

I. PURPOSE

- A. Address planned additional response priority actions by the state for a hurricane response during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- B. Respond to local resource gaps and requirements in the event that an evacuation or sheltering operation is needed.
- C. Reduce and mitigate risks to the public through coordination with public and private partners.
- D. Provide baseline guidance for a hurricane response during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the understanding that an extended timeline may be needed to allow priority actions to be executed, potentially forcing decisions to be made earlier than during normal hurricane response operations.
- E. This contingency plan will be incorporated into the standing SC Hurricane Plan (Appendix 1 to the SCEOP), and will be a living document, frequently updated due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 environment.

II. MISSION

Maximize preparedness and operational response in the event of a hurricane during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect life and property.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. South Carolina will generally receive several days’ notice of impending tropical cyclone activity through the National Hurricane Center (NHC), the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Weather Service (NWS).
- B. For the purposes of this contingency plan, certain planning assumptions have been made reflecting a most likely hurricane scenario for South Carolina.
 - 1. Low end Category 3 coastal runner with landfall in SC (shift 2019 Hurricane Dorian’s track 50 miles west)
 - 2. Recommended evacuation zones (at risk zones only)
 - a. Beaufort zone A, Colleton zones A + B, Jasper zone A, Charleston zones A + B + C, Dorchester zone D, Berkeley zones B + G, Georgetown zone A, and Horry zone A
 - b. Total potential population to be evacuated: 807,167

3. Total potential pre-landfall evacuation shelter numbers: 6,000 (estimated based on hurricane evacuation survey results, historical data, and 2019 Hurricane Dorian data).
 - a. Mix of congregate and non-congregate shelter options will be utilized for as short a period as possible.
 - b. Non-congregate shelter options will be the preferred shelter option for citizens with high body temperatures (over 100.4 degrees) evacuating as part of a mass transportation mission and COVID-19 positive citizens located in evacuation zones that still need to evacuate.
 - c. Staffing assistance will be needed at shelters due to limitations within the COVID-19 environment. A layered staffing approach with multiple options and partners will be needed.
4. Based on social survey results conducted in May 2020, 96% of evacuees will not require transportation support
 - a. Total Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) potential population requiring transportation: 3,000 (based on scenario and completed CTN compliance spreadsheet for at risk zones)
 - b. Motor coaches required: 125 (taking into account social distancing recommendations, COVID-19 screenings, and decontamination procedures)
 - c. State transportation contractor to be used – management and small coach package
 - d. SCNG drivers/state bus secondary option may be utilized to supplement motor coach fleet, dependent on time constraints
- C. Shift in the hurricane timeline – potentially up to 24 hours to the left for key decisions.
- D. Mandatory medical evacuations may utilize additional waivers to protect lives and only evacuate the most at risk facilities. Mandatory medical evacuation mission may take longer due to COVID-19 considerations.
- E. Hurricane intensity and track will determine the number of evacuees.
- F. Federal resources are not likely to provide significant lifesaving or life-sustaining capabilities until after the event.

- G. The response capabilities of local jurisdictions may be overwhelmed. Local first responders will be among those affected, affecting their ability to perform their duties.
- H. A tropical cyclone affecting South Carolina may have significant interstate impacts including potential impacts on evacuations, housing, transit, search and rescue, law enforcement coordination, and other areas.
- I. Evacuations may be ongoing after the onset of tropical storm force winds.
- J. Supply chain disruptions and the high demand from COVID-19 will strain public and private services and resources.
- K. A three-day supply of shelter PPE for Group 1 shelters, provided by SCEMD, will be pre-staged at county determined locations.
- L. A planning number of 1.3% of the total CTN evacuating population is used to determine how many citizens are likely to have an elevated body temperature when moving through a collection point (based on CDC guidance for the average number of citizens displaying flu like symptoms for this specific time of year). This number is multiplied by 3 for the average accompanying household number, to determine the total planning number of citizens that need to be moved through the isolation area of a collection point, and potentially on to an isolation area at a general population shelter.
- M. COVID-19 testing sites will be available at select general population shelters.
- N. With an increasing threat or a lack of time and resources to complete the COVID-related tasks in a mass transportation evacuation operation, government officials may be compelled to expedite the evacuation process and accept a greater level of risk in order to save immediate life.

IV. SITUATION

- A. South Carolina as an Atlantic state, coupled with its extensive 187-mile coastline, makes it highly vulnerable to tropical storms and hurricanes moving across the Atlantic Ocean. South Carolina is susceptible to all levels of tropical cyclones, from tropical depressions to Category 5 hurricanes. Inland counties may be directly affected by tropical hazards such as high winds, flooding, and tornadoes.
- B. A densely populated coastal region, especially during peak tourist seasons, coupled with generally low coastal elevations, significantly increases the state's vulnerability.
- C. Tropical cyclones produce four (4) major hazards:

