NC Department of Health and Human Services

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE CONSULTANT

DISASTER RESPONSE MODEL AND PLAN

Joseph Bowman, BSN, RN
Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health Nurse Consultant

Susan Haynes Little, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CPH, CPM, FAAN
Chief Public Health Nursing Officer

June 20, 2022

1

AGENDA

- PHNC roles during disasters

- Types of shelters

- Shelter staffing models

- LTATCC/PHNC response plan & model

- PHNC response model tools

- Requirements for DHHS PHNCs

- Q&A

2

Slide 3

By the end of this educational activity, PHNCs will be able to

- Identify disaster response roles available for DHHS Public Health Nurse Consultants (PHNC)

- Describe the LTATCC/PHNC disaster response plan

- Describe roles in the PHNC disaster response model and associated job tools

- Identify related training required for all PHNCs

- Identify where to find related resources

NCDHHS Division of Public Health | Nurse Consultant Disaster Response Plan | Spring 2022   3

3

Slide 4

Definitions

EMAC Nurse - Emergency Management Assistance Compact Nurse. EMAC Nurses can be out-of-state nurses or in-state PHNs deploying to work in disaster shelters

LTATCC – Local Technical Assistance and Training (Branch) Command Center

PHP&R – Public Health Preparedness and Response Branch (DPH)

Event – Planned event with potential risk to the public's health. Ex. US Open and heat-related illness, pollical party national convention during a pandemic

Public Health Nurse Consultant (PHNC) – Any nurse consultant working in public health, all DCF nurses

Status-Check Nurse - Any nurse consultant assigned to perform daily status checks with EMAC nurses and DONs of counties with open shelters.

Incident – Unplanned event with risk for public health or mass fatality impact. Ex. Pandemic, flooding, hurricane, tornado, nuclear meltdown.

NCDHHS Division of Public Health | Nurse Consultant Disaster Response Plan | Spring 2022   4

4

PHNC Roles During Disasters Requiring Shelters

- **Deploy to Shelter** Serve as shelter surge capacity, if approved

- **Status-Check Nurse** Serve from regular or home office

- **Excluded PHNCs**
  - Communicable Disease Nurse Consultants
  - Immunization Branch Nurse Consultants
  - State Maternal Health Nurse Consultant

5

Types of Shelters

General Population

State-Run Large/Mega General Population Shelters

- Organized and set-up by NC Emergency Management (NCEM)

- Planned locations not divulged by NCEM until necessary for operational security reasons

- Staffed by OEMS Strike Team, PHNs, and ancillary staff

Local General Population Shelters

- In affected counties

6

Local General Population Shelters

How shelters are initiated, and roles established:

- Local county gov makes determination to open shelter
- DSS is the assigned Shelter Manager
- The LHD is responsible for supplying PHNs to staff shelters
- All government sponsored NC General Population Shelters operate under American Red Cross Policies and Procedures

7

State Medical Support Shelters

- Initiated, operated, and controlled by NC Office of Emergency Management Services
- Staffed by Emergency Medical staff and selected health care professionals
- NC Office of Emergency Management Services recruits for staffing
- Shelters are generally located outside the worst "impact zone"

8

Shelter Staffing Models

- **RN led** – Staffed by NC Public Health Nurses
- **EMS led** – Staffed by EMTs, AEMTs and Paramedics
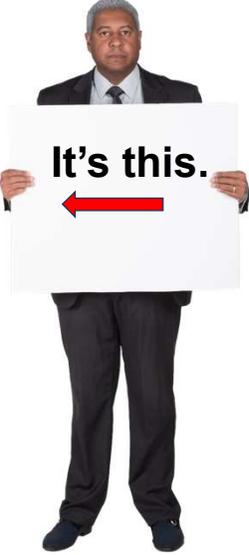- **Hybrid** – Staffed using a combination of Public Health Nurses and EMS personnel

Note: *Nursing staff cannot delegate clinical tasks to EMS personnel and EMS personnel cannot delegate clinical tasks to nursing staff. RN scope of practice governed by Nurse Practice Act. EMS providers scope governed by EMS Medical Director of county in which serving. See Shelter Staffing Model document.*

9

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

1. LTAT Branch Command Center

2. EMAC Nurse Status Checks

3. DON Status Checks

It's this.

