

City of Joplin Plan for Response and Recovery

The City of Joplin Plan for Response and Recovery was drafted to provide a guide for how the city could respond to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. The plan stepped through the phases on how to slow the initial spread of the disease, and then on how to gradually reopen activities in the community after a vaccine was readily available. At this time, the Response and Recovery Plan is considered complete for the purposes of dealing with the pandemic during the period vaccine was not available.

The Recovery and Response Plan refers to Phase 4 as a time to prepare for the next pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed gaps in our local pandemic preparedness. COVID-19 will likely not be the last public-health emergency to threaten the Joplin area. Time must be taken to identify shortcomings in responding to this pandemic and prepare the Joplin community for future events. To meet this need the following recommendations are made as we move beyond the Response and Recovery Plan.

1. Ongoing Surveillance and Response

The Joplin Health Department will continue to utilize public health best practices in responding to communicable diseases. These include:

- Conduct ongoing surveillance of COVID-19 and other diseases within the Joplin community. Data will be monitored utilizing local, state, and federal sources. Findings will be reported to Joplin City Council for consideration if levels warrant concern.
- Maintain a state of readiness through developing and training staff in up to date communicable disease response practices
- Acquire and administer vaccines/prophylaxis as needed in the Joplin community

2. Continue Working with Area Stakeholders

In conjunction with the Jasper Newton County Emergency Healthcare Coalition, the Joplin Health Department will review the local COVID-19 response to evaluate which methods were effective and which needed further improvement. Areas to be addressed include the following:

- Findings will be compiled into an after-action report (AAR) and be made available to area partners for consideration for future events and planning.
- The Joplin Health Department's Emergency Operation Plan will be updated to reflect the findings of the AAR.
- New and existing MOUs will be developed and/or revised to enhance preparedness for future events, including facilities to be utilized to administer vaccinations/prophylaxis.
- The Joplin Health Department will work with the Jasper/Newton County Emergency Healthcare Coalition to ensure adequate supplies (PPE, testing, medical supplies, etc.) are available for future event. Additional stakeholders will continually be identified and recruited to the Coalition.

3. Seek Funding Opportunities to Expand Public Health Capacities

The Joplin Health Department will monitor for funding sources available to expand/enhance operational capabilities.