1. Storm Surge
 2. Rainfall Induced Flooding
 3. High Winds
 4. Tornadoes
- D. The coronavirus threat and the need for social distancing poses widespread issues related to hurricane response operations. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the novel coronavirus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19) spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period of time. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs. It is also possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes. Recent studies indicate that people who are infected but do not have symptoms likely also play a role in the spread of COVID-19.
1. As of 08/03/2020, the SEOC is currently at OPGON 2 and the Emergency Operations Plan is activated in response to the public health threat from COVID-19 and as directed by the Governor's State of Emergency. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) and selected SERT agencies have staff in the SEOC for information sharing, coordination and future planning in support of Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).
 - a. U.S. total COVID-19 cases number are 4,649,102 including over 154,471 deaths. Cases have been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
 - b. SC case numbers are 92,404 cases (numbers are subject to change). COVID-19 related deaths are currently 1,721.
- E. Isolation and quarantine are referenced in American Red Cross doctrine; individuals in general population shelters that go into an observation area are not under isolation by DHEC. Individuals in observation areas are only awaiting further assistance and guidance from DHEC.
- F. A hurricane event during a COVID-19 outbreak requiring an evacuation affecting multiple counties will pose a severe strain on the limited pool of local and state governmental resources. These resources may include but are not limited to sheltering, staffing at evacuee support sites, and transportation assets.

- G. Refer to the SC Hurricane Plan (Appendix 1 to the SCEOP) for further information.

V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The COVID-19 Hurricane Response Contingency Plan requires some evacuation and sheltering decisions to be executed outside the normal decision arc. Not all actions may be completed to the same fidelity and depth as would occur with a storm that develops within a normal, non-COVID-19 climate. Response focus is the evacuation and sheltering of the most exposed residents and critical facilities to reduce the threat to personnel and property.
- B. The timeline may be expanded depending on the length of time between the development of a tropical cyclone and the onset of tropical storm force winds, in conjunction with extended decision windows due to required COVID-19 actions. There may be a transition point in time in which the regular timeline is not executable and this contingency plan is activated due to COVID-19 required actions.
- C. E Hour is defined as the number of hours prior to beginning evacuation operations. These times are different from “H Hour” times shown in many plans and the post storm timeline of this plan. H Hour is defined as arrival of tropical storm force winds.
- D. Actions listed within the COVID-19 timeline are based on pre-evacuation decision deadline, priority actions only. These priority actions are not listed in numerical order of execution. The comprehensive list of key actions and events by ESF is located in Annex A to the SC Hurricane Plan.
- E. There are two main areas in which a COVID-19 hurricane response may differ from a traditional hurricane response are mass care and mass transportation.
 - 1. Mass Care
 - a. Depending on the size and strength of the storm, a mix of non-congregate and congregate shelter options will be used to execute any mass care mission, with the priority being on congregate sheltering. While non-congregate sheltering options may be more suitable to mitigate the risks of COVID-19, a combination of skewed risk perception, time compression, logistical coordination and communication, and lack of available non-congregate options will create the need for life-sustaining congregate evacuation shelters during Hurricane Season 2020.

- (1) Non-congregate general population shelter options will typically be hotels, pre-identified by local Red Cross representatives in coordination with local emergency managers.
 - (a) Red Cross, with support from DSS staff, will provide staffing to support non-congregate general population sheltering if required.
 - (b) Services traditionally provided in congregate shelters will also be provided in non-congregate shelters. However, the Red Cross may modify the tactics for the delivery of these services to ensure adherence to social distancing guidelines and to limit person-to-person interactions, with preference for virtual support.

- (2) Congregate shelter options will be traditional shelter facilities, with the priority being Group 1 shelters, as identified in Annex H to the SC Hurricane Plan.
 - (a) Red Cross will operate/manage the pre-identified group 1 shelters.
 - (b) Group 1 shelters should be opened strategically based on need.
 - (c) Congregate shelters will have COVID-19 screening areas at their entry location.
 - (d) Congregate shelters will allow for social distancing at 110 sq. ft. per person (if utilizing cots, 60 sq. ft. if cots are not being used)) and be of short duration for evacuation, no longer than 7 days.
 - (e) The number of cots intended to go to each pre-identified coastal county group 1 shelter will be 20% of the maximum occupancy of that shelter at the 110 sq. ft. Any cots in reserve will be divided up and sent to the shelters with greatest need due to storm scenario. Red Cross will deliver cots to non-coastal county Group 1 shelters as required. For additional information, please see Annex H, Attachment 2 of the Hurricane Plan.

Cot Distribution Totals – 110 Square Feet (COVID Environment)

SCNG/SCEMD (4,000 cots) (20% of max capacity) (7 coastal counties: Group 1 Shelters - Horry, Georgetown, Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Colleton, Jasper)	
Georgetown: 108	
Horry: 240	
Berkeley: 220	
Charleston: 232	
Dorchester: 132	
Colleton: 68	
Jasper: 188	
Grand Total: 1,188	
SCNG/SCEMD break down	
Georgetown/3 shelters/108 cots/54 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD	
Horry/5 shelters/240 cots/120 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD	
Berkeley/6 shelters/220 cots/110 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD	
Charleston/8 shelters/232 cots/116 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD	
Dorchester/4 shelters/132 cots/66 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD	
Colleton/1 shelter/68 cots/34 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD	
Jasper/1 shelter/188 cots/94 boxes of 2 each/source SCNG-SCEMD	
SCNG-SCEMD will have some supplies left to support surge at coastal group one shelters.	

