



MODULAR MEDICAL EXPANSION SYSTEM (MMES)

- What is MMES?** When emergencies or disasters overwhelm the health care system, the Division of Public Health (DPH) will use an “all-hazards” systems approach called the Modular Medical Expansion System (MMES). The MMES rapidly provides health and medical care, expanding health care capacity and capability in Delaware. Detailed plans and procedures instruct agencies how to respond in a coordinated fashion. Lists of equipment, supplies, and training help agencies plan for emergencies.
- Command and Management:** Through the MMES, DPH’s State Health Operations Center (SHOC) can activate various facilities such as an Alternate Care Site. SHOC can also dispatch an Investigative Response Team and/or open a Shelter Medical Station.
- 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 by a public health emergency or disaster. Patients who enter an ACS receive basic inpatient medical care to treat injuries or illness resulting from a public health emergency or disaster. Hospitals would most likely provide extensive life-support.
- Investigative Response Team:** The State Health Officer has the ability to dispatch Investigative Response Teams (IRT) in response to a biological outbreak. IRTs investigate cases of illnesses or diseases to determine if the disease is spreading, the source of the disease, how it is transmitted, and if it is spreading within the community. IRTs consist of an Epidemiologist, a Public Health Nurse, and an Environmental Health Specialist.
- Shelter Medical Station:** A Shelter Medical Station can be opened to provide short-term, supportive medical care to persons displaced from their homes or specialized facilities and/or those who cannot stay at a general population shelter due to their medical needs. Patients stay up to 96 hours and then return to their homes or move to other long-term care facilities. The Delaware National Guard medical units manage the Shelter Medical Stations and can provide direct patient care under SHOC direction.

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



**Fatality
Management:**

If the number of deaths exceeds the private sector's capability to care for the deceased, the State of Delaware can assist by opening specialized facilities in coordination with the private sector. In this way, the State of Delaware can ensure that religious and cultural traditions are upheld and the deceased are respected, particularly during a time of need.

**Additional
information:**

For more information, visit the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readiness/healthcare/index.htm>.