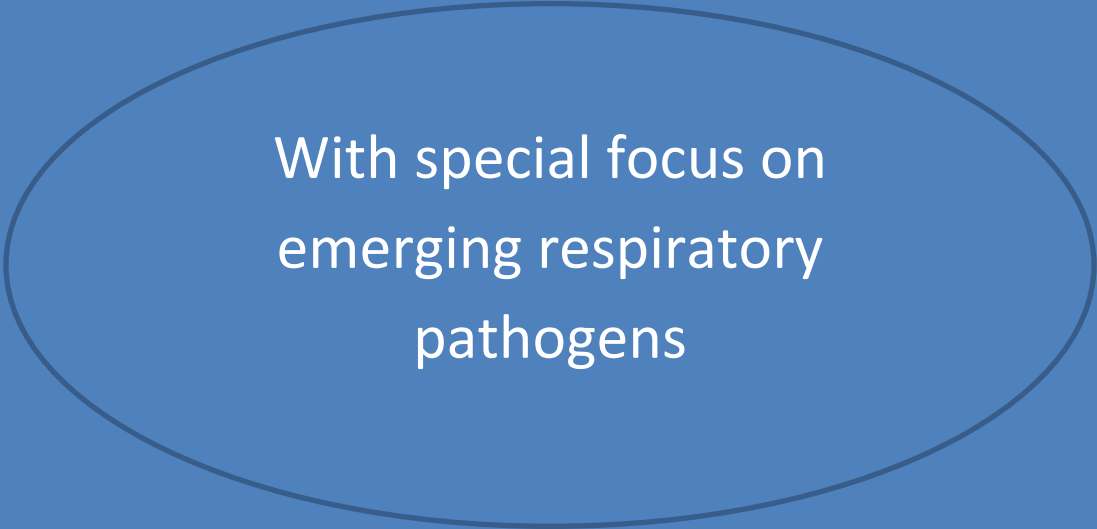




GEORGIA NATIONAL PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS PLAN



With special focus on
emerging respiratory
pathogens

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Georgia National Pandemic Preparedness Plan

With special focus on emerging respiratory pathogens

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Glossary of Terms

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Executive Summary

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Chapter 1: Introduction

This section introduces Georgia Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan. It explains the strategic purpose of the plan, overall objectives and describe the structure of the plan.

Contents:

- A paragraph about the country- general description, geographic location, health scenario, past pandemic response experiences.
- Purpose of the Strategic Plan
- Scope: Broader respiratory pathogens and rationale for this
 - Define what is not in scope for this plan
- Target Audience for this Plan
- When is this plan triggered?
- Why move from specific pathogen (influenza) plan to Broader Respiratory pathogens plan

Chapter 2: Pandemic Influenza and COVID-19 Pandemic

This chapter gives salient features of pandemic influenza and COVID-19 pandemic in the context of global guidance from WHO and technical capacities needed at country levels.

Contents:

- Health Sector Organizational Framework within Country
 - Tailored details on health sector organizations responsible and their inter-relationships
 - Linkages between public health, private sector and health service delivery during national emergencies
 - Functional relationships and how it will change for pandemic response
 - Engagement with international partners, especially WHO.
 - Deployment of EMTs/bilateral support.
- Background on previous pandemic preparedness plan and why it is being changed now
 - Experience of 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic and response lessons
- Pandemic Influenza
 - Description of 2009 Influenza Pandemic Global experience
 - Georgia Experience of 2009 Influenza Pandemic
 - Overall Impact and changes in preparedness post-pandemic

- WHO Global/Regional guidance on Pandemic influenza Preparedness
- COVID-19 Pandemic
 - Description of COVID-19 pandemic Global experience
 - Georgia COVID-19 experience
 - Overall impact, lessons learnt and need for comprehensive pandemic preparedness plan
- Possible future pandemics
 - New influenza subtype
 - New Coronavirus
 - New variants of SARS-CoV-2
 - Other emerging respiratory pathogens

Chapter 3: Strategic Approach to Georgia Pandemic Planning

This chapter introduces the strategic approach and framework for Pandemic planning, why the plan is being developed and what Georgia hopes to achieve with this plan. Also, it needs to be explained how this plan, which is focused on broader respiratory pathogen, would be useful to tackle health related emergencies, providing insight into how synergistic the pandemic plan is with plans for other emergencies.

This section should give a strategic overview of the plan, including key stakeholders and the legal and ethical framework for any actions during the pandemic. It also can give the basic ethical principles and philosophy of pandemic planning (accounting for civic society engagement and founding principles for crisis management, if available according to country philosophy)

It would be important to stress how this Strategic plan can be tailored to suit the detection of future potential pandemic pathogens (A kind of Pandemic X plan), how the response would be proportional to country risk assessment (Severity and likely impact on Georgia).