Coastal County Group 1 Shelter Cots Breakdown in a COVID-19 Environment

Group	County	Facility	# of Cots at 20% Max Capacity	Cots for Isolation Areas	Capacity @ 110 sq
N1	Georgetown	Andrews Elementary School	26	20	132
N1	Georgetown	Pleasant Hill Elementary	20	20	96
N1	Georgetown	Carvers Bay Middle School	12	10	56
N1	Horry	Loris High School	32	20	159
N1	Horry	North Myrtle Beach High School	22	20	106
N1	Horry	Aynor Middle School	28	20	140

N1	Horry	Conway High School	36	20	105
N1 (CTN)	Horry	Ocean Bay Middle School	22	20	65
C1	Berkeley	Berkeley High School	24	20	113
C1	Berkeley	Cane Bay High School (pet friendly)	42	20	206
C1	Berkeley	Cross High School	12	10	58
C1	Berkeley	Goose Creek High School	30	20	144
C1	Berkeley	St. Stephen Elementary School	10	10	42
C1	Berkeley	Westview Middle School	12	10	54
C1	Charleston	Stall High School	42	20	208
C1	Charleston	Dunston Elementary School	14	10	65
C1	Charleston	Zucker Middle School	10	10	52
C1	Charleston	North Charleston Creative Arts	14	10	63
C1	Charleston	Military Magnet	14	10	66
C1	Charleston	Academic Magnet	12	10	57
C1	Charleston	Charleston School of the Arts	16	20	80
C1	Charleston	Chicora Elementary School	10	10	36
C1	Dorchester	Summerville High School	50	20	190
C1	Dorchester	Dubose Middle School	12	10	70
C1	Dorchester	St. George Middle School	10	10	44

C1	Dorchester (Charleston Support)	Summerville Elementary School	10	10	52
S1	Colleton	Colleton County High School	48	20	236
S1	Jasper	Ridgeland School Complex (Junior/Middle)	128	60	641
Group 1 (28)			718	470	3,337

(f) Congregate shelters will have an isolation area for citizens with elevated body temperatures and adhere to social distancing with 110 sq. ft. per person.

[1] Once in the isolation area, citizens with EBT will contact the DHEC CareLine. The citizen will then either be designated as a person that may have COVID-19, or a person who likely does not.

[2] An evacuee that is designated, as potentially having COVID-19 will be transported to a DHEC identified non-congregate facility for shelter, by either DHEC, County or emergency contractor transportation.

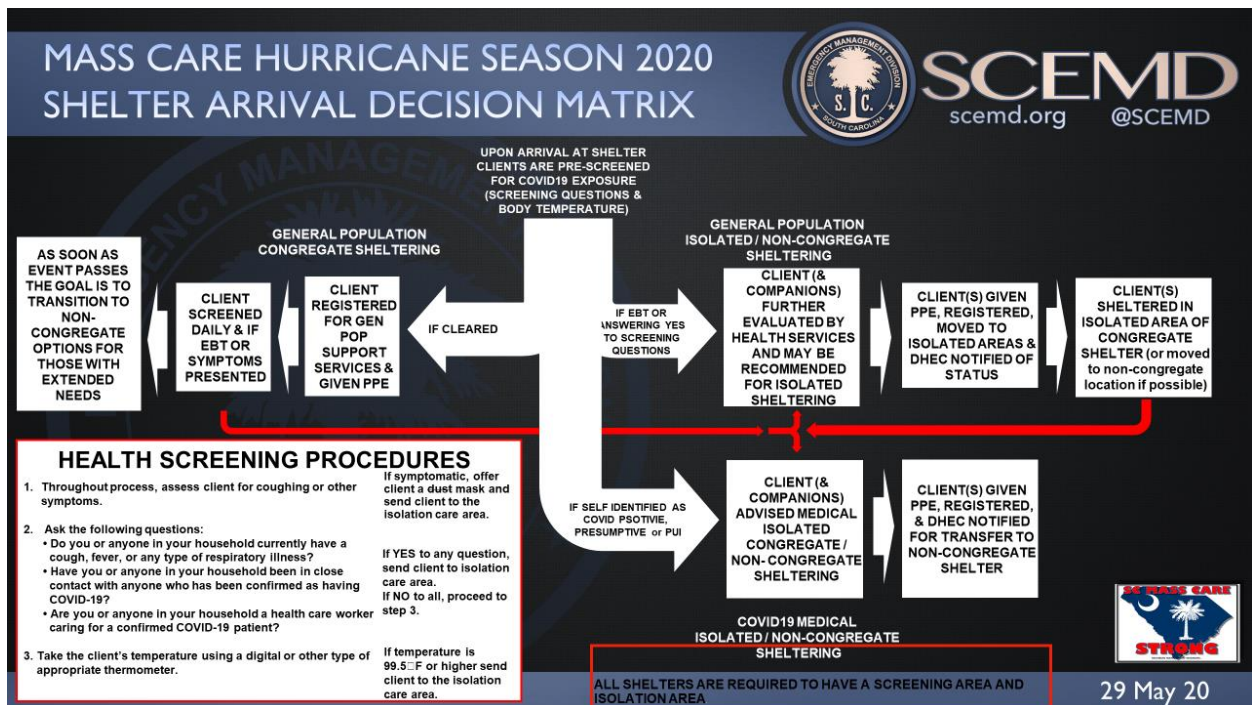
[3] An evacuee that is designated as unlikely to have COVID-19 will then be advised to remain in the isolation area of the shelter.

