
	Provide increased services				
	Locate additional providers as needed				
	Use consultation process				
3.5.3.2 Communications Response					
	Produce up to date information on status of operations, how people can protect themselves, what VA is doing				

**Responding to Pandemic Influenza:
VHA Facility Action Grid**

Section	VHA Response Action	Responsible Office	Responsible Person	Completion Date (Planned)	Completion Date (Actual)
	Regularly inform stakeholders, including staff, patients, VSOs, and the media				
	Use a variety of information vehicles; keep Web site up to date				
	Use streamlined information approval process				
	Make pre-identified spokespersons/subject matter experts available				
	Use templates to convey consistent information and standard distribution lists; keep track of dissemination				
	Stay up to date, address rumors				
	Have on hand up to date contact lists for key staff, public health departments, media				
	Use alternative means to get the word out, such as telephone trees, call-in systems with live or recorded messages				
	Other:				

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