11

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

1. LTAT Command Center

Functions to facilitate clear communication between local health departments, status-check nurses, the PHCC and EOC.
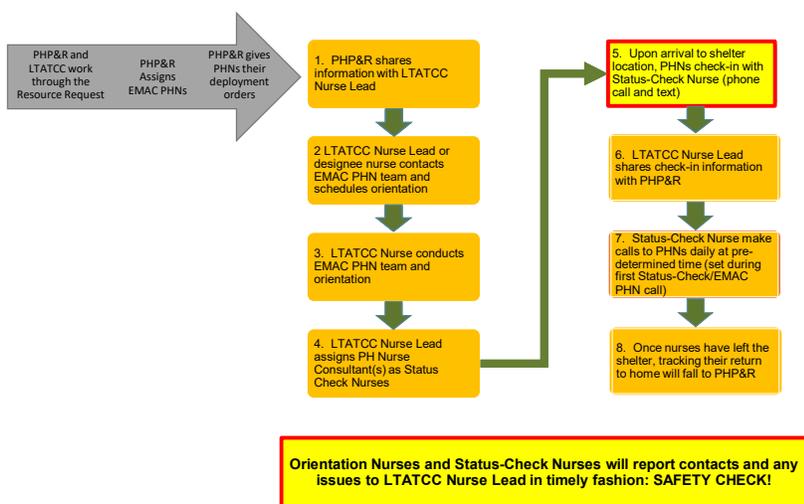
It's this.

12

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

PHP&R and LTATCC work through the Resource Request → PHP&R Assigns EMAC PHNs → PHP&R gives PHNs their deployment orders

1. PHP&R shares information with LTATCC Nurse Lead

2 LTATCC Nurse Lead or designee nurse contacts EMAC PHN team and schedules orientation

3. LTATCC Nurse conducts EMAC PHN team and orientation

4. LTATCC Nurse Lead assigns PH Nurse Consultant(s) as Status Check Nurses

5. Upon arrival to shelter location, PHNs check-in with Status-Check Nurse (phone call and text)

6. LTATCC Nurse Lead shares check-in information with PHP&R

7. Status-Check Nurse make calls to PHNs daily at pre-determined time (set during first Status-Check/EMAC PHN call)

8. Once nurses have left the shelter, tracking their return to home will fall to PHP&R

Orientation Nurses and Status-Check Nurses will report contacts and any issues to LTATCC Nurse Lead in timely fashion: SAFETY CHECK!
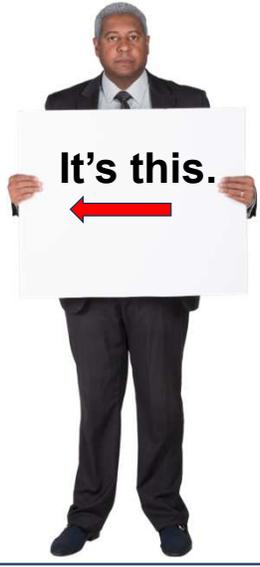
13

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

2. EMAC Nurse Status Checks

Important function to ensure safety and current status of deployed nurses from within NC and potentially other states. Also ensures that our shelters are fully staffed and our communities are well served.
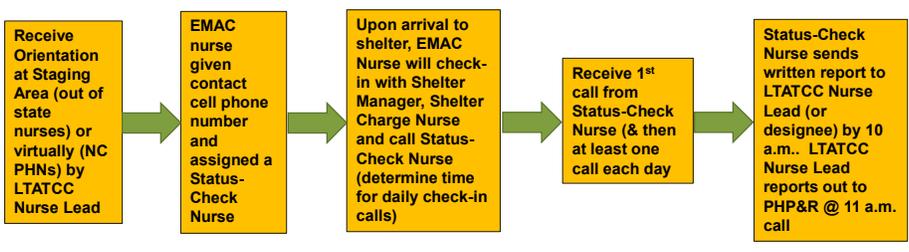
It's this.