(g) Red Cross and DSS, supplemented where required by SC National and State Guard personnel, and county staff and school nurses will provide congregate shelter staffing.

b. COVID-19 positive citizens, required to evacuate as part of an evacuation, will contact the DHEC CareLine to identify themselves and gain assistance, if required, in transportation and destination for any evacuation. DHEC has pre-identified a number of hotels throughout the state to be used for

COVID-19 positive citizens required to evacuate as part of an evacuation.

- c. PPE (to include thermometers for screening) will be provided by the local jurisdiction for the shelter occupants and staff, and the resource request process will be used to fill any identified resource gaps in PPE.
- d. For all additional information on mass care, refer to the SCEOP, Annex 6 (Mass Care).



2. CTN Mass Transportation (Critical Transportation Needs)

a. The very nature of a CTN evacuation causes large numbers of people to congregate in relatively small areas. In the event of a CTN evacuation in the COVID-19 environment, the priority will be to take proactive measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus while safely evacuating the at-risk population.

b. Collection Point Operations

(1) Citizens with elevated body temperatures (EBT)

(a) A staff member located at a state-run collection point will take the temperatures of

all evacuees boarding transportation. Although an EBT is not a diagnosis for COVID-19, it does provide a mechanism for identifying evacuees who could have COVID-19 and mitigates the possible spread of infection to others.

- (b) Every evacuee will be screened for EBT. In no case shall household family members/friends be separated during the evacuation process even if one of the evacuating members tests positive for EBT.
- (c) Weather permitting, collection point staff will create an area outside of the collection point where evacuees will initially line up for temperature screenings.
- (d) Any evacuee that tests negative for EBT enters the normal evacuation process established at the collection point; however, any evacuee that tests positive for EBT shall inform the staff member of any household family member or friends currently accompanying them.
- (e) The EBT evacuee and accompanying household family members/friends are then directed to a pre-designated quarantine area.
- (f) Once in the quarantine area, evacuees with EBT will contact the DHEC CareLine. The evacuee will then either be designated as a person that potentially may have COVID-19, or a person who likely does not.

[1] An evacuee that is designated, as potentially having COVID-19 will be transported to a DHEC identified non-congregate facility for shelter.

[2] An evacuee that is designated as unlikely to have COVID-19, will then be transported to a Red Cross managed congregate shelter, and

placed into the isolation area within the shelter if necessary.

[3] If time does not allow or to simplify the mass transportation process, an individual with an EBT may be transported directly to a general population shelter and placed into an isolation area within that shelter, from which the individual will then contact the DHEC CareLine for follow-up by DHEC staff.

(g) Multiple types of transportation resources, (each displaying a yellow placard), provided by the County, must be pre-staged near the collection point quarantine area in order to transport citizens with EBT to either a DHEC identified non-congregate facility or to a congregate shelter's isolation area. If a county is unable to provide transportation, the emergency transportation vendor will provide transportation.

(h) In order to respond to an increasing threat or a lack of time and resources to complete the COVID-related tasks in a collection point evacuation operation, a color-coded status method may be implemented to expedite the evacuation process and accept a greater level of risk in order to save immediate life.

Green	Amber	Red
<p><u>At the collection point:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take evacuee temperatures. • Complete COVID-19 sorting protocols. • Ensure evacuees wear facemasks and maintain social distancing. • Follow recommended vehicle boarding procedures and seat passengers using every other row. <p><u>At other designated sites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and disinfect vehicles per specified protocols. 	<p><u>At the collection point:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspend taking evacuee temperatures. • Suspend COVID-19 sorting protocols. • If an evacuee voluntarily self-identifies as being COVID positive, then the evacuee (and any accompanying household members) will be transported to an NCS facility using a separate vehicle. • Ensure evacuees wear facemasks and maintain social distancing. • Follow recommended vehicle boarding procedures and seat passengers using every other row. <p><u>At other designated sites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and disinfect vehicles per specified protocols. 	<p><u>At the collection point:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspend taking evacuee temperatures. • Suspend COVID-19 sorting protocols. • If an evacuee voluntarily self-identifies as being COVID positive, then the evacuee (and any accompanying household members) will be transported to an NCS facility using a separate vehicle. • Expedite the queuing, manifesting, and boarding process. • Suspend using recommended vehicle boarding procedures and seat passengers using every seat and every row. <p><u>At other designated sites:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspend cleaning and disinfecting vehicles.

(2) Quarantine Area

- (a) A quarantine area will be established at any collection point prior to the commencement of the evacuation. This area will be strategically located to allow for privacy and security of all individuals within the quarantine area. The goal is to only hold EBT evacuees and their household family members and/or friends in the quarantined area for the time it takes to arrange for transportation, depending on the results of being triaged by the CareLine.
- (b) The size of the quarantine area will be based on the overall anticipated number of CTN evacuees and the estimated number of CTN evacuees with EBTs. It is likely that the number of CTN evacuees with EBTs will be a small fraction of the overall number of CTNs. All quarantine areas shall adhere to

the 6-foot CDC guidance on social distancing.

