



ALTERNATE CARE SITE (ACS)

What is an ALTERNATE CARE SITE?

An Alternate Care Site (ACS) is a non-traditional medical facility that provides medical treatment when the normal health care system in Delaware is overwhelmed from a disaster. The ACS is one part of the state's Modular Medical Expansion System (MMES). See MMES fact sheet.

What kind of care would one receive at an ACS?

Patients who enter an ACS receive basic inpatient medical care to treat injuries or illness resulting from a public health emergency or disaster. This care would include, but not be limited to, hydration, antibiotic therapy, bronchodilation, and pain management. Extensive life support, however, would most likely be provided at a hospital.

Capacity

Currently, ACSs in Delaware can support a maximum of 400 beds. Facilities are designated throughout the state to support ACSs. Plans are underway to expand this capacity to 1,000 staffed beds.

Managing and Staffing ACSs

A state of emergency is usually declared before an ACS is activated. The Division of Public Health (DPH), through the State Health Operations Center (SHOC), provides necessary coordination and resources to sustain the ACSs. Hospitals manage and staff ACSs in conjunction with DPH. DPH staff may be supplemented by RespondDE and federal medical personnel.

How would a patient enter an ACS?

A patient would not go directly to an ACS. Patients would only be admitted after being evaluated by the Hospital Emergency Department or the Neighborhood Emergency Help Center operated by DPH.

Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section
24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156
Contact Number: 302-223-2999