

Attachment 3

Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee
Draft Executive Orders

In 2000, the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee (GEEERC) was statutorily created in 2000 to develop a public health response to "acts of bioterrorism, pandemic influenza and epidemics caused by novel and highly fatal infectious agents." See. C.R.S. § 24-32-2104(8).

This 22-member committee was established to serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor in the event of an emergency epidemic caused by bioterrorism, pandemic influenza or novel and highly fatal infectious agents or biological toxins. The Committee's priorities include: protecting human life (highest priority); controlling the further spread of disease; meeting the immediate emergency needs of people, specifically medical services, shelter, food, water and sanitation; restoring and continuing operations of facilities and services essential to the health, safety and welfare of people and the environment; preserving evidence for law enforcement investigations and prosecutions. The following executive orders have been drafted for the Governor to use in a public health emergency. These orders are not in effect now; they would have to be signed by the Governor at the time of the emergency.

The Governor has the broad powers to meet an emergency. See C.R.S. § 24-32-2104(7). In any disaster, the Governor may "Suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with provisions of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency." C.R.S. § 24-32-2104(7)(a)

Executive Order 0.0 - Declaration of a State of Disaster Emergency due to Criminal Acts of Biological Terrorism.

This order activates the Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

Executive Order 1.0 - Ordering Hospitals to Transfer or Cease the Admission of Patients to Respond to the Current Disaster Emergency

Authorizes the CDPHE to order hospital emergency departments to cease admissions and transfer patients to a hospital or facility as directed by CDPHE. CDPHE would control the determination of when a hospital has reached capacity and when the hospital may resume admission.

Executive Order 1.1 - Ordering Hospitals to Transfer or Cease the Admission of Patients to Respond to the Current Disaster Emergency

Directly authorizes hospitals to cease admissions and transfer patients. Provides that hospital emergency departments may determine on their own, without central direction from CDPHE,

whether they have reached capacity to examine and treat patients. Authorizes hospital emergency departments to resume admissions when they have determined that they have the capacity.

Executive Order 2.0 - Concerning the Procurement and Taking of Certain Medicines and Vaccines Required to Respond to the Current Disaster Emergency

Authorizes the seizure of named drugs from “outlets” (as defined in the pharmacy statutes.) Embargoes the supply of the named drugs in the possession of the outlets except for those supplies that CDPHE regulation requires certain facilities and organizations to keep for chemoprophylaxis of their employees.

Executive Order 3.0 - Concerning the Suspension of Certain Statutes and Regulations to Provide for the Rapid Distribution of Medication in Response to the Current Disaster Emergency

Implements Colorado’s Strategic National Stockpile Plan. Provides for the rapid distribution of medication by suspending the pharmacy statutes and regulations pertaining to the compounding, dispensing and delivery of any drug. Suspends the “single patient- single prescription” requirement and authorizes the Executive Director or Chief Medical Officer of the CDPHE or the director of a local department of health to direct listed health care providers to compound, dispense or deliver prescription drugs.

Executive Order 3.1 – Concerning the Rapid Distribution of Influenza Vaccine in response to the Current Disaster Emergency

Authorizes volunteers to administer vaccines. Authorizes rapid distribution of vaccines to specified groups. Requires data collection and reporting of the vaccinations. May implement Colorado’s Strategic National Stockpile Plan for mass dispensing.

Executive Order 3.2 – Concerning the Rapid Distribution of Antiviral Medication in Response to the Current Influenza Pandemic Disaster Emergency

Authorizes volunteers to administer vaccines. Authorizes rapid distribution of antiviral medication to specified groups. Requires data collection and reporting of the vaccinations. May implement Colorado’s Strategic National Stockpile Plan for mass dispensing.

Executive Order 4.0 - Concerning the Suspension of the Physician and Nurse Licensure Statutes to Response to the Current Disaster Emergency

Authorizes physicians and nurses who hold a license issued by another state to practice under the supervision of a Colorado licensed physician or nurse to meet the current emergency epidemic.

Executive Order 5.0 - Concerning the suspension of Certain Licensure Statutes to Enable More Colorado Licensed Physician Assistants and Emergency Medical Technicians to Assist in Responding to the Current Disaster Emergency

Authorizes Colorado licensed physician assistants and EMT’s to practice outside of their normal supervision but under the supervision of another physician to meet the emergency epidemic.

Executive Order 6.0 - Concerning the Isolation and Quarantining of Individuals and Property in Response to the Current Disaster Emergency Epidemic

Authorizes CDPHE to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation of all individuals infected with the disease or to quarantine all individuals exposed to the disease.

Executive Order 7.0 - Ordering Facilities to Transfer or Receive Patients with Mental Illness and Suspending Certain Statutory Provisions to Respond to the Current Disaster Emergency

Authorizes the transfer of mental patients to different facilities when necessary to combat the current epidemic and promote the public health.

Executive Order 8.0 - Concerning the Suspension of Certain Statutes Pertaining to Presumptions of Death and Burial Practices in Response to the Current Disaster Emergency

Authorizes suspension of statutes to allow for the rapid burial of epidemic victims without following normal funeral procedures, religious practices or death certificates in all cases.

Executive Order 9.0 – Concerning the Cancellation of Public Events and the Closure of Public Buildings in Response to the Current Public Health Emergency

Orders cancellation of public events and closure of certain public buildings and schools.