Contents:

- The strategic overarching goals and objectives
- Guiding principles for Pandemic Preparedness plan
- Emergency frameworks and risk management approach
- Capacity assessments in last decades
 - Joint External Evaluation
 - EU/ECDC technical assessment
 - Several other assessments done with help of WHO

- National assessments conducted by Georgia agencies
- Decision Framework for Georgia Risk and Severity assessment
 - This is needed to link country risk assessments with international risk assessment for PHEIC/pandemic
 - How will Georgia assess the risk on declaration of PHEIC/pandemic? Are there any national tools, like PISA available to assess the severity of pandemic in Georgia
 - How national and international decisions are linked?
- National and international coordination
 - Roles and responsibilities of agencies
 - Global guidance and national response triggers
 - WHO Pandemic Influenza Risk Management (PIRM) is a global guidance. Determine whether Georgia is ready to implement this guidance or there is a need to develop a new national system.
 - Georgia Alert phase System (Task Force discussion- e.g., Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) -Some Green, Orange, Red algorithm/system)
 - How will Georgia react when PHEIC is declared?
 - How will Georgia react when pandemic is declared?
- Ethical principles and Legal guidelines
- International legislation – link to requirements from International Health Regulations
 - Roles and responsibilities related to International Health Regulations (IHR) in Georgia
 - Establishment of a permanent Pandemic committee to oversee the plan and exercising. (Task Force discussion- any other mechanism for continuity of planning in Georgia for impending planning over longer period)

Chapter 4: Key components of pandemic preparedness and response

This section covers the specific measures that will need to be in place for the country to manage their pandemic response. This chapter gives overview of operationalization of pandemic response and capacities which need to be developed in between pandemics

Contents:

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Division
- Public Health Emergency Operations Centre functionality
 - Organization, capacity development
 - brief operational plan for pandemic response

- How is this integrated with public health surveillance and health services delivery indicators (Health information system) and monitoring and evaluation of the response
- Public health surveillance with a focus on respiratory pathogens of pandemic potential
 - Integrated surveillance of communicable diseases in Georgia
 - National Influenza Centre/ SARI Surveillance- existing and desired
 - Geographic coordination as per country structure and surveillance network
 - Any special ongoing projects for capacity building and future impact (details can go as annexure)
- Laboratory services and investigations (Surveillance and clinical diagnosis)
 - Organization and functioning of Lab surveillance network in Georgia
 - Centralized lab, existing capacity and gaps assessed
 - Any ongoing projects for capacity building
 - Coordination between country network labs and centralized lab
 - Operational plan for future pandemic response
 - Labs network for clinical diagnostics (private and public sector)
- Public health measures
 - Public health control strategies- case reporting, test to diagnose, isolation, case investigation, contact tracing and quarantine
 - Lessons learned during COVID-19 pandemic
 - Refinements needed for future pandemics
 - Hospital sector response planning (Task Force discussion if in scope)
 - Clinical management of cases, hospitalizations, ICU management etc.
 - COVID-19 experience
 - Refinements needed for future pandemics
 - Non-pharmaceutical measures and how they will be implemented
 - Lessons learnt from COVID-19 pandemic
 - Capacities needed for implementation
 - Refinements needed and Operational Plan for future pandemic
 - Borders and travel
 - Lockdown experience in COVID-19 PANDEMIC
 - International border and travel measures
 - Within country travel restrictions
 - (Legal) Framework for within country measures
 - Health sector responsibilities in these scenarios
 - Vaccinations (as needed and available)

- Country EPI program and pandemic vaccine implementation
- Georgia regulatory capacity for approval of pandemic vaccine
- Georgia pandemic vaccine production capacity if any
 - If not plans for pandemic vaccine access
 - National stockpile
 - Advance purchase agreements with manufacturers
- Georgia Pandemic Vaccine Deployment Plan

Chapter 5: Health and Social Care during Pandemic in Georgia

This chapter gives operational details for the health and social care infrastructure and functionalities in Georgia- including public and private sector.

It addresses all levels of decision-making within healthcare: decisions about healthcare made at regional and national levels, at facility level and decisions made on patient cases at an individual level.

Again, this section will contain operational details of the measures required to manage the pandemic response. (the details required, such as procurement and stockpiling of pharmaceuticals and equipment, ICU capacity, involvement of private sector in healthcare delivery during pandemic, coordination needed).

