Emergency Management and the COVID-19 Response

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Director of Emergency Management
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What we do…
• University-wide emergency planning
• Incident response & support
  • System-wide mutual aid
• Training, exercise, & corrective actions
• Stakeholder preparedness
• Crisis communications

Where we are headed…
• Continue the development of our program and enhance our capabilities
• Pursuing EMAP accreditation in 2022

Our Mission…
The UNCG Office of Emergency Management strives to provide a safe, disaster resilient university through a comprehensive, all-hazards Emergency Management Program…
Emergency Management Program

- **EM Program Advisory Committee** – Key internal and external stakeholders
- **Crisis Policy Group** – Chancellor and select executive staff
- **Emergency Planning and Response Team** – EOP representatives
- Other – Ad hoc or specialty committees that may drive the direction of EM components
Emergency Operations Plan

- Approved January 28, 2020
- Adheres to the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- All-hazards approach to managing emergencies
- Uses Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)
- 20 departments have responsibilities in the plan
- Aligns with System, county, and state plans
Emergency Operations Plan

- ESF-1: Transportation
- ESF-2: Communications & IT
- ESF-3: Public Works & Engineering
- ESF-4: Fire Services
- ESF-5: Information and Planning
- ESF-6: Mass Care & Human Services
- ESF 7: Resource Management
- ESF-8: Public Health & Medical Services
- ESF-9: Search and Rescue
- ESF-10: Hazardous Materials
- ESF-11: Natural Resources
- ESF-12: Energy
- ESF-13: Law Enforcement
- ESF-14: Cross-Sector Business
- ESF-15: Public Information
- ESF-16: Research & Lab Support
Emergency Operations

Crisis Policy Group

Emergency Management and Emergency Planning and Response Team (Emergency Operations Center)

External agencies, nongovernmental, private sector, and volunteer organizations

Incident/Unified Command
COVID-19 Preparedness and Response

**Increased Monitoring**
Jan 23

Increased our monitoring of the 2019 novel coronavirus as the CDC issued a Level 3 warning for Wuhan, China. International Programs were already engaged and closely monitoring the situation and began pulling lists of students who may be impacted.

**Activated Communicable Disease Committee**
Jan 28

The UNC System conducted their first COVID-19 conference call. UNCG conducted their first Communicable Disease Committee meeting to discuss the situation and establish action items and key planning considerations.

**Activated UNCG Virtual EOC**
Jan 27

UNCG activated Veoci, the University’s virtual emergency operations center system to allow for increased communication and coordination.

**Continued Preparedness Efforts**
Feb 5-29

Communicable Disease Committee members, EOP departments and the Crisis Policy Group continued to prepare by holding meetings, researching best practices, conducting advance planning, inventorying supplies, training staff, and conducting tabletop exercises.

**Leadership Transitioned to EM**
Feb 5

As the situation started to grow and planning and coordination efforts expended outside of the Communicable Disease Committee, operational leadership transitioned to Emergency Management. The EOP was activated and depts began further preparedness efforts.
COVID-19 Preparedness and Response

**Activated UNCG Coronavirus Webpage**
In response to the increasing amount of questions and request for information, University Communications established a Coronavirus webpage to provide a wealth of information specific to UNCG students, faculty, and staff.

**Established a Response Organization Structure**
Utilizing the National Incident Management System’s Incident Command System (ICS), UNCG established a response organization structure to delineate responsibilities and reporting relationships specific for COVID-19.

**UNC System Issues 1st Policy Decision**
The UNC System issued its first policy decision to suspended classes for one week to allow transition to online course work and encouraged residential students to leave campus by March 15.

**UNC System Issues 2nd Policy Decision**
The UNC System issued its second policy decision to vacate residence halls and substantially reduce campus operations. Only mandatory staff were to report to campus. UNCG also decided to suspend face to face classes.

**Continued Response Efforts**
UNCG continues to increased preparedness efforts as new information about COVID-19 becomes available and continues to respond to the operational needs of the University, to include supporting those students still residing on campus.
Moving Forward

• Manage a “shelter-at-home” order
• Care for on campus residents
• Continue communications with stakeholders
• Complete this semester and plan for future semesters
• Begin recovery planning
• Conduct after action process
Questions?
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