

## Chapter 2 - The Need for Community Collaboration and Business Continuity

**COLLABORATION** is the foundation of preparedness effort. Pandemic response plans are most effective when integrated across jurisdictions and health care sectors. HCLA continues to meet and plan with state officials to assist home health agencies in preparing for a potential pandemic of any kind. Please continue to monitor our HCLA website for up to date information.

The **ROLE** of home health on a pandemic will be defined by state laws, the needs of the community, and the individual home health's capacity. HCLA has also named regional representatives to each La. region to represent the different areas of need.

Some of the **RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES** for home health agencies:

- Assign a pandemic response coordinator
- Assign a planning committee (could be only 1-2 persons)
- Potential distribution of information, infection control supplies, food, medications, and other necessities for patients and their families

Strengths and values of each agency should be assessed. Roles may differ based on capabilities and an agency size and needs.

**IDENTIFYING YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS** will mean involvement in government and nongovernmental organizations. The gathering or updating of contact information is essential:

- Names, titles, and contact information for key public health entities
- Home care association-HCLA
- Other home health agencies in your area
- Other health care entities such as hospitals, emergency service providers, Red Cross

Do an **INTERNAL READINESS ASSESSMENT**

- Development or review of operations
- Strength and constraints of the home care agency in the event of a pandemic
- Review list of providers, entities potentially needed in the event of a pandemic

Maintaining a flow of **SUPPLIES** to continue operations and meet patient's needs will be an issue in a pandemic due to possible shortages.

Maintain at least one weeks supply if there is evidence of a pandemic influenza to provide a base until you receive local, state and federal guidance. Other possible issues

- Supplies and durable medical equipment for surge patients
- Supplies not normally provided to patients
- Respiratory protection supply increase

**REIMBURSEMENT** may be affected especially Medicare. During declared public health emergencies, OASIS regulations may be waived or altered.