(3) Staffing

- (a) The state transportation emergency contractor, with support from an Incident Management Team, (IMT), SC National Guard or SC State Guard support, will provide staffing at the collection point.
- (b) Local DSS staff will be made available to assist if local shelters are not opened due to the size and strength of the any approaching storm.
- (c) Local governments will be responsible for local pickups, (transferring of citizens to the collection point), a collection point manager or liaison and security at the collection point.

South Carolina Collection Point Typing, Functions, and Staffing Guidance			
	Type III	Type II	Type I
CTN throughput Per Hour	25	50	100
Number of Motor Coaches Required Per Hour	1 (every two hours)	1	2
Number of Motor Coaches Required Per Hour (COVID-19)	1	2	4
CTN throughput over a 30-hour operational timeframe	750	1500	3000
Total Number of Motor Coaches Required	17	33	67
Total Number of Motor Coaches Required (COVID-19)	30	60	120
Collection Point Function/Position	Number of Recommended Staff		
CP Manager*	1	1	1
CP Assistant Manager*	0	0	1
Security*	1	2	3
Guides at Arrival Area+	1	1	2
Information Assistance and Sorting+	1	1	2
Guides at Internal Processing Area+	0	1	2
Medical Station* (+)	1	1	2
Care Line Triage+			
Queuing/Manifesting+	1	1	2
Guides Leading to Vehicle Departure Area+	0	1	2
Vehicle Departure Area**	2	2	2
COVID-19 EBT Screening+	1	1	2
COVID-19 Quarantine Area (Medical)* (+)	1	1	2
COVID-19 Quarantine Area (Non-Medical)+	1	1	2
COVID-19 Vehicle Departure Area**	0	0	2
Total (per shift):	8 (11 for COVID-19)	11 (14 for COVID-19)	19 (27 for COVID-19)

* Local-Provided Staff
 ** Transportation Management Services Staff
 + State-Provided Staff
 (+) These positions may be consolidated

Planning Considerations

- CTN evacuation operation occurs during daylight hours only.
- CTN evacuation timeframe is 30 hours.
- Motor coach capacity is 45 passengers.
- Motor coach capacity in COVID-19 environment is 25 passengers.
- TMS will staff the Forward Staging Area (FSA) associated with the Collection Point.



Developed by Transportation Management Services (TMS)
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c. Transportation

- (1) Transportation protocols for all evacuation vehicles will be implemented, regardless of whether or not they are transporting EBT or CTN evacuees.
- (2) CDC guidance will be followed throughout the transportation process. The row behind the driver will be left vacant and all passengers will be required to wear PPE. Family members or friends travelling together will be allowed to occupy the same row.



Recommended Evacuee Queuing and Boarding Process



The two motor coach seating diagrams below (Figure 1 and Figure 2) are based on a 56-passenger motor coach, which is the most widely available motor coach. The two diagrams represent options available for seating passengers using social distancing requirements in the current COVID-19 environment.

Option 1: Seat passengers using every other row (this follows CDC-recommended guidance for social distancing on a motor coach).

Maximum of 26 passengers allowed on a 56-passenger motor coach



Figure 1: Option 1 Seating (every other row)

Option 2: Seat passengers using a staggered pattern to increase social distancing on a motor coach.

Maximum of 28 passengers allowed on a 56-passenger motor coach



Figure 2: Option 2 Seating (staggered pattern)

- Note 1: Motor coaches with a lift will lose a minimum of 4 seats.
- Note 2: The passenger planning factor for a Non-COVID evacuation is 45 passengers per motor coach.*
- Note 3: The passenger planning factor for a COVID evacuation is 25 passengers per motor coach.*
- Note 4: State Public Health will provide guidance on passenger use of on-board restrooms during COVID evacuations.

*Actual number will vary based on the actual size of the motor coach.

- (3) A ready fleet of small transportation vehicles (provided by the State’s emergency transportation contractor) will be pre staged at select Collection Points and the main State Vehicle Staging Area in Orangeburg, in order to respond to, and provide transportation support to DHEC for movement of citizens with EBT and COVID-19.

d. Disinfection

- (1) All vehicles that transport citizens with EBT or that are COVID-19 positive, will be required to go through a disinfection process before they can be re-used. Guidance provided by the State’s emergency transportation contractor will be followed for this process. This guidance takes into account the current CDC recommendations and exceeds the DHEC requirements for disinfecting school buses.
- (2) A central location for disinfection will be located at the Vehicle Staging Area in Orangeburg. Additional disinfection mobile teams may be located and utilized in select areas of the State, that are in close proximity to COVID-19 testing sites and high usage general population shelters. This is in order to reduce vehicle transit times and stress on the mass transportation mission.
- (3) The number of evacuation vehicles required may increase depending on the level of social distancing required.

e. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

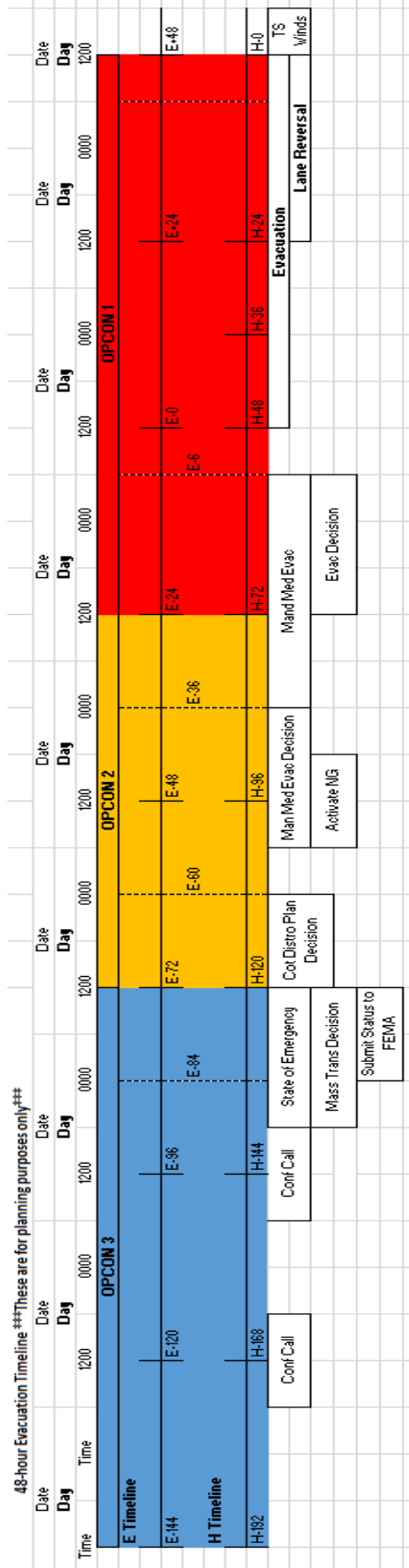
All PPE required, as part of a state-led mass transportation mission will be provided by SCEMD through the normal process of resource requested.

3. COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline

COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline	
Time Prior Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)
E-84 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Governor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign Governor’s State of Emergency Declaration to support disaster operations. • Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mass Transportation Plan. ❑ ESF-1: Notify Department of Education of possible support requirements for Mass Transportation Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify Mass Transportation needs with counties. ❑ ESF-19: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue National Guard Warning Order for State activation. ** If insufficient time to issue Warning Order, may need to source units from locations closer to evacuation area and phase forces in as they are activated. • Consider recommending National Guard request for Title 32 funding support.
E-72 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ ESF-6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute Cot Distribution Plan. • Verify possible shelter and staffing levels in coordination with Red Cross. ❑ ESF-8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate Ambulance contract for Mandatory Medical Evacuation if required. • Mobilize and monitor Emergency Medical Services transport. • Monitor to ensure Healthcare facilities contact transportation providers. • Monitor status of ambulance contract, if requested. ❑ ESF-16: Issue warning order to SC Highway Patrol (SCHP).
E-60 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ ESF-8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor ongoing census reduction of health care facilities. • Consider requests for facility exemptions from proposed evacuation order on a case-by-case basis.

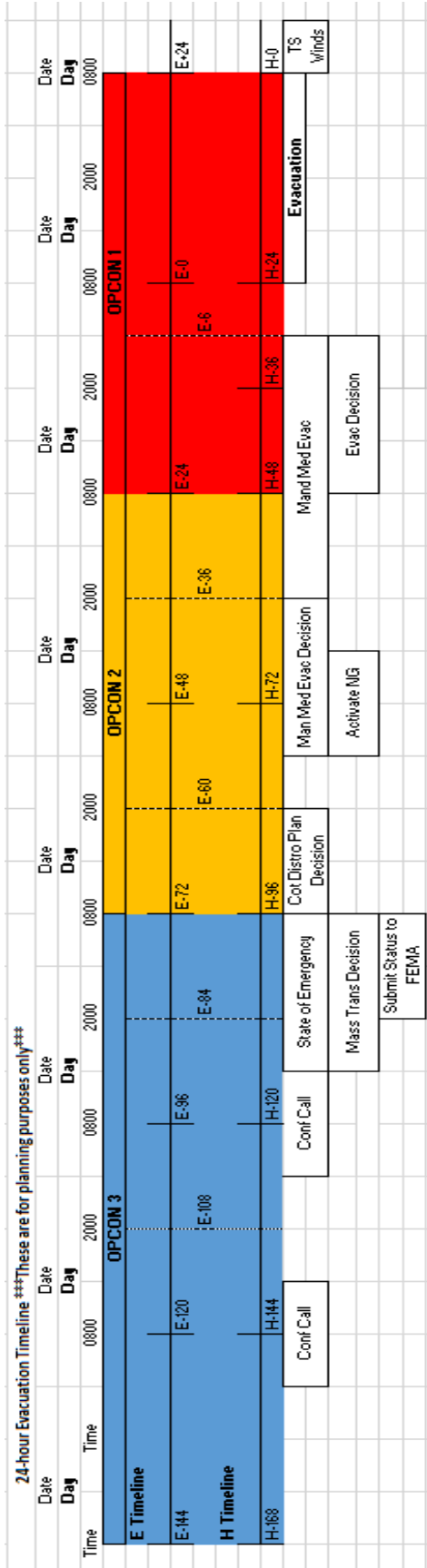
COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline	
Time Prior Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)
E-48 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Governor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order w/exceptions). • Call the National Guard to State Active Duty. ❑ ESF-8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate emergency radio communications tests among hospitals and public health departments. • Monitor census reduction and movement of critical care patients from hospitals in projected surge zones. • Continue healthcare facility coordination. ❑ ESF-19: Activate selected National Guard units to support evacuation, sheltering, and mass transportation.
E-36 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ ESF-16: Emergency Traffic Management - mobilizes evacuation support personnel and resources. <i>*Based on the storm's path and intensity as well as evacuation response patterns from coastal South Carolina and nearby states-particularly Florida and Georgia- ESF 16 may initiate mobilization, deployment, and implementation for evacuation operations-to include lane reversals- up to 12 hours (E-48) in advance of the current timeline. These early actions are especially important for ensuring access to evacuation routes for South Carolina evacuees and for mitigating likely congestion along the evacuation routes.</i>
E-24 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Governor: Go/No-Go decision on Evacuation (sign Evacuation Order). ❑ SCEMD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise counties and SERT of Governor's evacuation decisions and TCPs as determined by ESF-16. • Notify ESF-6 to execute Evacuation Shelter Plan. ❑ ESF-6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Execute Evacuation Shelter Plan for designated zones. • Update status of shelters and staffing resource gaps. ❑ ESF-16: Pre-position SCHP TCP personnel into the areas(s) as appropriate.
E-12 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Mass Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and personnel in place at Embarkation/Debarkation points. • Vehicles are in place at Vehicle Staging Areas. ❑ ESF-15: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue news releases delineating evacuation zones. • Initiate Public Information program to announce Mass Transportation Plan, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.

