



Chaffee, El Paso, Lake, Park and Teller Counties

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTHCARE
COALITION**

**ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE GUIDE**

September 30, 2020

Executive Summary

There is a critical need for regional and state partners to have the right information at the right time, so that officials can make good decisions by having actionable information that is readily available. Effective decision-making is contingent upon communities/agencies of interest collectively defining and codifying their operational information requirements for various response events. The collection of pre-defined operational information requirements are known as essential elements of information (EEl)s. EEl)s represent the evolution of the localized data sharing components from the custodial owners of data into a hierarchical system that allows for specific information requirements to be shared and understood at a local, regional, state, or national view.

Although individual emergency management organizations may have previously established their own information requirements, the objective of this publication guidance is to define information sharing elements required to support response efforts from across jurisdictions on the South Central Healthcare Coalition (SCHCC). The EEl)s in this guidance are not intended to represent the state or national model, rather to enhance the ability for the SCHCC to more effectively employ their information enterprise in support of operations. Clear definition of EEl)s will help foster the ability of SCHCC to support operators, planners and other partners to work together to refine and share information that help responders and receivers achieve their respective missions.

Purpose

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to describe the South Central Healthcare Coalitions' (SCHCC) plan to administer pre-defined queries for essential elements of information (EEl)s in order to support operators, planners and other partners to achieve their respective missions during an event that impacts the health and medical infrastructure of the South Central Region (SCR).

Situation

- A. Supporting the Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8) in responding to medical and functional needs in impacted jurisdictions.

The SCHCC must be prepared to support the state and local ESF8 in supporting facility evacuation or decompression for noticed incidents or events (wildfire, severe weather) or no-notice incidents (tornado, mass casualty incidents, etc.)

Regional healthcare system monitoring will be conducted and assistance provided when requested by local jurisdictions.

- B. If local medical system capacity is exceeded, the SCHCC will be prepared to support situational awareness in order to support operators, planners and health care partners to refine and share information that help responders and receivers achieve their respective missions.
- C. The South Central Region Health and Medical System consists of:
 - a. 10 Licensed Hospitals (1,314 Licensed Beds) of which 6 are Acute Care Hospitals
 - i. A trauma system consisting of the following centers
 - 1 Level I Trauma Center(s)
 - 1 Level II Trauma Center(s)
 - 1 Level II Pediatric Trauma Center(s)
 - 2 Level III Trauma Center(s)
 - 3 Critical Access Hospitals
 - b. 33 Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facilities (4,039 beds) – A Nursing Home, or Long Term Care facility, is a health facility that holds itself out as a nursing home, nursing facility, nursing care facility or intermediate care facility or a health facility that is planned, organized, operated, and maintained to provide supportive, restorative, and preventive services to persons who, due to physical and/or mental disability, require continuous or regular inpatient care. (6 CCR 1011-1 Chap 05)

Bed availability data for the aforementioned facilities will be collected through Colorado’s designated facility status system (currently EMResource). EMResource is a platform in which local and state officials are able to monitor bed tracking and situational assessment reporting requirements. EMResource also streamlines communications between medical response teams and healthcare providers by monitoring healthcare assets, emergency department capacity, and ICU and behavioral health bed status.

Activation of EEI Reporting

Upon request from local, regional or state partners, the SCHCC will activate EEI queries with the appropriate health and medical agencies impacted by the event, exercise, or training. Requests for activation of EEI reporting can come from SCHCC Chair or Co-Chair(s), SCHCC Clinical Advisor, Local Public Health Agency (LPHA), Local Emergency Manager, or Hospital Emergency Manager.

Essential Elements of Information (EEI) Query

Hospital Status

Hospital status has been identified as an EEI to support overall response and recovery operations following a disaster. Depending on the type and magnitude of the disaster, hospital resources may be stressed by large numbers of casualties. The hospital EEI helps identify the operational status of hospitals (e.g., ability to accept injured disaster survivors, supply shortages, etc.) and helps incident commanders’ direct resources and casualty evacuations accordingly.

Nursing Home (NH)/ Long Term Care Facility (LTCF) Status

NH/LTCF status has been identified as an EEI to support overall response and recovery operations following a disaster. Depending on the type and magnitude of the disaster, NH/LTCF resources may be necessary to support decompression of hospitals due to large numbers of casualties. The NH/ALTCFEEI helps identify the operational status of Nursing Homes and Long Term Care Facilities (e.g., ability to accept discharge patients from local/regional hospitals, supply shortages, etc.) and helps incident commanders direct resources and casualty evacuations accordingly.

Home Health and Hospice Agency Status

Home Health and Hospice has been identified as an EEI to help identify the operational status of access and functional needs patients across the CMIST paradigm within our community and helps incident commanders direct resources and casualty evacuations accordingly.