



The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing

Disaster Mobilization Plan

The School of Nursing's Disaster Mobilization Plan guides all disaster response activities at the SON and describes the intent, scope, organization, and roles for nursing resources.

Background

As has been done in the past, faculty, staff and students may volunteer on their own time as citizens for the Austin community in the event of any disaster that overwhelm usual resources. However, in the event of mass sheltering or mass immunizations and other extraordinary conditions that require University and School of Nursing resources, this document will guide School of Nursing response.

Plan

1. The resources of the School of Nursing will only be tapped when the local resources are overwhelmed or when the President of the University deems it necessary.
2. The President of the University or designee (UT Command) will contact the Dean of the School of Nursing (School of Nursing Command) will decide if UT School of Nursing resources can be used and to what extent.
3. The Incident Command Structure will be used.
4. It is prudent for the School of Nursing to conduct just-in-case training for faculty, staff and students annually in preparation for the possibility of major incidents (natural or man-made) that may affect the University or the surrounding community.
5. The School of Nursing volunteers will be integrated into the master plan of the University of Texas. Nursing volunteers will assist in staffing mass shelters or mass immunization clinics. Designated volunteer roles may include
 - a. Department of Environmental Health and Safety
 - i. Assist in disseminating critical public health information to staff, students and faculty
 - ii. Identify volunteers to support a public health response
 - iii. Serve as clerks, medical screeners, triage personnel, medical personnel, clinical managers, and vaccinators
 - b. Hurricane Plan Considerations for Mass Sheltering
 - i. Psychological first aid and minor first aid
 - ii. Develop a triage system to arrange for basic health screenings (vitals, medical history, chief complaints, some specialized care as needed)
 - iii. Create a database for shelter resident healthcare
 - iv. Provide immunization services

- c. Pandemic Influenza and Infectious Virus Plan
 - i. Assist in disease surveillance
 - ii. Distribute public stocks of drugs and vaccines
 - iii. Prevent local disease transmission using a range of containment strategies
 - iv. Facilitate cooperation among all local involved parties (e.g. government officials, emergency responders, health experts, businesses and the public)
 - v. Prepare educational campaigns to explain how individual actions and community actions reduced disease spread
- 6. If the School provides nursing resource volunteers, they will follow the policy and procedures established by the City of Austin Health and Human Services Department as dictated in its protocols, algorithms to assist with case finding, management, infection control and screening criteria.
- 7. The School of Nursing is able to provide the following volunteer levels:
 - a. RN – Faculty, staff, and graduate students with active licenses.
 - b. Nursing Students – Junior, Seniors, and Alternate Entry (foundation year)
Students will be allowed to volunteer to participate in supervised disaster response activities and to substitute these activities, as appropriate, for clinical activities in courses for which they are enrolled. Determination of appropriate substitutions will be made by the Dean of the School of Nursing or her designee. Students who choose not to participate will be given alternate opportunities to meet their clinical course requirements. Assistant Dean Student Services, 2006.
- 8. A Disaster Preparedness Committee, appointed by the Dean at the beginning of every academic year, will be responsible for annually updating the disaster plan annually and briefing their constituents at least once a year.