

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1321

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

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District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Hutchison

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to revise emergency response plan for pandemic influenzas.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee on October 15, 2026, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning pandemic influenzas and supplementing Title
2 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. The Department of Health, in consultation with the State
8 Office of Emergency Management, shall revise the department's
9 Pandemic Influenza Plan, or its successor plan, to:

10 (1) expand the scope of the emergencies anticipated by the plan
11 to cover long-running and large-scale pandemic influenzas;

12 (2) address each capability as outlined in the most recent United
13 States Department of Health and Human Services Public Health
14 Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities: National
15 Standards for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Public Health, or
16 such successor guidance as may be promulgated by the federal
17 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

18 (3) outline the specific roles, succession plans, decision rights,
19 and operational responsibilities of each State agency during a public
20 health emergency involving a pandemic influenza;

21 (4) outline the department's approach to coordinating each
22 element of a pandemic influenza emergency response with local
23 health departments in New Jersey;

24 (5) establish or identify crisis standards of care to guide the
25 healthcare response to pandemic influenzas in the State; and

26 (6) incorporate strategies to address any health equity gaps
27 related to pandemic influenzas, including any gaps that were
28 identified during the COVID-19 pandemic.

29 b. In revising the plan pursuant to this section, the department
30 shall solicit input from the Governor's Office, local health
31 departments, ¹health care facilities and providers with relevant
32 expertise,¹ and other key public health stakeholders as determined
33 by the department.

34 c. The plan shall be subject to regular review by the department
35 and the State Office of Emergency Management and shall be
36 updated on a regular basis as may be appropriate.

37 d. The plan shall be utilized by the department and the State
38 Office of Emergency Management to design regular emergency
39 response training exercises related to pandemic influenzas.

40 e. As used in this section:

41 "Department" means the Department of Health.

42 "Plan" means the Department of Health's Pandemic Influenza
43 Plan, or its successor plan.

44
45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHN committee amendments adopted October 15, 2026.