



MODULAR MEDICAL EXPANSION SYSTEM (MMES)

What is MMES?

The Division of Public Health has adopted an “all-hazards” systems approach called the Modular Medical Expansion System (MMES) to provide health and medical care when emergencies or disasters overwhelm the healthcare system. The MMES rapidly expands healthcare 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 to respond quickly and seamlessly.

Command and Management:

The State Health Operations Center (SHOC) is the hub of all health and medical emergency response and recovery functions. The State Health Officer acts as the SHOC Incident Commander and manages all activities for Emergency Support Function 8 (Health and Medical Response).

Through the MMES, SHOC can activate various facilities: a Neighborhood Emergency Help Center, an Acute Care Center, dispatch an Investigative Response Team, and/or open a Medical Needs Shelter.

Neighborhood Emergency Help Center:

A Neighborhood Emergency Help Center (NEHC) facility serves as a gateway into the health care system in the event of a disaster or public health emergency affecting large numbers of persons. NEHCs provide medical information, medications and/or vaccine to prevent illness. A single NEHC can process up to 2,000 people per hour depending upon the agent.

Acute Care Center:

An Acute Care Center (ACC) is a non-traditional medical facility that provides medical treatment when the normal healthcare system in Delaware is overwhelmed by a public health emergency or disaster. Patients who enter an ACC 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.

Medical Needs Shelter:

A Medical Needs Shelter (MNS) 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. Such shelters serve as transitional areas, with patients staying up to 96 hours and then returning to their homes or moving to other long-term care facilities. The Delaware National Guard medical units manage the Medical Needs Shelters and can provide direct patient care under SHOC direction.

Fatality Management:

In the event that the number of deaths exceeds the private sector's capability to care for the deceased, the state can assist with body management. By opening specialized facilities, the state, in coordination with the private sector, can ensure that religious and cultural traditions are upheld and the deceased are respected, particularly during this time of need.