NCDHHS Division of Public Health | Nurse Consultant Disaster Response Plan | Spring 2022   14

14

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

EMAC RN Orientation and Status-Check Process

Receive Orientation at Staging Area (out of state nurses) or virtually (NC PHNs) by LTATCC Nurse Lead	EMAC nurse given contact cell phone number and assigned a Status-Check Nurse	Upon arrival to shelter, EMAC Nurse will check-in with Shelter Manager, Shelter Charge Nurse and call Status-Check Nurse (determine time for daily check-in calls)	Receive 1st call from Status-Check Nurse (& then at least one call each day)	Status-Check Nurse sends written report to LTATCC Nurse Lead (or designee) by 10 a.m.. LTATCC Nurse Lead reports out to PHP&R @ 11 a.m. call

NCDHHS Division of Public Health | Nurse Consultant Disaster Response Plan | Spring 2022   15

15

PHNC Tools for Disaster Response Roles

EMAC status-check form

- Call assigned EMAC PHN(s) daily

- Maintain copy of each daily check-in-status form electronically. Save with the following naming convention using EMAC nurse's name:

  [FirstLast]_DDMMYYYY_[NameOfEvent]DailyStatus

  Example: JoeSmith_04122022_HDorianDailyStatus

SOURCE:

NCDHHS Division of Public Health | Nurse Consultant Disaster Response Plan | Spring 2022   16

16

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

3. DON Status Checks
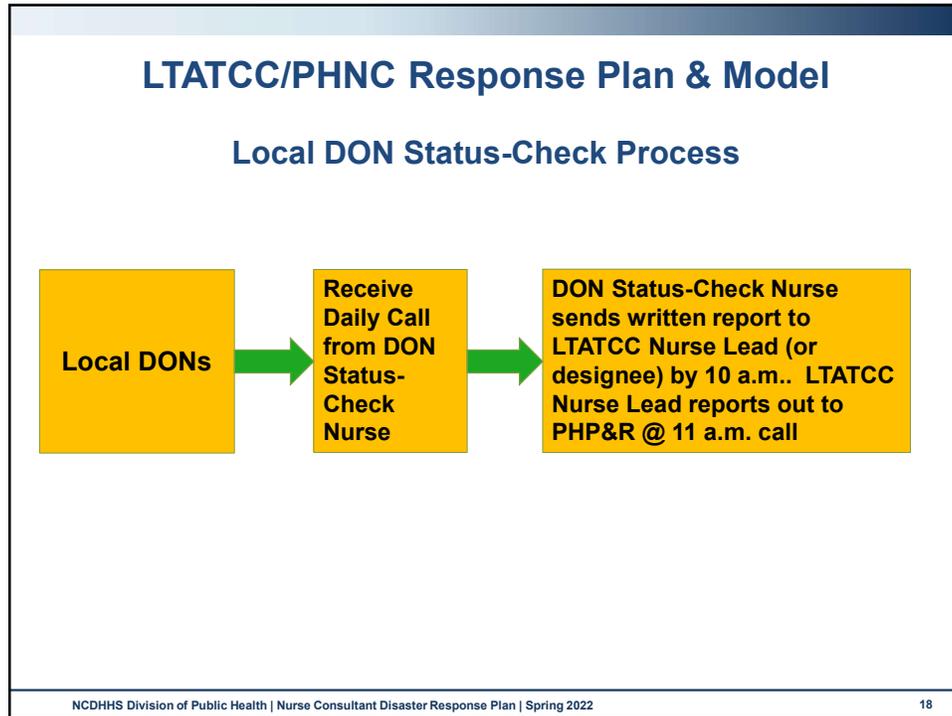
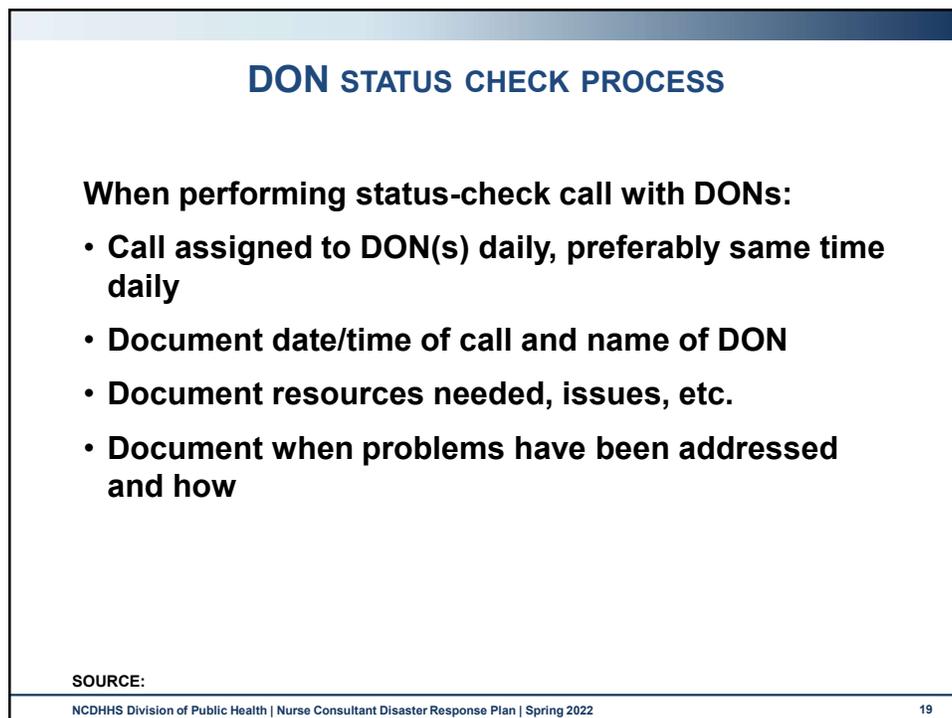*Important function to ensure our DONs are supported and any needs/questions are addressed.*

