



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-202100913-00540-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
September 15, 2021
SUBJECT: Mandatory Hospital Participation in Mississippi
COVID-19 System of Care Plan

STATE HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 41-23-1 et. seq. and the State of Emergency Declaration by the Governor of the State of Mississippi related to the coronavirus COVID-19 issued on March 14, 2020, I, Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health, hereby issue this statewide Order e participation in the Mississippi COVID-19 System of Care Plan mandatory for all licensed hospitals in Mississippi effective **from September 15, 2021 until September 22, 2021**, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

Crisis Operations - Critical Care Services

As Mississippi has reached a point where hospitals can no longer accommodate acute clinical demands, Mississippi ESF-8 will enact a COVID-19 rotation to ensure the proper assignment of patients to the appropriate hospital.

- Transfers for critical care services that cannot be accommodated by the normal referral processes will be routed through ESF-8 Mississippi Med-Com. Sending facility should call Mississippi MedCom at (601) 984-4367.
- All sending facilities must report to Med-Com all transfers requiring ICU level care, both COVID and Non-COVID.
- Mississippi Med-Com will direct patients to available beds, and, when no beds are available, to hospital destinations on a rotating basis based on geography and resource availability.
- Patients in Mississippi at level 4 hospitals in need of a higher level of care and critical care patients at level 2 and 3 hospitals that lack appropriate services to care for patients will be eligible for the rotational transfer process when necessary. Following stabilization patients will be transferred back to the hospital of origin as directed by Med-Com.
- Med-Com will distribute patients from level 1 and 2 facilities to service levels (3 and 4) according to medical necessity and service availability.
- All patients accepted by higher level facilities will be accepted by the ED physician.



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- Provider to provider and nurse to nurse communications shall be maintained by sending facility.
- Mississippi Med-Com will monitor hospital capacity and capability related to providing care to patients with COVID-19.
- Rotation only applies to transfers originating in Mississippi.
- Any refusal or deviation from the COVID-19 System of Care will be investigated by MSDH.

This the 15th day of September 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Dobbs", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Health Officer



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20210907-00540-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00540
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Message Type:

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Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).