Modifying Exercises and Drills in Response to the Pandemic
Thursday, January 28, 2021

Presented by the
Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS)
Technical Assistance (TA) Center
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AFTER
Presenters

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Webinar Agenda

1. Introduction: Why Exercise Together?
2. Conducting Exercises and Drills: A Look at Current Challenges
3. Recommendations to Modify Exercises and Drills
4. Resources to Support Your Work
Poll #1: Are we new to you?
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

Toll-free Phone Number: 1-855-781-REMS (7367)

Email Address: info@remstacenter.org

Twitter: @remstacenter
Poll #2: Tell us about yourself!

What role do you play within your agency?

- Do you support schools with planning for and/or conducting exercises? (Describe your role in this area.)
Introduction: Why Exercise Together?
Schools and School Districts

- Provide safe and healthy learning environments promoting academic and social success
- Keep children and youths safe from threats and hazards

In collaboration with State and Local Partners

- Protect the whole community
- Collaborate to share expertise and facilitate planning, training, and exercises across the community, including school communities
Why focus on exercises?

- Strengthen effective agency relationships
- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Test and validate plans and procedures
- Assess shared resources and capabilities
- Identify needs and solutions
- Fulfill state and local mandates requiring exercises by schools and community partners
Connection to the Six-Step Process

STEP 1
Form a Collaborative Planning Team
- Identify Core Planning Team
- Form a Common Framework
- Define and Assign Roles and Responsibilities
- Determine a Regular Schedule of Meetings

STEP 2
Understand the Situation
- Identify Threats and Hazards
- Assess Risk
- Prioritize Threats and Hazards

STEP 3
Determine Goals and Objectives
- Develop Goals
- Develop Objectives

STEP 4
Plan Development (Identifying Courses of Action)

STEP 5
Plan Preparation, Review, & Approval
- Format the Plan
- Write the Plan
- Review the Plan
- Approve and Share the Plan

STEP 6
Plan Implementation & Maintenance
- Train Stakeholders
- Exercise the Plan
- Review, Revise, and Maintain the Plan
Step 6: Plan Implementation and Maintenance

- Train Stakeholders on Plan and Roles
- Hold a Meeting
- Distribute Materials
- Visit Key Locations
- Teach Roles and Responsibilities
- Include Community Partners
Step 6: Plan Implementation and Maintenance

Exercise

Maintain  Revise
Poll #3: Collaboration

What community partners do you collaborate with to practice your school EOP?
Practice With All Applicable Stakeholders

- Students
- Educators, Staff
- Caregivers
- First Responders
- Other Partners
An Overview: Exercise Types

**Discussion-Based Exercises**
- Seminars
- Workshops
- Tabletop Exercises

**Operations-Based Exercises**
- Drills
- Simulations
- Functional Exercises
- Full-Scale Exercises
Poll #3: Exercise Types

What types of exercises do you use to practice your school or school district EOP?

- Tabletop Exercises
- Drills
- Functional Exercises
- Full-Scale Exercises
- Workshops and Seminars
- Other
Over time, exercises should

| Inform planning, budget, training, policy, and programming | Yield *observable* improvements in preparedness for future exercises and real-world events |
Exercise Program Management

- Engaging District and School Leadership
- Establishing multi-year exercise program priorities
- Developing a multi-year training and exercise program
- Maintaining a rolling summary of exercise outcomes
- Managing exercise program resources
## Multi-Year Training and Exercise Schedule 2021-2022

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<th>Personnel</th>
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<th>Mar</th>
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<td>(E) Evacuation</td>
<td>(T) FERPA / HIPAA</td>
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</tbody>
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Conducting Exercises:
A Look at Current Challenges
Review of Current Challenges

- Concerns regarding social distancing
- Availability of masks and PPE
- Hybrid teaching and learning models
- Access to community partners
- Understanding how to adjust plans, requirements, protocols, etc.

What other challenges would you list?
Poll #4: The Pandemic’s Impact

Have you experienced challenges practicing your school EOP during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Tabletop Exercises
- Drills
- Functional Exercises
- Full-Scale Exercises
- Workshops and Seminars
- Other
Recommendations to Modify Exercises and Drills
Recommendations to Consider

Key Considerations When Modifying School-Based Exercises

- Consult the education agency’s general counsel.
- Collaborate with school, district, and community partners.
- Educate the whole school community on how masks and personal protective equipment will be integrated into the exercise and drill setting.
- Consider smaller-scaled drills that are staggered over an extended period of time.
- Consider conducting role-based and classroom-based exercises and drills.
- Consider how evacuation meeting point designations will be modified.
- Create and apply virtual exercise and drill models.
- Integrate school safety-based tabletop exercises into staff meetings and other faculty- and staff-based professional development offerings.
- Reinforce the importance of creating and practicing family emergency plans.
- Work with partners to promote community-wide safety that highlights the importance of preparedness, including creating and practicing emergency plans.
Consult your agency’s general counsel.

State Exercise and Drill Requirements

31-133. Fire marshal; power and duties; rules and regulations.
At least 4 fire drills each school year during school hours.
At least 2 tornado drills each school year (September to March) during school hours.
At least 3 crisis drills each school year during school hours.

* State fire marshal may grant an exemption that authorizes a variance for the # of drills conducted for students receiving special education or related services.
Collaborate with school, district, and community partners.
Educate on mask & PPE requirements.
Consider staggered smaller-scaled drills.

Hosting exercises and drills with one class and/or a designated maximum number of students, faculty, and staff.

Scheduling exercises that take place during multiple points in the day, week, and month.
Consider role-based exercises.

Exercises show how the varying roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders can work together to support prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery in the event of an emergency.
Consider how evacuation meeting point designations will be modified.

Consider how proper social distancing guidelines and protocols can be applied, which may require modifying existing meeting sites and adding new meeting points to help ensure that proper space between individual students and student groups can be accomplished.
Create and apply virtual exercise models.

Virtual exercises and drills provide a flexible option for education agencies and their school communities, as they can be utilized in both the physical learning setting and the virtual learning setting.
Make exercises a universal part of professional development.
Reinforce the importance of creating and practicing family emergency plans.

Find ways to involve families and caregivers in efforts to practice the plan, as well as to inform them about protocol modifications specific to conducting exercises and drills in the physical learning environment.

Many of the safety exercises conducted in the school setting can also be shared and practiced in the virtual learning and the school at home setting.
Trainings, Tools, and Resources
Modifying Education Agency Exercises and Drills in Response to the Pandemic

Protecting Students, Faculty, Staff, and the Whole School Community While Practicing Plans
Plan Generator Software
Trainings and Exercises Dashboards
Question and Answer Session

Please use the Q&A Pod to submit your questions.
Continue the Discussion

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Enhance Emergency Operations Plans

Use EOP-Enhancing Interactive Tools

Request an On-Site Training in Key EOP-Related Topics

Learn Anytime via Virtual Trainings on all Topics in Emergency Management

Access Relevant Federal Guidance

PREVENT

MITIGATE

PROTECT

RESPOND

RECOVER