COVID-19 Evacuation Decision and Response Timeline	
Time Prior Evacuation	Operational Key Event, Decision Point, or Timing Window (timings are situation dependent)
E-6 Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Governor: Announce evacuation. <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Transportation: Vehicles move to Motor Coach Forward Staging Areas. <input type="checkbox"/> SCEMD: First Evacuee bus departs; process continues until last bus departs or -2 hours to onset of tropical force winds.
E Hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ESF-13/ESF-19: TCPs staffed and prepared to control traffic.



36-hour Evacuation Timeline ***These are for planning purposes only***

Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date	Date
Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day	Day
Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time	Time
OPCON 3									
E Timeline									
E-144	E-120	E-96	E-84	E-72	E-48	E-24	E-12	E-0	E-12
H Timeline									
H-180	H-156	H-132	H-108	H-84	H-60	H-36	H-12	H-0	H-24
	Conf Call	Conf Call	State of Emergency	Cot Distro Plan Decision	Man Med Evac Decision	Mand Med Evac			Evacuation Lane Reversal
			Mass Trans Decision	Activate MG					
			Submit Status to FEMA						
									TS Winds



VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

SCEMD is the primary agency for the coordination of all hurricane response efforts.

1. The primary pre-landfall responsibility of all levels of government will be to minimize the loss of life and to safeguard property, while assuming a level of risk due to the nature of operating within a COVID-19 environment.
2. Responsibilities listed within this section are based on pre-evacuation decision deadline priority actions only, operating within a COVID-19 environment for a hurricane event.
3. For a comprehensive list of duties and responsibilities by ESF, see Annex A to the SC Hurricane Plan.

B. Governor's Office

1. Sign Governor's State of Emergency Declaration to support disaster operations.
2. Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mass Transportation Plan and evacuation (sign Evacuation Order).
3. Go/No-Go decision on initiation of Mandatory Medical Evacuation (sign Mandatory Medical Evacuation Order).
4. Call the National Guard to State Active Duty.
5. Announce evacuation.

C. South Carolina Emergency Management Division

1. Provide the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) with projected E-Hour and affected Evacuation Zones.
2. Increase SEOC activation level/staffing as needed based on current threat and timeline with deference to social distancing requirements.
3. Activate the Emergency Operations Plans (EOP).
4. Notify ESFs and State agencies to initiate ESF SOP activities with deference to social distancing requirements.

5. Advise key personnel and ESFs to begin preparation for possible evacuation.
 6. Initiate disaster intelligence cycle.
 7. Coordinate with FEMA Region IV Threat Assessment Unit, Hurricane Liaison Team (HLT) and Evacuation Liaison Team (ELT).
 8. Submit request for a Presidential Emergency Declaration for direct federal assistance and category B emergency protective measures statewide.
 9. Conduct county and executive conference calls to discuss National Hurricane Center advisories, Governor's guidance, evacuation decisions, COVID-19 specific response actions and future priority actions.
 10. Assess storm forecast and potential state/regional impact using hurricane-tracking tools. Update potential storm scenarios in conjunction with local NWS Offices and the State Climatology Office to brief during conference calls.
 11. Prepare draft Executive Order for Evacuation.
 12. Notify ESF-6 to execute COVID-19 specific Evacuation Shelter Plan.
 13. Activate Disaster Logistics Support Plan.
 14. Activate PIPS and announce telephone number.
 15. Prepare to coordinate damage assessment operations.
- D. ESF-1 (Transportation)
1. Integrate traffic management provider to support evacuation.
 2. Verify mass transportation needs with counties.
 3. Notify Department of Education of possible support requirements for Mass Transportation Plan.
 4. Coordinate with rapid transit agencies to support evacuation operations within available time.
- E. ESF-2 (Communications)
1. Fuel equipment and priority communications generators.