It's this.

NCDHHS Division of Public Health | Nurse Consultant Disaster Response Plan | Spring 2022   17

17

LTATCC/PHNC Response Plan & Model

Local DON Status-Check Process

| Local DONs | → | Receive Daily Call from DON Status-Check Nurse | → | DON Status-Check Nurse sends written report to LTATCC Nurse Lead (or designee) by 10 a.m.. LTATCC Nurse Lead reports out to PHP&R @ 11 a.m. call |

18

DON STATUS CHECK PROCESS

When performing status-check call with DONs:

- Call assigned to DON(s) daily, preferably same time daily

- Document date/time of call and name of DON

- Document resources needed, issues, etc.

- Document when problems have been addressed and how

SOURCE:

19

LTATCC/PHNC response plan & model

- Request for Public Health Nurses sent to the EOC or PHCC will trigger activation of the LTAT Command Center
- Chief Public Health Nurse or designee will notify PHNCs to be on stand-by for further instructions
- LTAT CC Lead will then assign PHN and DON check-in nurses
- Keep online calendars with weekly itinerary up-to-date
- **Please respond within 30 mins. to individual request for assistance**

20

PHNC Tools for Disaster Response Roles

Public Health Shelter Nurse Job Description

- Will be reviewed with each EMAC RN prior to being deployed
  - virtual for in-state EMAC nurses
  - in person for out-of-state EMAC nurses

21

Requirements For All DHHS PHNCs

PHP&R is a public health core function. As a PHNC, you may be required to respond to an unplanned incident or a planned event. Assigned work duties may be different than duties designated in your job description. Work hours may involve extended workdays, evenings, nights, and weekends.

Unless excluded due to medical or other reasons, PHNCs are required to maintain certification in CPR and AED.

22

PHNC Tools for Disaster Response Roles

Addressing Pregnant Shelter Residents' Health-Related Concerns

NC Statewide Maternal Health Nurse Consultant (SMHNC)

- Cell number of SMHNC will be provided to all local DONs at the onset of the incident

- Local DONs will call SMHNC with concerns re: pregnancy health status should the pregnant shelter resident's OB provider be unavailable for consultation

- SMHNC will triage issues and advise DONs on next steps for pregnant shelter resident

23

Training

Training requirements for all Public Health Nurse Consultants
CPR & AED (unless excused)

Training recommendations for all Public Health Nurse Consultants
Basic First Aid
Mental Health First Aid

SOURCE:

24

24

Resource: https://publichealth.nc.gov/lhd/

- **General Sheltering**
  - Shelter Medical Models 7/2021
  - Shelter PHN Job Description 05/2022
  - Sheltering During COVID-19 Resources 10/2021
  - Hurricane Season 2020 Big 8 document
- **Congregate Sheltering**
  - Health & Safety Precautions for Mass Care Services and Shelters document
  - PHN Shelter Deployment Packing Checklist 05/2022
  - Guidance for General Pop Disaster Shelters during COVID-19 Pandemic 06/2021
- **Non-congregate Sheltering**
  - State Health Director Non-Congregate Shelter Directive 03/2020
  - FEMA Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering 06/2021
- **Training**
  - Preparing Your Team to Serve in Disaster Shelters recording and slides
  - ARC Online Trainings List 06/2021

25

25