

# Planning for Hurricane Season



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## *During a Pandemic*

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“There are all sorts of things we are going to have to consider.”

*Gov. John Bel Edwards, 19 April*

- “Traditional” Response Systems & Guidance
- Evacuation and Sheltering
- Food and Supplies
- Emergency Workers and Volunteers
- Return to The New(?) Normal

# Response Systems

- Will more quickly reach capacity or be overwhelmed
- Medical systems – physical and mental
- Economic systems
- *It's not business as usual: plans need to consider:*
  - *Workforce shortages*
  - *Delays in materiel and money*
  - *Insufficient medical capacity*



# Evacuation and Sheltering

- Already difficult (and often political) decision
  - Different calculus needed
  - Sheltering in place will be more common
  - More likely that only those directly in flood path will go
  - Fewer “evacuations of convenience”
    - Households will need even more robust supplies of food, water, medicine
    - Plan for extended power outages and wind

# Evacuation and Sheltering

- Already difficult (and often political) decision
  - Large, central shelters pose higher risk
    - Decentralized shelters, virtual management
    - Some authorities say usual shelters will not open
    - Hotels, dorms, military facilities should be considered
    - Screening and isolation will be necessary
    - Vulnerable populations, hospital evacuations
    - Sanitation and medical care will be key requirements

# Food and Supplies

- Many similarities in need but also unique needs
  - Structural fortification against wind and water
  - Medical and sanitation supplies
- Response organizations should combine planning and logistics

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- Many similarities in need but also unique needs
  - Structural fortification against wind and water
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- Response organizations should combine planning and logistics
- Also an equity issue: Poorer and vulnerable populations
  - Greater need, fewer resources

# Response Workers

- Who's going to show up? (Especially volunteers)
- How to safely deploy?
- Different types of (and more) workers
- Additional Needs
  - Training
  - Personal protection and sanitation
  - Medical – including Mental health services

# Recovery Will Take Longer

- Transportation away from shelters/return home
  - Ongoing screening, isolation, treatment, disinfection
- Economics
  - Emergency funds needed but half of Americans live payday to payday
  - More than usual number out of work
- Vaccine could change things
  - Recovery timing also depends on PPE, COVID-related supplies
- More government assistance than usual likely to be needed

# Start Planning Last Month

- All-Hazards recommended by FEMA, Others
- Don't make separate plans for pandemic, hurricanes
- Family and community plans – and resources – more important than ever

<https://www.rand.org/topics/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19.html>

<https://www.rand.org/topics/community-resilience.html>

<https://www.vox.com/2020/4/21/21222687/coronavirus-covid-19-hurricane-planning-preparedness-emergency-managers-disaster>