

A Summary of the Florida State Courts Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Keeping the Courts Open in a Pandemic

The Florida Supreme Court endorsed in concept and approved the release of the *Florida State Courts Strategy for Pandemic Influenza* on March 29, 2006. A copy of the *Strategy* is available at www.flcourts.org (click on “Emergency Preparedness”).

The *Strategy* builds upon existing “all-hazards” emergency planning efforts initiated shortly after 9/11. The elements of the *Strategy* are:

Strategic Goals

- We must deal with crises in a way that protects the health and safety of everyone at the court facilities; and
- We must “keep the courts open” to ensure justice for the people.

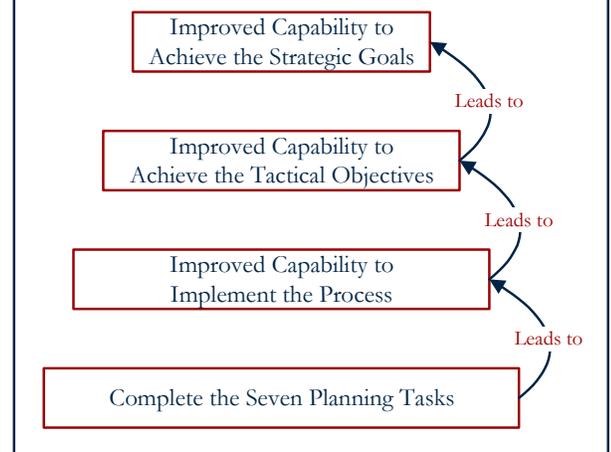
1. Reasserting and applying the **strategic goals** for emergency preparedness in the Florida State Courts;
2. Asserting specific short-term and long-term **tactical objectives** for responding to a pandemic;
3. Flowcharting the ideal **process** for responding to a pandemic; and
4. Listing **seven planning tasks** (and more specific subtasks) to be completed now.

The foundational element of the *Strategy* is the seven planning tasks. The seven planning tasks are:

1. Engage state and local public health and other officials in advance;
2. Prepare for legal considerations in a pandemic;
3. Update court technology continuity and disaster recovery plans;
4. Provide education regarding the threat posed by a pandemic;
5. Improve communications;
6. Strengthen court emergency management teams and address other personnel questions; and
7. Consider jury management issues.

As depicted in Figure One, the completion of these seven planning tasks is anticipated to lead to an improved capacity to implement the process (a copy of this flowcharted process is provided below). By successfully implementing the process, courts should improve their capacity to achieve the tactical objectives. And by achieving the tactical objectives, courts should improve their capacity to achieve the strategic goals.

Figure One
Relationship Between Planning Tasks, the Process, the Tactical Objectives, and the Strategic Goals



Short-Term Tactical Objective

- Have the capacity to perform mission essential functions and other public health related cases for up to 90 days with possibly limited face-to-face contact and significant impact to key personnel.

Long-Term Tactical Objective

- Within 90 days, have the capacity to perform all criminal matters, including jury trials, all emergency civil matters, and all mission essential functions with possibly limited face-to-face contact and significant impact to key personnel.

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Process for Responding to a Pandemic

