

Points of Interest:

- *Healthy Planning* Newsletter
- New Web page for healthcare facilities
- Importance of cleanliness
- AHCA compliance



Criteria for Future Emergency Management Plans

Pre-2006 plans should use the new format and criteria, which are AHCA compatible, when updating future emergency management plans.

The format requirements and criteria can be found on our new Web page, <http://www.alachuacounty.us/government/depts/fr/em/healthcarefac.aspx>, and will remain online as a guide for any plans that may need to be updated.

Hence, it is vital to take note that plans need to be updated annually, whether you are an assisted living facility, ambulatory surgical center, nursing home, intermediate care facility for the developmentally disabled, or an adult day care center.

At a minimum make sure to update the vendor list and contact numbers with twenty-four hour service.

It is also very important to be aware that a single evacuation site is no longer acceptable, we need both in-county and out of county evacuation sites (facility).

The single in-county evacuation site works fine if only your structure is damaged; however, if the entire northeast Florida area has suffered damage it is your responsibility to care for these clients.

This may require moving outside the local area.



“...a single evacuation site is no longer acceptable, we need both in-county and out of county evacuation sites.”

Healthy Planning is Key to Success

Healthy Planning is a newsletter that will provide essential information about emergency management plans, give notice about changes to any criterion, and any other information pertaining to healthcare overall.

Under normal circumstances **Healthy Planning** will be published quarterly however it is possible we may publish our newsletter more frequently especially during hurricane season or when important information becomes available.

You will be receiving an e-mail with a link for you to click on and download the latest newsletter. Be sure you are on our mail list.. You may contact Danny Hinson at the Alachua County Emergency Operations:
dhinson@alachuacounty.us





Links We Suggest You Visit:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- <http://www.myflusafety.com>
- <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/chdAlachua/index.htm>
- <http://www.fhca.org/emerpren/index.php>
- <http://ahca.myflorida.com/>

One of the responsibilities of Alachua County Emergency Management is to review health care facilities' emergency management plans as required by AHCA standards. Florida Statute requires each County Emergency Management section to review facility plans based on AHCA guidelines along with recommendations learned over the years from real-life experiences. Once Emergency Management completes reviewing the plan a letter will be sent offering suggestions for revisions or of acceptance. Keep in mind the review does not ensure effectiveness nor does it guarantee lack of property loss or assume all life safety measures have been included. It does assume all items required from AHCA have been met.

The Alachua County Emergency Management is available for assistance during normal business hours either by phone, e-mail or in person. Emergency Management does charge for conducting a health care facility emergency plan review. The charge is based on a fee schedule adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

A fee will not be charged when there are not any changes or minor changes made to a plan. If you have a plan approved prior-to or from 2006 with the latest format and you only have a name, phone number or a vendor update then we will not access a fee. When staff must review an entire plan or even partial plan we will access the average plan fee that is charged across the State of Florida by other County Emergency Management agencies.

Influenza: Importance of Cleanliness

Protecting and caring for your residents and/or patients is a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year duty that includes prevention of infection. Avoiding the common cold, strep throat, and the flu are important. These five easy steps can help prevent the spread of infection:

- Clean your hands by using soap and water.
- Make sure other healthcare providers clean their hands or wear gloves.
- Cover your mouth and nose.
- If you are sick, avoid close contact with others.

- Speak to your physician about receiving appropriate vaccinations

In the United States, influenza typically occurs during the late fall through early spring seasons. Influenza viruses can cause disease for any age group. Rates of serious illness and death are highest among persons aged 65 years and older, 2 years old and younger, and persons of any age with medical conditions that place them at an increased risk for complications from influenza.

Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. H1N1 is thought to be

spread the same way.

Furthermore, illnesses from H1N1 have mostly affected the 25 to 49 year olds rather than the seasonal flu, which primarily affects our senior population.

Annual recommendations for adults have not changed in regards to receiving a vaccination. It is recommended for any adult who wants to reduce the risk for becoming ill with influenza or transmitting it to others.

For more information regarding H1N1, visit <http://www.myflusafety.com/>.

“Annual recommendations for adults have not changed in regards to receiving a vaccination.”

