

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 27 October 2022

Response Date: 27 October 2022

Type of TA Request: Urgent

Request:

ASPR TRACIE received a request to identify resources related to pediatric surge to help support and mitigate the current surge in pediatric respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) cases.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE Team reviewed existing resources, namely our:

- [Hospital Surge Capacity and Immediate Bed Availability Topic Collection](#), specifically the [Pediatric](#) section;
- [Pediatric/ Children Topic Collection](#), specifically the [Pediatric Surge Capacity](#) section; and
- [Influenza Epidemic/Pandemic Topic Collection](#), specifically the [Pediatric Issues](#) section.

Section I provides comments from our ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert (SME) Cadre. Section II includes resources containing information on staffing considerations for hospitals expecting or experiencing pediatric surge events. Section III provides additional materials relevant to pediatric surge. Section IV contains resources on surge that are not specific to pediatrics, but still include relevant information.

I. ASPR TRACIE Subject Matter Expert Comments

Please note: These are direct quotes or paraphrased comments from emails and other correspondence provided by ASPR TRACIE SME Cadre members in response to this specific request. They do not necessarily express the views of ASPR or ASPR TRACIE.

SME Cadre Member:

- A few considerations to address pediatric surge issues require improved coordination and situational awareness and alternative strategies such as the following:
 - Gathering real-time, shared epidemiological/statistical data on the current outbreak(s).
 - Working together with local and regional emergency departments (ED), pediatric, and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) leadership to discuss potential patient load leveling.
 - Considering the use of adult resources under PICU direction.
 - Exploring telemedicine options.

- Seeking alternate care resources and sites.
- Utilizing pediatric office-based practitioners and outpatient and urgent care resources to screen patients to prevent ED overload from patients not requiring admission.
- Messaging the public and parental education as to when to seek care and at what level can also help with initial access triage.

II. Pediatric Surge Resources to Include Staffing Considerations

Central Valley, CA. (2012). [Regional Pediatric Disaster Surge Framework](#). California Hospital Association.

This document provides a framework for community collaboration to develop regional, comprehensive, integrated pediatric preparedness response plans. **NOTE:** Staffing and training considerations can be found beginning on page 15.

Contra Costa Health Services Emergency Medical Services Agency. (2011). [Contra Costa Pediatric/Neonatal Disaster and Medical Surge Plan and Preparedness Toolkit](#).

This toolkit was developed to facilitate disaster preparedness that involves the practice of including neonates and pediatrics in all county, provider agency, and hospital-based disaster exercises. It provides an example of implementing emergency medical services for children guidelines at the local level. **NOTE:** Information on just-in-time training and staffing suggestions can be found beginning on page 21.

Emergency Medical Services for Children National Resource Center. (2014). [Checklist of Essential Pediatric Domains and Considerations for Every Hospital's Disaster Preparedness Policies](#).

This checklist, developed by subject matter experts and organized into ten domains, can help hospital administrators and leadership incorporate essential pediatric considerations into existing hospital disaster policies.

Frankel, C., Frogel, M., Sakata, V., and Siwik, D. (2022). [Platinum Pediatric Surge Playbook: Catastrophic Capable for Operational Impact](#). California Hospital Association.

This presentation, held on September 13, 2022, provides information on a proposed Model State and Multi-Jurisdictional Pediatric Surge Playbook, which intends to maximize and leverage pediatric surge operational capability during catastrophic events across local, state, and regional borders. Presenters provide recommendations that can be utilized by a future integrated command structure across state jurisdictions to collectively leverage and incorporate pediatric situational awareness and response capabilities. **NOTE:** Expand on the “Agenda | September 13” button to view the recording and

download a copy of the slides. Additional relevant materials can be found in this section, such as the Perinatal, Neonatal, and Pediatric Surge Annex to the California Patient Movement Plan and the PICU in the MICU resources.

Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency. (2016). [Los Angeles County Pediatric Surge Plan](#). California Hospital Association.

