

Preparation and Response to Homeland Security
Advisory System Threat Levels:
A Guide for Homecare and Hospice Agencies

CONDITION – THREAT LEVEL	GOVERNMENT AGENCY RESPONSE	PUBLIC / COMMUNITY PREPARATION	HOMECARE PREPARATION / RESPONSE
<p>Low Condition Level: Green</p> <p>Low risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refine / exercise prearranged protective measures 2. Ensure personnel receive proper training on Homeland Security Advisory System; specific departmental protective measures 3. Institute process to assure that all facilities are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks; take measures to reduce vulnerabilities * FEMA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Became familiar with the Homeland Security Advisory System/ color threat levels 2. Develop a household disaster plan and begin to assemble a family/ household disaster supply kit <p style="text-align: right;">* FEMA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review / revise current Emergency Disaster Preparedness (EDP) Plan 2. Educate all personnel on updated agency EDP; w/ focus on roles/ coordination and Homeland Security Advisory System 3. Evaluate agency's current Emergency Preparedness Management: supplies; preparedness kits (office, staff, patient homes) 4. Evaluate/revise patient and family EDP education w/ updates
<p>Guarded Condition Level: Blue</p> <p>General risk of terrorist attacks</p> <p><i>PREPARATION and RESPONSE activities are <u>in addition to the measures taken in the previous threat condition</u></i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check communication w/ designated emergency response or command locations 2. Review and update emergency response procedures 3. Provide the public w/ any information that would strengthen its ability to act approp. <p style="text-align: right;">* FEMA</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update household disaster supply kit / review disaster plan 2. Have household discussion, "<i>If an emergency occurred</i>"... What should each family member do? How should each one communicate? 3. Establish a written household communication plan (w/ phone #'s) 4. Apartment residents: speak w/ building managers re: emergency processes; plans 5. People w/ special needs: review emerg. plans w/ friends, family or employers * FEMA 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform "mock drill"; update EDP response processes if necess. Educate personnel re: updates 2. Confirm (or identify) local emergency response processes; command locations; coordination and agency's anticipated role 3. Institute or review current EDP communications, coordination processes within the health care community (homecare/ hospitals, etc.) 4. Support staff re: review / revision of household emergency plans; identify potential staff needs re: care of children/ relatives in an emergent event
<p>Elevated Condition Level: Yellow</p> <p>Significant risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase surveillance of critical locations 2. Coordinate emergency plans w/ nearby jurisdictions as approp 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be observant of any suspicious activity, report it to authorities 2. Contact neighbors to discuss plans / needs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review/update current active infection control surveillance processes based on DOH, HAN info 2. Ensure ongoing processes for staff updates, communication

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<p><u>Elevated Condition Level: Yellow</u> Cont.</p> <p><i>PREPARATION and RESPONSE activities are <u>in addition to</u> the measures taken in the previous threat condition</i></p>	<p>3. Assess precise characteristics of the threat; further refinement of prearranged protective measures, if necess.</p> <p>4. Implement, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans</p> <p style="text-align: right;">* FEMA</p>	<p>3. Check w/ school officials re: their plans in an emergency and procedures to reunite children w/ parents and caregivers</p> <p>4. Update household communication plan</p> <p style="text-align: right;">* FEMA</p>	<p>3. Ensure current information re: local emerg. response procedures, including – shelters; traffic/ travel modifications or restrictions</p> <p>4. Ensure agency inclusion in local/regional “call down” or notification system</p> <p>5. Verify standardization of agency EDP processes- including internal Incident Command System (ICS)- within leadership team, then throughout depts.</p>
<p><u>High Condition Level: Orange</u></p> <p>High risk of terrorist attacks</p> <p><i>PREPARATION and RESPONSE activities are <u>in addition to</u> the measures taken in the previous threat condition</i></p>	<p>1. Coordinate necessary security efforts with federal, state, local law enforcement agencies, National Guard or other security and armed forces</p> <p>2. Take additional precautions at public events, possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation</p> <p>3. Prepare to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing workforce</p> <p>4. Restrict access to a threatened facility to essential personnel only</p> <p style="text-align: right;">* FEMA</p>	<p>1. Review preparedness measures in your area (including evacuation / sheltering) for potential terrorist actions including chemical, biological, and radiological attacks</p> <p>2. Avoid high profile or symbolic locations</p> <p>3. Exercise caution when traveling</p> <p style="text-align: right;">* FEMA</p>	<p>1. Review EDP with focus as identified by local, state or federal updates/ notifications.</p> <p>2. Confirm local EOM preparedness plans (i.e. evacuation/ sheltering/ traffic/ travel modifications or restrictions); Prepare to execute agency contingency procedures (patient reprioritization /staff utilization)</p> <p>3. Establish schedule for ongoing (mgt. /clinical) staff updates to ensure receipt of most up-to-date-information</p> <p>4. Review Key Data to ensure current/ accurate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pt roster - staff roster - pt. classification levels - surge capacity - backup communication <p>5. Support/ reassure patients, families, staff; provide accurate, current information</p>
<p><u>Severe Condition Level: Red</u></p> <p>Severe risk of terrorist attacks</p>	<p>1. Increase or redirect personnel to address critical emergency needs</p>	<p>1. Avoid public gathering places i.e. sports arenas, holiday gatherings, or other high risk locations</p>	<p>1. Establish/ maintain communications w/ local command center, following specific instructions</p>

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<p>Severe Condition Level: Red (Cont.)</p> <p><i>PREPARATION and RESPONSE activities are <u>in addition to</u> the measures taken in the previous threat condition</i></p> <p>(Under most circumstances, these protective measures are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time)</p>	<p>2. Assign emergency response personnel and pre-position and mobilize specially trained teams or resources</p> <p>3. Monitor, redirect, or constrain transportation systems</p> <p>4. Close public and government facilities not critical for continuity of essential operations esp. public safety</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* FEMA</p>	<p>2. Follow official instructions regarding restrictions to normal activities</p> <p>3. Contact employer to determine status of work</p> <p>4. Listen to the radio and TV for possible advisories or warnings</p> <p>5. Prepare to take protective actions such as sheltering-in-place or evacuation if instructed to do so by public officials</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*FEMA</p>	<p>2. Implement ICS; ensure close clinical support, communications and coordination</p> <p>3. Closely monitor patient care delivery, patient and staff safety needs</p> <p>4. Prepare for evacuation, office and/or patients; staff mobilization; caseload shifts</p>