

Determination of Need for a Pandemic/Epidemic Alternate Housing Annex pursuant to 29 Illinois Administrative Code 301.240(d)

WHEREAS, since early 2020, Illinois has faced a pandemic that has caused extraordinary sickness and loss of life, infecting over 255,000 and growing; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel severe acute respiratory illness that spreads rapidly through respiratory transmissions and continues to be without an effective treatment or vaccine; and,

WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the World Health Organization and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicated that the virus was expected to continue spreading and it has, in fact, continued to spread rapidly, resulting in the need for federal and state governments to take significant steps; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor of Illinois declared all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area in response to the outbreak of COVID-19 initially on March 9, 2020, and, most recently on August 21, 2020, due to the continued spread and health impacts of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President declared a nationwide emergency pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the “Stafford Act”), covering all states and territories, including Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2020, the President declared a major disaster in Illinois pursuant to Section 401 of the Stafford Act; and,

WHEREAS, the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has issued a COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Direction and Order on August 31, 2020, based on the current trajectory of cases, as well as the recent announcements requiring additional mitigation measures Statewide and more prescriptive mitigation measures in two regions of the State; and,

WHEREAS, numerous people infected by the virus remain asymptomatic but nonetheless may spread it to others and, for every confirmed case there are many more unknown cases; and,

WHEREAS, public health experts have warned of a “second wave” of COVID-19 cases; and,

WHEREAS, at all times but especially during a public health crisis, protecting the health and safety of Illinoisans is among the most important functions of State and local government; and,

WHEREAS, the circumstances of the COVID-19 spread require the isolation and quarantine of certain groups of individuals for their protection and the protection of others; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for emergency protective measures such as alternate housing in order to save lives, protect public health and safety, and/or lessen or avert the threat of catastrophes in response to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10(g) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (Act), 20 ILCS 3305/, each ESDA shall prepare an emergency operations plan (EOP) for its geographic

boundaries that complies with planning, review, and approval standards promulgated by IEMA; and

WHEREAS, the requirements for an EOP prepared by an ESDA are provided in 29 Ill. Adm. Code 301; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 301.240(d), the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) may require the ESDA to include additional annexes in the EOP, if IEMA determines that those annexes are necessary preparation for protection of the public peace, health and safety in the event of a disaster; and

WHEREAS, IEMA has considered many possible avenues to address the need for mass care in response to a pandemic/epidemic incident including a full annex specifically addressing all aspects of this important issue; however, IEMA has determined that, at this point in time, a narrower approach will meet the needs and provide adequate preparation for the protection of the public peace, health and safety of Illinois citizens.

THEREFORE, pursuant to 29 Ill. Adm. Code 301.240(d), IEMA has determined that a Pandemic/Epidemic Alternate Housing annex is necessary preparation for protection of the public peace, health and safety due to the ongoing nature of COVID-19 pandemic and the possibility of the spread of other infectious diseases. All ESDAs are instructed to incorporate a Pandemic/Epidemic Alternate Housing annex into their current EOPs by the date of the jurisdiction's next EOP review date. The annex shall comply with the requirements for annexes provided in 29 Ill. Adm. Code 301.240(b) and (c) and IEMA guidance. In addition, the annex shall comply with the Control of Communicable Diseases Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 690) and other rules of IDPH, as well as be consistent with guidance issued by the CDC.

The Pandemic/Epidemic Alternate Housing annex is considered a requirement for the EOP under 29 Ill. Adm. Code 301 as of the Effective Date.



Alicia Tate-Nadeau
Director

Effective Date: 09 / 01 / 20