



**To:** CAHAN San Diego Participants  
**Date:** January 6, 2021  
**From:** COVID-19 Medical Operations Center

**Health Advisory Update #21: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) California Crisis Care Continuum Guidelines for General Acute Care Hospitals and State Public Health Officer Order**

**Key Messages**

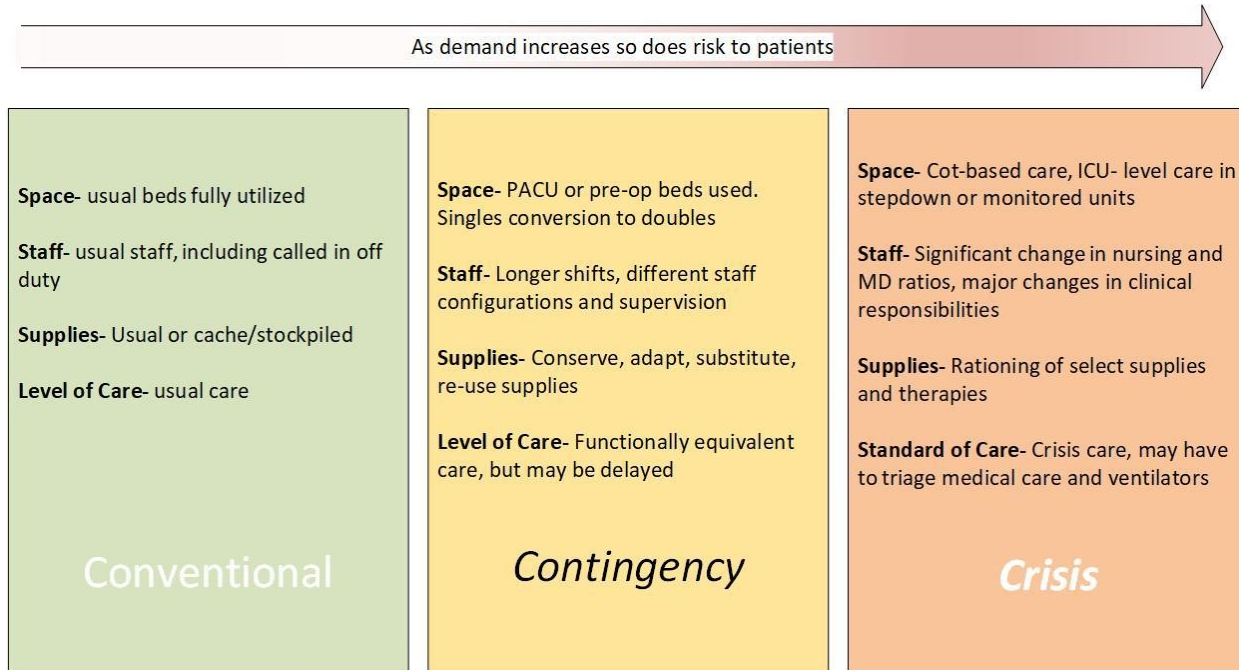
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued [All Facilities Letter \(AFL\) 20-91](#) on December 28<sup>th</sup> to General Acute Care Hospitals (GACH) which details [updated California Crisis Care Continuum Guidelines](#) and a [Pre-Implementation Checklist](#).
- GACHs should review these guidelines and continue to work with partners, including reaching out to the [Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator \(MHOAC\)](#) program via [MOC.LOGS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:MOC.LOGS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov), for supplies and staffing requests to maintain contingent level of care as long as possible.
- As per [AFL 20-91](#), GACHs should post their facility's California Crisis Care Continuum Guidelines; develop and share their communication plan with the County through the MHOAC process; and notify the MHOAC when implementing crisis care standards by [email](#) and phone (619-285-6434).
- When implementing crisis care, GACHs are the lead in communicating to the public. The County will share information about hospital status on its webpage to further assist with open and transparent communication.
- A [State Public Health Officer Order](#) was issued on January 5<sup>th</sup> requiring GACHs to accept patient transfers from facilities that have implemented contingency or [crisis care guidelines](#) as long as those transfers can be done capably and safely. Both [non-children's](#) GACHs and ambulatory surgery centers must also follow detailed guidance with respect to procedures.

**Situation**

- As COVID-related cases, hospitalizations, and ICU admissions continue to surge, California General Acute Care Hospitals (GACH) are generally moving from Conventional to Contingency Capacity strategies impacting space, staff, supplies, and level of care (See image below).
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued [All Facilities Letter \(AFL\) 20-91](#) on December 28<sup>th</sup> to GACHs which details [updated California Crisis Care Continuum Guidelines](#) and a [Pre-Implementation Checklist](#).
- This checklist and updated guidance aids GACHs in planning for staffing, supplies, and space with the local [Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator \(MHOAC\)](#) and others to maintain contingency capacity as long as possible while being prepared for crisis care implementation and transparent communication if or when entering crisis care.
- The [MHOAC](#) coordinates across the hospital and prehospital setting to assist with disaster planning and response, including assisting with supplies and staffing requests. The Medical Operations Center in the County's COVID-19 Emergency Operations Center assists the MHOAC in this role.
- Communication is critical when planning for and implementing crisis care and therefore requirements have been added in AFL 20-91 requiring GACHs to post California or other guidelines and communicate with the MHOAC, local licensing, and the public when entering crisis care. When implementing Crisis

Care, GACHs are the lead in communicating to the public. This communication will be complemented by the County sharing information on its webpage to further assist with open and transparent communication.

- A [State Public Health Officer Order](#) on January 5<sup>th</sup> requiring hospitals statewide to accept patient transfers from facilities that have implemented contingency or [crisis care guidelines](#) as long as those transfers can be done capably and safely. The order applies when a designated region has a [state-calculated](#) ICU bed [availability](#) of 10% or less. San Diego GACHs as of January 5<sup>th</sup> are impacted and the Order will remain in effect for at least three weeks.



Note: Image from [AFL 20-91](#)

### Actions Requested

- 1) As per [AFL 20-91](#), GACHs should:
  - a. Continue to reach out to the [Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator \(MHOAC\)](#) program at [MOC.LOGS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:MOC.LOGS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov), for supplies and staffing requests to help keep GACHs in contingent level of care as long as possible.
  - b. Post and share their facility's Crisis Care Continuum Guidelines by close of business January 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. Develop and share their communication plan with the County through the MHOAC process by close of business January 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - d. Notify the MHOAC when implementing crisis care by [email](#) and calling 619-285-6434.
- 2) GACHs and ambulatory surgery centers should follow guidance detailed in the [State Public Health Officer Order](#) on January 5<sup>th</sup> with respect to procedures (Note: children's hospitals are [exempt](#)) and patient transfers until the order is lifted for the Southern California region. This includes GACHs in contingency care accepting transfers from GACHs in crisis care as detailed in the Order.
- 3) Healthcare professionals with capacity to volunteer should consider enrolling in the [Medical Reserve Corps](#) to be notified about volunteer opportunities, such as staffing and vaccination assistance.

Thank you for your continued support and participation.

### CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

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