

ASPR Preparedness and Response Capabilities

Guidance for effective health care system preparedness and response

HEALTH CARE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

ASPR developed the **2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities** guidance to describe what the health care delivery system, including Health Care Coalitions (HCCs), hospitals, Emergency Management Agencies (EMA), emergency medical services (EMS), must do to effectively prepare for and respond to emergencies that impact the public's health.

These capabilities illustrate the range of preparedness and response activities that, if conducted, **represent the ideal state of readiness** in the United States. They support the [National Response Framework](#), [National Preparedness Goal](#), and the [National Health Security Strategy and Implementation Plan](#) to build community health resilience and integrate health care organizations, emergency management organizations, emergency medical services agencies, and public health agencies for coordinated response.

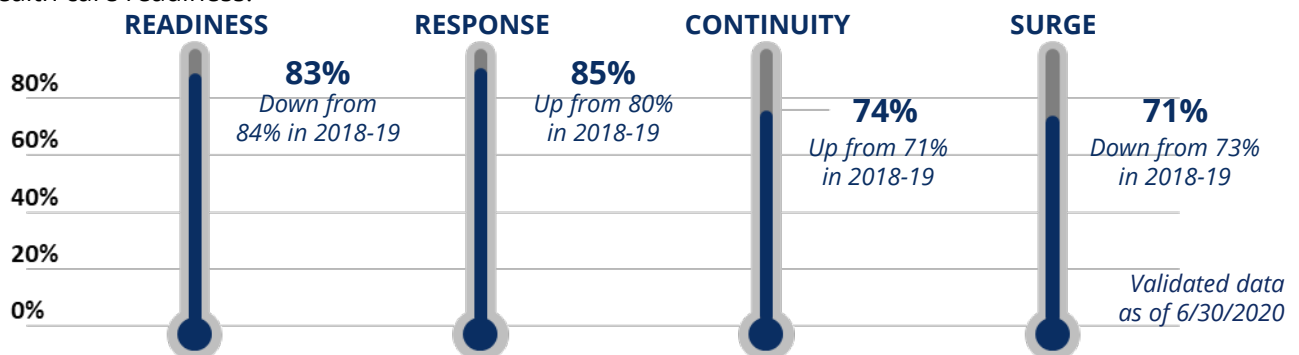
These **capabilities are flexible enough to encourage all-hazard planning** and to address all populations. Private organizations, government agencies, and Emergency Support Function-8 lead agencies such as ASPR all share authority and accountability for health care delivery system readiness; these capabilities provide **common goals and outcomes across each stakeholder group**.

THE FOUR CAPABILITIES

- Foundation for Health Care and Medical Readiness**
- Health Care and Medical Response Coordination**
- Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery**
- Medical Surge**

HCC PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE CAPABILITIES

HCCs develop shared preparedness plans, conduct exercises, and collaborate to prepare and respond to real-world events while making progress on the four capabilities to advance HPP's goal of nationwide health care readiness.



While progress on two of the four capabilities did not improve, overall, HCC progress in the four capabilities has shown improvement since 2016. For more information, review the [2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities](#).

COMPONENTS OF THE FOUR CAPABILITIES

The 2017-2022 Health Care Preparedness and Response Capabilities document is organized into four sections—one for each capability. Each capability has a goal and a set of objectives with associated activities to achieve that objective.



Foundation for Health Care and Medical Readiness

Goal:

The community's health care organizations have strong relationships, identify hazards and risks, and prioritize and address gaps through planning, training, exercising, and managing resources.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Objective 1:** Establish and operationalize a health care coalition
- **Objective 2:** Identify risk and needs
- **Objective 3:** Develop a health care coalition preparedness plan
- **Objective 4:** Train and prepare the health care and medical workforce
- **Objective 5:** Ensure preparedness is sustainable



Health Care and Medical Response Coordination

Goal:

Health care organizations, the HCC, their jurisdiction(s), and the ESF-8 lead agency plan and collaborate to share and analyze information, manage and share resources, and coordinate strategies to deliver medical care to all populations during emergencies and planned events.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Objective 1:** Develop and coordinate health care organization and HCC response plans
- **Objective 2:** Utilize information sharing procedures and platforms
- **Objective 3:** Coordinate response strategy, resources, and communications



Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery

Goal:

Health care organizations, with support from the HCC and the ESF-8 lead agency, provide uninterrupted, optimal medical care to all populations in the face of damaged or disabled health care infrastructure. Health care workers are well-trained, well-educated, and well-equipped to care for patients during emergencies. Simultaneous response and recovery operations result in a return to normal or, ideally, improved operations.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Objective 1:** Identify essential functions for health care delivery
- **Objective 2:** Plan for continuity of operations
- **Objective 3:** Maintain access to non-personnel resources during an emergency
- **Objective 4:** Develop strategies to protect health care information systems and networks
- **Objective 5:** Protect responders' safety and health
- **Objective 6:** Plan for and coordinate health care evacuation and relocation
- **Objective 7:** Coordinate health care delivery system recovery



Medical Surge

Goal:

Health care organizations deliver timely and efficient care to their patients even when the demand for health care services exceeds available supply. The HCC, in collaboration with the ESF-8 lead agency, coordinates information and available resources for its members to maintain conventional surge response. When an emergency overwhelms the HCC's collective resources, the HCC supports the health care delivery system's transition to contingency and crisis surge response.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Objective 1:** Plan for a medical surge
- **Objective 2:** Respond to a medical surge