POST-DISASTER HOSPITAL REOPENING PROCEDURES

Step 1: Regardless of evacuation or shelter-in-place status

Facility Administration should coordinate with local Emergency Service Directors to understand conditions of roadways leading to and from the facility.

Each facility should confirm open routes for patient transport and emergency services in the event of a facility fire or other secondary event.

Step 2: For evacuated facilities or shelter-in-place facilities

Within 24-hours post-disaster, if road conditions allow, appropriate facility staff should conduct a damage assessment of the facility.

Ensure continuity of food water supplies for both patients and staff, and medicine and equipment needs for patients.

Step 3: If no damage is noted and full services offered

When the facility returns to full-service following a zero-damage assessment, notify Health Regulation at the DHEC Agency Coordination Center (ACC).

- Send confirmation of return-to-service to: ACC-HealthReg@dhec.sc.gov
- Call ACC-HealthReg Desk at 803-898-3685

Agency follow-up will occur as staff are able. **Continue to Step 5.**

No immediate response from DHEC is required for you to operate at Step 3

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Step 4: If facility is damaged or limited services offered

If any of the following apply to your facility post-disaster, **YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CONTACT DHEC BEFORE PROCEEDING:**

- Post-disaster assessment reveals damage to the physical plant
- Evacuated facility must remain closed due to damage or other circumstances
- Sheltered facility will not return to immediate service
- Additional patient transfers are required
- Only limited hospital services will be available for a period of time

CALL 803-898-3685 OR EMAIL ACC-HealthReg@dhec.sc.gov

Step 5: Repatriation of evacuated patient population

Understand that repatriation may not occur as quickly as evacuation. Available EMS resources will focus immediately on new medical emergencies.

Prior to engaging in repatriation activities, each facility should:

- Contact receiving facilities to verify status of individual patients
  - Discharges? Change in patient condition? Unexpected outcomes?
- Prepare a list of facilities and patients for transmittal to State EMS and transport staff

Contact ACC-HealthReg to notify of approximate repatriation timeline and expected census.

- Send this information to: ACC-HealthReg@dhec.sc.gov
- Call ACC-HealthReg Desk at 803-898-3685

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

1. South Carolina Emergency Management Division……..803-737-8500
2. South Carolina Hospital Association................................803-796-3080
3. DHEC Bureau of EMS..803-898-3694