This plan provides details on how each hospital within Los Angeles County would support a pediatric surge of patients, including surge targets, supplies, and patient types. This plan also includes parameters for transporting children from prehospital field operations to healthcare facilities and transferring patients among hospitals. **NOTE:** Pages 41-42 provide information on surge strategies for staff.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2019). [Minnesota Pediatric Surge Primer](#).

This primer is geared for small community hospitals that do not usually provide pediatric trauma or inpatient services. It provides guidance that facilities and regions can follow to plan for pediatric patients in a mass casualty event. **NOTE:** Pages 5-6 provide information on surge strategies for staff.

New York State Department of Health, Office of Health Emergency Preparedness and Division of Family Health Office of the Medical Director. (2017). [Pediatric and Obstetric Emergency Preparedness Toolkit](#).

This toolkit is designed to assist hospitals that lack specialized pediatric and obstetric treatment facilities but may ultimately face those newborns, laboring women, and pediatric patients during a disaster. During infectious disease events, this toolkit helps hospitals plan for separating non-infectious women and newborns from infectious patients and planning for and managing related staffing concerns. This toolkit also reviews different categories of infectious agents and infection control measures specifically for children. **NOTE:** Section 3 provides staffing considerations for pediatric surge events.

Northwest Healthcare Response Network. (2020). [Planning and Caring for Pediatric and Neonatal Patients in Disasters: Inpatient and Outpatient Guidelines](#).

This toolkit provides considerations and guidelines for pediatric dietary and pharmacy needs, pediatric security issues, infection control, emergent neonatal care and resuscitation, and online pediatric training resources. It also includes attachments with multiple job action sheets, checklists, and templates.

Pediatric Overflow Planning Contingency Response Network (POPCoRN) Writing Collaborative. (2021). [COVID-19: A Practical Guide for Pediatric Facility Preparedness and Repurposing](#).

This document provides guidelines for repurposing a pediatric facility to serve adult patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Section 2 includes considerations on staffing, team structure, and subspecialty care consultation. **NOTE:** While pediatric hospitals repurposed facilities for adults, the reverse could also occur.

Stanislaus County Health Services Agency. (2019). [Stanislaus County Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalition Pediatric Disaster Surge Plan](#).

This county-specific pediatric disaster surge plan supports the Stanislaus County Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Coalitions' (SCHEPC) Medical Health Surge Plan. This plan can support any agency's existing policies or plans by providing uniform response actions in the case of pediatric emergency. **NOTE:** Pages 16-17 provide information on surge strategies for staff.

III. Other Pediatric Surge Resources

Alameda County Public Health Department. (2017). [Alameda County Operational Area Pediatric Medical Surge Plan and Resources](#).

This concise plan describes a tiered approach to meeting surge capacity needs during incidents with a disproportionately high number of pediatric patients. Jurisdictions may consider this approach when conducting their related planning activities.

Alameda County Public Health Department. (n.d.). [Pediatric Surge Plan Template](#). (Accessed 10/20/2022.)

This pediatric surge template provides planning assumptions, a concept of operations, a list of roles and responsibilities of various staff, considerations for space and supplies, job action sheets, and additional information specific to pediatric care.

ASPR TRACIE. (2022). [Healthcare Pediatric Surge Annex: Leveraging Templates for Operational Impact](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

Cynthia Frankel, RN, MN (Surge Group Lead, WRAP-EM, Alameda County EMS, CA); Mary Massey, BSN, MA, PHN (VP Emergency Management, California Hospital Association); and Michael Frogel, MD, FAAP (Chairman National Pediatric Disaster

Coalition and Senior Advisor WRAP-EM) share how they adapted ASPR TRACIE's pediatric surge annex template to their needs and ideas for the future.

ASPR TRACIE. (2021). [Pediatric Surge Resources for COVID-19](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

This ASPR TRACIE technical assistance response highlights general considerations related to pediatric surge capacity, capability, management, and guidance; resources that include operational considerations; and additional related resources.

