

Pandemic School “Safety” Planning

Covid 19 Research Request

Mr/Ms. Act 44 Safety Security Coordinator,

In followup to our conversation today I researched pandemic planning aids in relation to school planning. With this research my initial view of the matter has not shifted; pandemic planning for schools focuses as school inside State and County planning efforts. The likelihood of the school being the source and center of pandemic events is insignificant. The role of the school is then to support community (County, State, and National) pandemic planning efforts.

Conducting research on pandemic planning in schools some examples were identified that may be of help. These examples are stored in the shared folder found [here](#). Description of the examples follows, document titles hyperlinked to the discussed file:

1. [PEMA EOP Basic Plan](#): the district’s current EOP Basic Plan does reference school responsibilities in pandemic incidents. See Pages 25-26. School district responsibilities in pandemic matters are to make contagion incident reports to the state.
2. [Legacy PEMA All-Hazards School Safety Toolkit](#): PEMA’s legacy All-Hazards Toolkit provides dated school planning guidance. This legacy guidance touches on a variety of topics, and does reference information on planning for pandemic events. See Page 287. The key aid in this example is a checklist guiding how to prepare and respond in pandemics, found [here](#). Key takeaways found in this checklist are the need to communicate germ contagion prevention (hand washing and such) and to make reports when events arise in school.
3. [Flu Pandemic School Handout](#): PEMA’s legacy All-Hazards Toolkit also has a sample flyer/handout. The theme of the handout is to communicate germ contagion prevention techniques within schools.
4. [PEMA Draft EOP Template](#): In 2015-2017 I worked on PEMA’s School Safety Team. In this work we framed the draft of the EOP template. This template was used to build EASD’s EOP. This draft work also included unrefined FEMA guidance. This PEMA unrefined guidance includes a section on health related matters. The health related matters section discusses pandemic planning, see [here](#). The theme of the information focuses on communicating germ contagion prevention and event reporting. This FEMA material also discusses the need for schools to conduct Continuity of Operations Planning.

5. [PA DOH Pandemic Information for Schools and Daycares](#): Moving to more recent material, information was found on the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health webpage. PDF of the page found at the above link. The page has a link for a K-12 Influenza Checklist. Following this link, one is directed to the CDC's webpage. The CDC web page provides information on communicating germ contagion prevention. Link to PDF of CDC page found [here](#).
6. [PEMA Pandemic School TTx Template](#): In my PEMA school safety planning work one of our team had the project of building a book of Tabletop Exercises (TTx's) templates for use in schools. One of the TTx topics addresses, "What to do in pandemic." Reviewing this TTx the focus is contagion reporting and how to engage in Continuity of Operation when the wider school community will be home quarantined for up to 12-weeks.
7. [Sample Continuity of Operations Plan \(COOP\)](#): Conducting research a detailed COOP sample plan is posted by the Washington (State) Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Link to PDF file provided in point title. Word copy of document found [here](#).

What then to take away from this research?

- The consistent theme of school activity in planning for and responding to pandemic events falls into three areas:
 - Communicating preventative contagion information to students and staff.
 - Supporting communicative disease reporting to the Department of Health.
 - How will the school conduct educational business in a community quarantine?
- Pandemic events are primarily community medical events, **not** school centric safety/security-focused events.
- The core school planning need for pandemic events is, "*How will EASD continue to meet Federal and State educational mandates in a prolonged home quarantine event?*" In other words, "*What is needed in EASD's Continuity of Operations plan?*"

I hope this information has been helpful.

As always, please feel free to call or email for support.

Thank you,

Garret Rain

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