Contents:

- Maintaining essential health services and systems
- Capacity to conduct special studies
- Capacity to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the response
- Evidence-base for clinical management guidelines (capacity for data collection, analysis and guideline development)
- Health workforce considerations: surge capacity, training
- Procurement and supply chain management
- Infection prevention and control
- Healthcare services in public and private sector
 - Capacity and available infrastructure in Georgia
 - Lessons learnt from COVID-19 PANDEMIC and capacity development needed
- Clinical management in health and social care facilities (Task force discussion if in scope of this plan or a separate one)
 - Policies, operational plan

- Coordination
- Capacity assessment and identified gaps
- Operations plan for upgrade for future pandemic response
- Clinical care of patients (Task force discussion if in scope of this plan or a separate one)
 - Doctors and paramedical systems in Georgia, including medical colleges
 - Private sector
 - Cost of care- how those would be taken care of etc
 - Health insurance status
- Antivirals and other pharmaceutical interventions
 - National stockpile operations plan
 - Local production capacities
 - International procurements and distribution within country
 - National guidelines if any
 - Operational plan for pandemic response
- Managing deaths (details to be decided based on COVID-19 experience)
- Identifying vulnerable populations in the society and managing the risk of spread of pandemic pathogen in these populations
- Home and special facilities quarantine and isolation
 - COVID-19 experience
 - Operational planning for better response in future pandemics
- Whole of Society approach as practiced in Georgia
 - COVID-19 experience
 - Non-governmental sector/Civil society organizations involvement

Chapter 6: Business and Societal Continuity Plans during Pandemic

This chapter deals with the wider impacts of pandemic, (beyond the healthcare sector) on government and societal functioning; essential services to be maintained in a pandemic, Universal Health Coverage etc. How Georgia will continue to operate essential services both during a pandemic and in the recovery period.

Contents:

- How and when business continuity plans will be triggered?
- Roles and responsibilities of Key sectors in government and societal continuity
- Essential (Health and non-health) services maintenance framework and policy
 - Emergency preparedness planning and response

- National frameworks and organizations involved.
- Business continuity planning
- Vaccinations of healthcare and frontline workers as well as critical sector (Government/society)

Chapter 7: Georgia Pandemic Risk Communication and community engagement Plan

This chapter describes the details of Georgia's Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) strategy during pandemic. Based on past pandemic experience this chapter would give focus on communications when data are not available initial stages to rumors spreading fast on social media hampering appropriate pandemic response. The section may also benefit from the country overview introducing any issues surrounding languages or connectivity which may affect certain groups or areas of the population. This section can also include examples of suggested messages.

Contents: (Based on COVID-19 experience this chapter can be modified)

- Communications strategy and Lessons learnt from COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia
- Communication objectives
- Community engagement and social mobilization
 - Communication with media
 - Communication with local government, ethnic minorities
 - Communication for the public
 - Various communications channels
- Communication for healthcare professionals
- Infodemic management
 - Misinformation management
 - Social Media use for infodemic (Task force discussion)
- Existing Country infrastructure for communications- gaps and opportunities to augment capacity
- Central and subnational coordination in communication (Task Force discussion on regulatory/legislative mechanisms changes needed for future pandemic e.g., for declaring and communicating lockdowns, within country travel restrictions or other measures)

Chapter 8: Inter-pandemic assessment of various capacities and evaluating response

This chapter relates to the recovery and interpandemic phases and should provide details on how the pandemic response is and would be evaluated in Georgia. This chapter can give details of existing strategies and plans including the past such exercises.

It is essential that elements of the plan undergo regular exercises to practice implementing necessary steps, and this should be followed by debrief and evaluation, with learning points disseminated to relevant parties.

Contents:

- Assessments in interpandemic and post-pandemic phase
 - 2010 to 2020 experience and details from such assessments
- Ongoing evaluations of pandemic plans
 - including simulation exercises
 - Monitoring and evaluation with set national indicators
 - Intra-action and inter-agency reviews
- Evaluating, testing and revising plans

Additional points to consider (Task Force discussion)

- Georgia Country preparedness and response plan (CPRP) elements need to be incorporated in this plan.
- Define what's not in scope for this plan- e.g., budget/financial planning; accountability framework; role of non-health sector in pandemic preparedness and response
- Number of plans (published/unpublished) available in country need to be reviewed, so also plans prepared by key establishments or organizations need to be reviewed. These plans would have elements which need to be incorporated in this plan.

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Annexes/Appendices

- Technical Annexures on important subjects like Laboratory, surveillance, EOC, Vaccines
- Capacity Assessment done in interpandemic periods or brief lesson learnt documents.
- Simulation exercises
- Research and development projects within Georgia which would be useful for pandemic plan.
- Other relevant documents/summaries useful for pandemic preparedness

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References

References should be provided where recommendations are made based upon current best available evidence.

For example

- Pandemic Influenza Risk Management – A WHO Guidance (2017)
- A checklist for pandemic influenza risk and impact management – WHO (2018)
- Guide to revising the influenza pandemic preparedness plan – ECDC Technical Report (2017)
- Recommendations for good practice in pandemic preparedness: identified through evaluation of the response to pandemic (H1N1) 2009 – WHO (2010)
- Comparative analysis of national pandemic influenza preparedness plans – WHO (2011)