Illinois Department of Public Health. (2020). [Pediatric and Neonatal Surge Annex](#).

This plan provides a detailed framework for various stakeholders involved in an emergency response within the State of Illinois and surrounding states in order to protect children and provide appropriate pediatric medical care during a disaster. The plan can be used to guide a state-level response and provides local medical services guidance on the care of children, including patient movement, system decompression, recommendations for care, and resource allocation during a surge of pediatric patients. It includes several tools such as transfer forms and algorithms.

Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency. (2012). [Pediatric Surge Quick Reference Guide](#). California Hospital Association.

This document contains summaries of critical information for managing the care of children during emergencies or disasters, including vital signs; risks during disasters; signs of respiratory distress; equipment sizes; and fluid resuscitation.

New York City Pediatric Disaster Coalition. (n.d.). [Pediatric Disaster Coalition PICU Surge Template Plan](#). (Accessed 10/20/2022.)

This customizable plan template focuses on increasing surge capacity and capabilities for the PICU, the pediatric inpatient unit, other inpatient units, and the emergency department. **NOTE:** Templates for staff roles and schedules can be found on pages 2-4.

Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego (2011). [Pediatric Surge Planning: Train the Trainer](#).

This online course provides an in-depth overview of the special considerations associated with pediatric surge planning. The authors describe hospital incident command system activation, specify tools and actions linked to pediatric surge, and provide tips for developing a surge plan.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response. (2021). [COVID-19 Resources for Pediatric Healthcare Leaders and Clinicians](#).

Pediatric healthcare providers face stunning array of challenges as they work to protect their patients from COVID-19 and treat children and adolescents who have been infected with the virus. Many children have returned to the classroom across the country, and seasonal influenza may further complicate care for pediatric COVID-19 patients. Healthcare leaders and clinicians can use the resources on this page to stay up-to-date on the latest information about the pandemic and plan to protect pediatric patient health. NOTE: There is a section on Preparing for a Surge in Pediatric Patients that may have helpful information.

Various Authors. (2009). [Pediatric Surge Pocket Guide](#). California Hospital Association.

This pocket guide contains clinical checklists, guides, and just-in-time references to manage a surge of pediatric patients. It includes the following sections: Normal Values; Triage and Assessment; Treatment and Medications; Equipment; Decontamination; Mental Health; and Pediatric Safe Areas.

Watkins, K., Ghasemzadeh, R., and Fatch, S. (2021). [Just In Time Handbook: A Quick Pediatric Reference Guide for Adult Healthcare Providers](#). Western Regional Alliance for Pediatric Emergency Management (WRAP-EM).

This handbook can help adult healthcare providers care for pediatric patients in a disaster or public health emergency. Links to related resources are included throughout.

IV. Other Relevant Surge Resources (Not Pediatric Specific)

ASPR TRACIE. (2022). [Considerations for the Use of Temporary Care Surge Sites for Managing Seasonal Patient Surge](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

This document describes the major considerations healthcare facility emergency planners must account for when determining patient surge management solutions for longer-duration events, such as weeks to months of managing seasonal illness surge. The term "surge site" is used to describe a non-patient care area either inside the walls of the facility or a site immediately adjacent such as a tent, trailer, or other mobile and temporary facility.

ASPR TRACIE. (2020). [Healthcare Coalition Infectious Disease Surge Annex Template](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

The 2019-2023 HPP Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) requires healthcare coalitions (HCCs) to develop a complimentary coalition-based infectious disease annex to their base medical surge/ trauma mass casualty response plan. This infectious disease surge annex aims to improve capacity and capabilities to manage a small number of patients with high-consequence pathogens or a large number of patients during a major epidemic or pandemic.

ASPR TRACIE. (2019). [Healthcare System Partners and Medical Surge](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response.

This page provides links to resources specific to patient surge and the various healthcare providers that may assist in a surge event.