



# **Pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 Plan**



**Granite County Influenza/Covid-19 PLAN  
RECORD OF CHANGES:**

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<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Name</u>
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
DES	Disaster and Emergency Services
DPHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
EMC	Emergency Medical Countermeasure
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operation Center
GCMC	Granite County Medical Center
GCPHD	Granite County Public Health Department
HAN	Health Alert Network
MPHL	Montana Public Health Laboratory
PHEP	Public Health Emergency Preparedness
RN	Registered Nurse
US	United States

## I. Purpose

The purpose of this plan developed by the Granite County Public Health Department (GCPHD) is to provide a framework for local private and public health care, EMS and medical officials to work together to reduce the Influenza/Covid-19 morbidity, mortality, and social disruption which would result from a pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 outbreak. This Plan is updated as needed (no less than yearly) to reflect new developments in the understanding of the Influenza/Covid-19 virus, its spread, treatment, and prevention. The Plan will also incorporate changes, as necessary, in response roles, and improvements in response capability development through ongoing planning efforts.

## II. Situation & Assumptions:

1. An Influenza/Covid-19 pandemic in Granite County will present a massive test of any emergency preparedness system. Advance planning for Granite County's emergency response could save lives and prevent substantial economic loss.
2. Although pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 strains have emerged mostly from areas of Eastern Asia, variants with pandemic potential could emerge in Granite County or elsewhere in the United States.
3. Many geographic areas within Granite County and its neighboring jurisdictions may be affected simultaneously.
4. A pandemic will pose significant threats to human infrastructure responsible for critical community services (in health and non-health sectors) due to widespread absenteeism.
5. Effective preventive and therapeutic measures (vaccines and antiviral medications) may be in short supply.
6. There may be critical shortages of health care resources such as staffed hospital beds, mechanical ventilators, morgue capacity, temporary holding sites with refrigeration for storage of bodies and other resources.
7. Assuming that prior Influenza/Covid-19 vaccination(s) may offer some protection (even against a novel Influenza/Covid-19 variant) the annual Influenza/Covid-19 vaccination program, supplemented by Pneumococcal vaccination when indicated, will remain a cornerstone of prevention.
8. Surveillance of Influenza/Covid-19 disease and virus will provide information critical to an effective response.
9. An effective response to an Influenza/Covid-19 pandemic will require the coordinated efforts of a wide variety of organizations – private as well as public, and health as well as non-health related.

### III. Coordination & Decision Making:

During an Influenza/Covid-19 Pandemic, the Granite County Health Officer/Medical Director will be responsible for implementation of activities outlined in this annex, under the direction of the State Epidemiologist. The Granite County Public Health Department will be responsible for coordinating vaccine distribution, and enhanced surveillance methods for the detection of Influenza/Covid-19 and for facilitating investigation and control interventions. The Health Officer/Medical Director or a designated person will report directly to the State Epidemiologist. The Health Officer/Medical Director, Public Health Nurse, and Public Information Officer will be responsible for coordinating pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 media-related activities. See Granite County Public Health Department Risk Communication Plan.

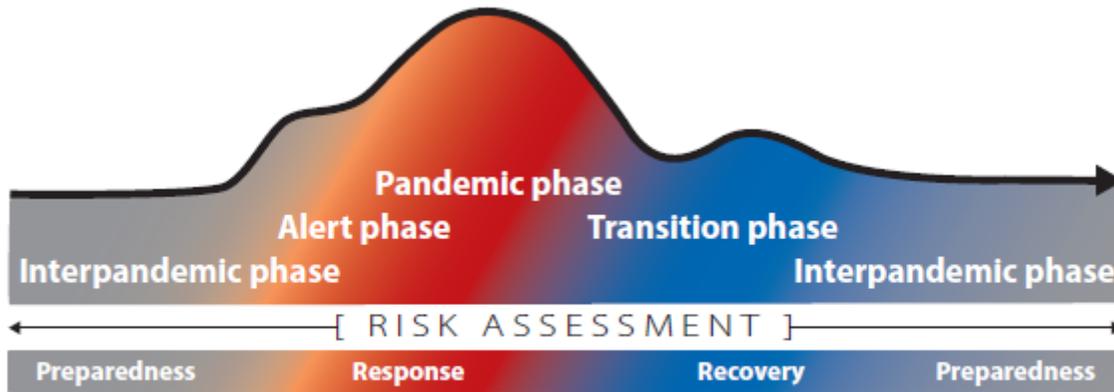
This plan for responding to pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 will serve as an annex to the Granite County Emergency Response Plan. While this annex serves as a guide for specific Influenza/Covid-19 intervention activities, during a pandemic the judgment of public health leadership, based on knowledge of the specific virus, may alter the strategies that have been outlined.

