

TEXARKANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

SUBJECT	Response to Pandemics		
NUMBER	1102.28	EFFECTIVE DATE	March 18, 2011
Scheduled Review Date	March 01, 2022	ISSUE DATE	March 18, 2011
Date Reviewed	May 31, 2020	REVISION DATE	
APPROVED BY		(Reserved for Expansion)	

I. Purpose and Scope

- A. The purpose of the policy is to broadcast the State of Arkansas' Pandemic Response Plan as well as specific Arkansas State Code that addresses public health emergencies. Influenza was added to the Federal list of those communicable diseases that may necessitate a federally enacted quarantine; however, during any pandemic, the individual states maintain the responsibility for public health matters within their respective borders.

II. Policy

- A. It shall be the policy of the Texarkana Police Department to maintain within operational compliance of the State of Arkansas' Pandemic Response Plan—as well as the laws addressing public health emergencies—during those periods in which the community we serve becomes vulnerable to an identified health emergency. All members of the Department shall recognize and adhere to the guidelines contained within this policy.

III. Procedure

- A. The Governor may declare a public health emergency, at which time he can close schools, business, and public functions. Under A.C.A. §12-75-114 The Governor may also institute the following procedures:
1. Suspend the provisions of any regulatory statutes prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, or rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;
 2. Utilize all available resources of the state government and each political subdivision of the state as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster emergency;
 3. Transfer the direction, personnel, or functions of state departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services;
 4. Subject to any applicable requirements for compensation under A.C.A. §12-75-124, commandeer or utilize any private property if he or she finds this necessary to cope with the disaster emergency;

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5. Direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state if the Governor deems this action necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery;
 6. Prescribe routes, modes of transportation, and destinations in connection with evacuation;
 7. Control ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of the premises therein;
 8. Suspend or limit the sale, dispensing, or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives and combustibles; and
 9. Make provisions for the availability and use of temporary emergency housing.
- B. The State Health Officer, through the Board of Health, can implement isolation/quarantine measures, limit travel between communities and close the state's borders.
- C. The chief executive of each political subdivision shall exercise comparable authority within his or her political subdivision, and within the limits of the Arkansas Constitution and laws of the state, as the Governor exercises over the state government during disasters and major emergencies. The chief executive shall ensure, to the maximum extent possible, that his or her jurisdiction meets the minimum expected capability for disaster and emergency mitigation, planning, response and recovery (*A.C.A. §12-75-118*).
- D. In accordance with *A.C.A. §14-262-102*, the City Board of Health is appointed by the mayor and shall have jurisdiction for one (1) mile beyond the city limits, and for quarantine purposes and in cases of epidemics, the jurisdiction shall extend to five (5) miles. The City Board shall have power to invest the board with such powers and impose upon it such duties as shall be necessary to:
1. Secure the city and its inhabitants from the evils of contagious, malignant and infectious diseases;
 2. Provide for its proper organization and the election or appointment of the necessary officers; and
 3. Make such bylaws, rules, and regulations for its government and support as shall be required for enforcing the prompt and efficient performance of its duties and lawful exercise of its powers.

E. Medical Quarantine

1. Quarantine restricts movement and activities or separates well persons believed to have been exposed to infection, to prevent transmission, should these persons develop illness. The limitation of freedom of movement is typically equal to the longest usual incubation period of the disease.
2. Quarantine may be lifted as soon as the exposed contact has remained without signs or symptoms of disease for a complete incubation period for influenza disease. Pandemic influenza preparedness activities should plan for containment measures that may last up to 10 days; however, the timeframe will be adjusted as more is known about the virus. Use of quarantine early in a pandemic may help slow the spread of disease. Later, when disease is widespread, it is much less likely to have an impact and would be unlikely to be feasible to implement.

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3. Modes of Application

- a. Persons are usually quarantined in their homes, but may also be quarantined in community-based facilities.
- b. Quarantine can be applied to an individual or to a group of persons who are exposed at a large public gathering or to persons believed exposed on a conveyance during travel.
- c. Quarantine can be applied on a wider population or geographic basis with the voluntary or enforced prohibition of movements or activities.
- d. A working quarantine allows employees to work, but restricts activities while off duty. It may be allowed under some circumstances, e.g. for personnel who provide essential services.

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