

2015 STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE KEY ISSUES

October 8, 2015

- As 911 calls continue to inundate the system, ambulances are stacking.
- Some ambulances are waiting for more than 30 minutes at a single ED.
- EDs are overwhelmed.
- Hospitals are experiencing a surge that is starting to become unmanageable.
- ICUs are filled to capacity & expecting more critical patients.
- Hospital need to expand capacity to take in more acute patients.
- Clinics need to send more patients to hospitals who are presenting with ILI/possibly H5N1 symptoms.
- Isolation areas need to be expanded at clinics and hospitals.
- Hospitals need to decompress noninfectious less acute patients to Long Term Care Facilities and possibly discharge others.
- Long Term Care facilities are taking precautions before accepting any patients.
- Transport providers are faced with an onslaught of patient transfers in addition to staff shortages and need to mitigate extended ambulance wait times and ensure continued ambulance resources.
- Mental Health providers are getting more requests for services.
- Appropriate airborne, droplet, and contact infection control precautions need to be taken for this novel strain of influenza with high mortality rate.
- Mental Health providers are experiencing an increase in service demands as the first H5N1 fatalities are announced.