During a pandemic, DPHHS (Department of Public Health and Human Services), under the direction of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), will provide guidance to Granite County Public Health Department on vaccine availability and distribution. If the vaccine is in short supply, which is likely during a pandemic, the CDC, in conjunction with advisory committees, will provide guidance for a rank order listing or priority groups for vaccination. The current list of priorities can be found at [www.cdc.gov/flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/).

### IV. Influenza/Covid-19 Phases

<b>PANDEMIC PHASE</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
<b>Novel Virus Alert</b>	- novel virus detected in one or more humans - little or no immunity in the general population - potential, but not inevitable precursor to a pandemic
<b>Pandemic Alert</b>	- novel virus demonstrates sustained person-to-person transmission and causes multiple cases in the same geographic area
<b>Pandemic Imminent</b>	- novel virus causes unusually high rates of morbidity or mortality in multiple, widespread geographic areas
<b>Pandemic</b>	- further spread with involvement of multiple continents
<b>“Second Wave”</b>	- recrudescence of epidemic activity within several months following the initial wave of infection
<b>Pandemic Over</b>	- cessation of successive pandemic “waves”, accompanied by the return (in the US) of more typical Influenza/Covid-19 cycles

**Figure 1. The continuum of pandemic phases<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> This continuum is according to a “global average” of cases, over time, based on continued risk assessment and consistent with the broader emergency risk management continuum.

## V. Surveillance

Granite County’s Communicable Disease surveillance system is designed to quickly detect outbreaks of disease and identify the organisms involved in order to facilitate early public health intervention. The system has two main surveillance components; passive surveillance and active provider surveillance.

In the event of an Influenza/Covid-19 pandemic, additional surveillance activities will be implemented, including: daily monitoring of hospitals for Influenza/Covid-19 activity, analysis of syndromic surveillance data from participating health systems, review of non-hospital Influenza/Covid-19 related deaths, collection and analysis of vaccine and antiviral adverse event data, and increased coordination of surveillance activities with neighboring jurisdictions.

### Passive Surveillance

Passive Surveillance utilizes Influenza/Covid-19 information received from medical care facilities and lab staff which, by the *Regulations for Disease Reporting and Control*, report communicable diseases of Granite County residents to the health department. This information is then relayed to the state health department, where it is tabulated weekly and forwarded to the CDC.

### Active Surveillance

Active Surveillance is active physician/provider surveillance. The staff of the GCPHD routinely makes bi-weekly phone calls to all providers and laboratories in Granite County for current communicable diseases. This information is then relayed to the state health department, where it is tabulated weekly and forwarded to the CDC. In the event of an outbreak of pandemic Influenza/Covid-19, these calls would increase to weekly; and even daily phone contacts. Contact lists would include healthcare offices, hospitals, daycares, schools, long term care facilities and pharmacies for the purpose of current new diagnoses, absenteeism rates and keeping them abreast of information received from the CDC.

## VI. Roles & Responsibilities

Granite County Public Health, under the direction and authority of the Health Officer/Medical Director, has the primary responsibility of planning and implementing the county-wide response to health threats. General activities of the GCPHD staff include:

1. Promotion of vaccinations for disease prevention.
2. Distribution of vaccine to public and private providers in community.
3. Surveillance for preventable adult and childhood diseases.
4. Provision of educational and motivational resources through community partnerships.
5. Assessment of vaccine coverage levels.
6. Quality assurance reviews of federally and privately purchased vaccine.

Specific responsibilities of GCPHD related to pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 preparation include:

### Pre-Pandemic Phase:

1. Evaluate adequacy of existing local infrastructure to respond to an Influenza/Covid-19 epidemic.
2. Review current emergency/disaster plans to find and remove barriers.
3. Work with local health care facilities to assess and improve health care worker immunization levels.
4. Conduct a county-wide inventory of space and site capacity to serve as triage centers, treatment centers, mass vaccination sites, or holding areas for acutely ill patients. The triage, mass vaccination sites, and holding areas are included in the County Emergency Response Plan, as well as capacity and contact information for each site.
5. Determine local morgue capacity. Identify facilities/resources with refrigerated storage to serve as temporary morgues if necessary.
6. Develop a plan, along with DPHHS, for accepting, storing, and distributing public sector vaccine and antiviral medications. **See Granite County Public Health Department Emergency Medical Countermeasure (EMC) Plan**
7. Educate medical community and general population about nature and significance of pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 and the local response.
8. Work with community partners to develop and coordinate the local response to a flu pandemic.
9. Coordinate HAN or other communication resources with the Health Officer/Medical Director, Emergency Management Department, EOC, EMS, county hospital administrators or emergency department, local veterinarian.

