

DATE: June 11, 2007

TO: Emergency Preparedness Contacts

FROM: Valerie Sellers
Senior Vice President, Health Planning and Research

Diane Anderson
Director, Emergency Preparedness

SUBJECT: **THIS IS AN EXERCISE – Operation Atlantic Surge – 11:00 AM**

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According to the latest information received on today's 10 a.m. conference call Hurricane Cookie is currently 170 miles to the East-southeast and is expected to make landfall on the New Jersey Coast within 96-107 hours

An official state of emergency is expected within the next few hours and Senior Assistant Commissioner David Gruber has requested that all healthcare facilities in the Southern Region activate their Emergency Operations Centers and "prepare to weather the storm." Facilities are advised to review the severe weather/hurricane annexes of their emergency plans and to:

- Evaluate current stocks of supplies including food, fuel and medical-surgical stocks. Consider the potential for limited access following the storm for re-supply and deliveries;
- Secure exterior equipment that may become airborne including antennas, trash receptacles and construction debris; outdoor signage; benches; medical gas containers; rooftop heating-ventilation and air-conditioning intakes, etc.;
- Consider limiting points of access, monitoring access to facility buildings and parking garages and increasing perimeter security; and
- Review business continuity and recovery plans.

Department of Health and Senior Services emergency coordinator Kevin Hayden reminded facilities that their 800-MHz radios should be continuously monitored for emergency messages. Radio checks were conducted at 2 p.m. yesterday and 10 a.m. today and while the response was slightly better, there is still much room for improvement.

At this time facilities are asked to consider cancellation of all elective surgeries, reduction of patient population and cessation of all non-essential services.



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Both the Atlantic City Medical Center and Cooper University Hospital medical coordination centers have been activated at this time. Atlantic City Medical Center will coordinate the sending of patients from all facilities in the projected impact area. Facilities preparing to evacuate patients should contact the MCC at 609-343-5149 with the number and type of patients to be evacuated.

Facilities with the capacity to receive patients should contact the MCC at Cooper University Hospital at 856-968-7900 with bed capacity as soon as possible.

All healthcare facilities should monitor the E-team and the HIPPOCRATES training sites for important event-related information. Also refer to the JEMSTAT template for guidance in formatting your emergency updates.

The NJHA Emergency Preparedness department will provide further information and updates as they are received and reminds healthcare facilities that its emergency hotline is available 24-hours a day at 1-800-457-2262.

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