2. Execute pre-planned prioritized distribution scheme for radio/airborne repeater equipment in support of ESF-16 activities.

3. Assign talk groups/frequency channels.

F. ESF-4 (Fire Fighting)

Monitor and track status of local firefighting capabilities.

G. ESF-6 (Mass Care)

1. Notify shelter partners, to include ESF-17, of pending shelter activations.

2. Execute COVID-19 Evacuation Shelter Plan for designated evacuation zones.

3. Provide status of open shelters, hotels and staffing/resource levels.

4. Execute shelter plan, utilizing a mix of congregate and non-congregate facilities for general population shelters. DHEC will utilize non-congregate facilities for COVID-19 positive cases and clients with elevated body temperatures as required.

5. Arrange for any needed additional personal protective equipment (PPE) for both staff and clients at COVID-19 and elevated body temperature shelters.

6. Execute expedited shelter transition post storm to facilitate closure of pre-landfall evacuation shelters.

7. DHEC will provide non-congregate sheltering for Medical Needs Shelterees as required.

H. ESF-8 (Health and Medical)

1. Monitor and report critical information from licensed health care facilities.

2. Coordinate Emergency Medical Services transport.

3. Coordinate with DHEC to determine health care facility exemptions from proposed evacuation order on a case-by-case basis.

4. Monitor census reduction and movement of patients from hospitals in projected evacuation zones.

5. Provide consultation for infection control measures in evacuation shelters.
 6. Continue to perform COVID-19 surveillance.
- I. ESF-9 (Search and Rescue)
- Initiate Search and Rescue (SAR) Planning Cell.
- J. ESF-12 (Energy)
- Activate and coordinate implementation of Evacuation Fuel Plan.
- K. ESF-13 (Law Enforcement)
1. Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources to support evacuation and COVID-19 response operations.
 2. Deploy law enforcement and/or security resources.
- L. ESF-14 (Recovery and Mitigation)
1. Share updates regarding federal COVID-19 recovery assistance program eligibility policy and practices.
 2. Coordinate with federal agencies to implement available COVID-19 federal assistance programs.
 3. Work with REMs and ESF-6 to support counties in identifying and addressing shelter transition and unmet needs.
- M. ESF-15 (Public Information)
1. Activate the state joint information system and center with staff in person and teleworking.
 2. Share resources among all agency public information personnel to deliver a cohesive, coordinated, unified messaging strategy from a centralized source that is easily accessible virtually.
 3. Execute public awareness campaign.
 4. Issue news releases delineating evacuation zones.
 5. Initiate Public Information program to announce Mass Transportation Plan, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.
 6. Initiate public information campaign specifically for general population shelters, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.

7. Focus public information campaign specifically on evacuation and “stay where you are” information, with a focus on COVID-19 precautions.

N. ESF-16 (Emergency Traffic Management)

1. Alert and deploy forces as mandated by the Warning and Mobilization orders as issued by the SCDPS Director. Phase augmenting troopers to prioritized Traffic Control Points (TCP). Request State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), or SC Probation, Pardon, and Parole Services (PPP) to assist with TCPs as required with resources in place.
2. Evaluate criteria for lane reversal actions.
3. Mobilize evacuation support personnel and resources.
4. Activate evacuation messaging on DOT messaging boards.
5. Occupy TCPs for traffic control.
6. Initiate Lane Reversal Clearance (if lane reversal has been ordered).

A. ESF-17 (Animal/Agriculture Emergency Response)

1. Notify in state and out-of-state response partners.
2. Disseminate storm preparedness as well as relevant COVID-19 guidance to animal owners and agricultural businesses.
3. Provide information about shelter options, including emergency horse stable options, to evacuating animal owners.
4. Coordinate resources to support animal/agriculture emergency response.

B. ESF-19 (Military Support)

1. Source units from locations closer to evacuating areas and phase forces in as National Guard Warning Order activates them.
2. Recommend National Guard request for Title 32 funding support.
3. Identify routes for deployment and support.
4. Initiate/receive/start military logistics support area (LSA) operations for troop support.

5. LNOs virtually forward deploy to select County EOCs if timeline allows.
6. Position military TCP and LSA personnel as appropriate.
7. Civil Support Team deploys as required.
8. Provide temperature screening at passenger pick up sites if needed.
9. Provide staffing support to congregate shelters as designated.
10. Provide drivers and support to the Department of Education as part of the Mass Transportation Contingency Plan.

VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- A. This contingency plan is a supplemental document to the SC Hurricane Plan, supporting all areas concerning the State’s hurricane emergency activities.
- B. Departments and agencies of State and local governments have assisted in the development of this contingency plan.
- C. Key State Emergency Response Team (SERT) members will review this Contingency Plan as part of the review of the SC Hurricane Plan.
- D. At a minimum, SCEMD will review this Contingency Plan at the end of the 2020 hurricane season, and update/revise the plan as necessary throughout the period or based on exercise/incident after action reports.

Record of Changes				
Change Number	Change	Date of Change	Date Entered	Change Made by
4	Mass transportation color-coded risk status added. Isolation language clarification and changes	08/03/2020	08/03/2020	R. Burton