### Novel Virus Alert Phase:

1. Notify hospitals and local private and public partners of novel virus alert.
2. Notify local emergency management director of novel virus alert.

### **Pandemic Alert Phase:**

1. Review pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 response plans.
2. Update hospital, EMS, law enforcement, private and public partners.
3. Ensure that high-risk groups receive vaccine and antiviral medications.

### **Pandemic Imminent:**

1. Review EMC Plan and distribution of vaccine.
2. Provide DPHHS with a list of vaccine distribution sites.
3. Enhance collection of clinical specimens and send to the MPHL (Montana Public Health Laboratory).
4. Contact hospitals and area vaccine providers to review their plans for distribution and administration of vaccine.
5. Administer vaccine, once vaccine is available.

### **Pandemic Phase:**

1. Coordinate use of available local resources during pandemic, including private, public and volunteer resources.
2. Report pandemic-related information, including Influenza/Covid-19 data obtained from hospital and providers to DPHHS regularly.
3. Assess effectiveness of local response and available local capacity.
4. Administer vaccine, once vaccine is available.
5. Work with county hospital to monitor emergency departments for Influenza/Covid-19 activity.

### **Second Wave:**

1. Continue all activities listed under Pandemic phase.
2. Review, evaluate, and modify as needed, the local pandemic response, and report to DPHHS.
3. Continue to vaccinate.
4. Monitor resources and staffing needs.

### **Pandemic Over:**

1. Assess local capacity to resume normal public health functions.
2. Assess local capacity to resume normal health care delivery.
3. Assess fiscal impact of pandemic response.
4. Report results of assessment to Granite County Commissioners and Granite County Board of Health.
5. Report results of assessment to DPHHS.
6. Modify the local Pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 Response Plan based on lessons learned.

## **VII. Communications**

As per the Granite County Public Health Risk Communication plan, the Public Information Officer, along with the Health Officer/Medical Director or designated person's duties will consist of:

1. Direct media and public communications for the GCPHD/EOC; attend briefings on a regular basis, and/or maintain close contact with the State Epidemiologist and Health Officer/Medical Director to obtain updated info.
2. Relay new information to the public and media on a timely basis; arrange press briefings as needed.
3. Coordinate releases with the Health Alert Network Coordinator to assure consistent information is released on the website and with Health Alert distributions.

## **VIII. Vaccine Management**

### **Storage Options**

The Granite County Public Health Department has three storage options in the event pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 necessitates mass vaccination:

1. Granite County Public Health Department Office -Drummond
2. Granite County Pharmacy
3. Granite County Public Health Department Office - Philipsburg

### **Guidelines for Storage**

1. Refrigerate/Freeze immediately upon arrival.
2. Record and document temperatures once daily.

## **IX. Granite County Public Health Pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 Plan Clinic sites**

See Appendix A.

## **X. Mass Vaccination & Prophylaxis**

For mass vaccination and prophylaxis strategies, logistics and clinic set-up, refer to the GCPHD Emergency Medical Countermeasures Plan.

**APPENDIX A**

**Granite County Pandemic Influenza/Covid-19 Plan Clinic Sites**

Vaccine Clinic Sites/Capacities/Contact Information

Philipsburg High School Gymnasium	~400	Contact:406-859-3233 Summer Contact: Tom Gates 406-560-1409
Drummond New Gymnasium	~400	Contact: 406-288-3281 Summer Contact: Dean Phillips 406-459-6978

## **APPENDIX B Hospitals & Facilities**

Granite County Medical Center	
Beds	21
Swing Beds	3
ICU:	0
Ventilators:	0
MD's:	1*
P.A's.:	3*
RN's:	3*
LPN's:	2*

\*Subject to change.

There are ambulances services in Drummond and Philipsburg both are volunteer services. There is a private ambulance that serves Granite County - Coast2Coast.

### Morgue:

K T Riddle Funeral Home in Philipsburg has zero capacity. Chapel Only.  
The Anaconda office could warehouse approximately 15.  
There is no refrigeration, plan to use refrigerated trucks for surge capacity.

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