

December 2013,

Dear Emergency Preparedness and Response Colleagues:

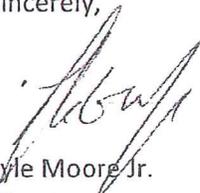
We are delighted to present you with the *Colorado Health Care Coalition Integrated Evacuation Planning Guide and Template*. These documents were designed by multiagency subject matter experts across the state to help guide the development of a plan to coordinate an individual or multiple health care organization evacuation, or reception of patients, in the event of a disaster.

The purpose of the planning guide and template is to provide Colorado Health Care Coalitions and other state and local preparedness partners with recommendations for a coordinated and collaborative response. The guide may also help in facilitating the development of a tiered level health care community plan for multi-jurisdictional evacuation and/or reception.

Colorado health care is multifaceted and planning is expected to be organized along multiple disciplines including: all health care facilities, public health, emergency medical services and emergency management and other medical and response partners. Colorado is also governed by Home Rule therefore; evacuation planning efforts should be a coordinated effort with all applicable health care and response partners. Effective planning ensures that the whole community is represented in the planning process, including representatives from the jurisdiction's departments and agencies, civic leaders, businesses, and organizations who are able to contribute critical perspectives and/or have a role in executing the plan.

We encourage Health Care Coalitions to carefully review the guidelines as you begin the development of a plan that will help to ensure the safety of your staff and the medical and public health needs of the population that you serve. Thank you once again for your ongoing dedication and commitment to making Colorado safe, prepared and resilient.

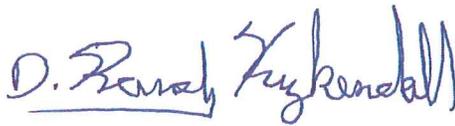
Sincerely,



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Colorado Department
of Public Health
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