



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20210125-00496-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
**Monday, January 25, 2021**  
**SUBJECT:** State Health Officer Order 01/25/2021

Pursuant to Mississippi Code Ann. § 41-23-1 et. seq. and the State of Emergency Declaration by the Governor of the State of Mississippi related to the coronavirus COVID-19 issued on March 14, 2020, I, Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, State Health Officer, Executive Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health, hereby issue this statewide Order making participation in the Mississippi COVID-19 System of Care Plan mandatory for all licensed hospitals in Mississippi effective December 30, 2020 until February 1, 2021, unless revoked prior to that time, as follows:

**Crisis Operations - Critical Care Services**

As Mississippi has reached a point where hospitals can no longer accommodate acute clinical demands, Mississippi ESF-8 will enact a COVID-19 rotation to ensure the proper assignment of patients to the appropriate hospital.

- Transfers for critical care services that cannot be accommodated by the normal referral processes will be routed through ESF-8 Mississippi Med-Com. Sending facility should call Mississippi Med-Com at (601) 984-4367.
- All sending facilities must report to Med-Com all transfers requiring ICU level care, both COVID and Non-COVID.
- Mississippi Med-Com will direct patients to available beds, and, when no beds are available, to hospital destinations on a rotating basis based on geography and resource availability.
- Patients in Mississippi at level 4 hospitals in need of a higher level of care and critical care patients at level 2 and 3 hospitals that lack appropriate services to care for patients will be eligible for the rotational transfer process when necessary.
- All patients accepted by higher level facilities will be accepted by the ED physician.
- Provider to provider and nurse to nurse communications shall be maintained by sending facility.
- Mississippi Med-Com will monitor hospital capacity and capability related to providing care to patients with COVID-19.
- Rotation only applies to transfers originating in Mississippi.
- Any refusal or deviation from the COVID-19 System of Care will be investigated by MSDH.

This 25th Day of January 2021.

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH  
State Health Officer  
Mississippi State Department of Health

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***Alerting Message Specification Settings***

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20210125-00496-ALT  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00496  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event  
Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert  
Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



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**Message Type:**

Alert: Indicates an original Alert  
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded  
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled  
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property  
Severe: Significant threat to life or property  
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property  
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property  
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content  
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).