

Pub. L. 118-15 substituted “November 17, 2023” for “September 30, 2023”.

§ 300hh-10e. Advisory Committee Coordination

(a) In general

The Secretary shall coordinate duties and activities authorized under sections 300hh-10b, 300hh-10c, and 300hh-10d of this title, and make efforts to reduce unnecessary or duplicative reporting, or unnecessary duplicative meetings and recommendations under such sections, as practicable. Members of the advisory committees authorized under such sections, or their designees, shall annually meet to coordinate any recommendations, as appropriate, that may be similar, duplicative, or overlapping with respect to addressing the needs of children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities during public health emergencies. If such coordination occurs through an in-person meeting, it shall not be considered the required in-person meetings under any of sections 300hh-10b(e), 300hh-10c(e), or 300hh-10d(d) of this title.

(b) Coordination and alignment

The Secretary, acting through the employee designated pursuant to section 300hh-16 of this title, shall align preparedness and response programs or activities to address similar, dual, or overlapping needs of children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, and any challenges in preparing for and responding to such needs.

(c) Notification

The Secretary shall annually notify the congressional committees of jurisdiction regarding the steps taken to coordinate, as appropriate, the recommendations under this section, and provide a summary description of such coordination.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, §2811D, as added Pub. L. 116-22, title III, §305(d), June 24, 2019, 133 Stat. 941.)

§ 300hh-11. National Disaster Medical System

(a) National Disaster Medical System

(1) In general

The Secretary shall provide for the operation in accordance with this section of a system to be known as the National Disaster Medical System. The Secretary shall designate the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response as the head of the National Disaster Medical System, subject to the authority of the Secretary.

(2) Federal and State collaborative System

(A) In general

The National Disaster Medical System shall be a coordinated effort by the Federal agencies specified in subparagraph (B), working in collaboration with the States and other appropriate public or private entities, to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(B) Participating Federal agencies

The Federal agencies referred to in subparagraph (A) are the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of

Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) Purpose of System

(A) In general

The Secretary may activate the National Disaster Medical System to—

(i) provide health services, health-related social services, other appropriate human services, and appropriate auxiliary services to respond to the needs of victims of a public health emergency, including at-risk individuals as applicable (whether or not determined to be a public health emergency under section 247d of this title); or

(ii) be present at locations, and for limited periods of time, specified by the Secretary on the basis that the Secretary has determined that a location is at risk of a public health emergency during the time specified, or there is a significant potential for a public health emergency.

(B) Ongoing activities

The National Disaster Medical System shall carry out such ongoing activities as may be necessary to prepare for the provision of services described in subparagraph (A) in the event that the Secretary activates the National Disaster Medical System for such purposes.

(C) Considerations for at-risk populations

The Secretary shall take steps to ensure that an appropriate specialized and focused range of public health and medical capabilities are¹ represented in the National Disaster Medical System, which take² into account the needs of at-risk individuals, in the event of a public health emergency.

(D) Administration

The Secretary may determine and pay claims for reimbursement for services under subparagraph (A) directly or through contracts that provide for payment in advance or by way of reimbursement.

(E) Test for mobilization of System

During the one-year period beginning on December 19, 2006, the Secretary shall conduct an exercise to test the capability and timeliness of the National Disaster Medical System to mobilize and otherwise respond effectively to a bioterrorist attack or other public health emergency that affects two or more geographic locations concurrently. Thereafter, the Secretary may periodically conduct such exercises regarding the National Disaster Medical System as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) Modifications

(1) In general

Taking into account the findings from the joint review described under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall modify the policies of the National Disaster Medical System as necessary.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “is”.

² So in original. Probably should be “takes”.