



# Tulare County Covid Coalition Collaborative

Tulare County Public Health Department  
Kaweah Health  
Sierra View Medical Center  
Adventist Tulare  
EMSA  
CDPH Bakersfield Office

## Practice Problem

Inpatient nursing units at Tulare hospitals, county public health, EMSA, and the CDPH field office were working independently during the Covid Pandemic crisis.

Hospitals were operating in a vacuum. No formal communication channels existed for any or all of the healthcare governing entities.

No shared communication or ability to report current or existing problems in delivering and facilitating healthcare along the continuum of health with county, regionally or state-wide.

## Clinical Question

*How can a collaboration and a governing coalition support improved communication through improving supply chain, continuum of care, staffing, and link regulatory and state agencies?*

The coalition was implemented on April 2, 2020. Members of the coalition morphed over time to include ad hoc members as needed to support the activities and problem solving process as confronted with ever-changing environments and conditions.

## Project Description

Virtual calls were set-up bi-weekly initially on Mondays and Thursdays from April-Nov 2020. Then the frequency was lessened to weekly going forward.

Establishment and improvement of Covid testing.

Communication improved and a coalition was formed early to help with supply chain, staffing, patient through put, and educational support for teams.

Request was made to EMSA to establish an Alternative Care Site in Porterville at the Porterville Developmental Center.

Staffing requests were requested from the State as the crisis of waves of Covid hit area hospitals and the public health department.

Establish community based vaccine clinics.



## ACF Project Activities

1. Set-up in Porterville
2. State EMSA supported and staffed
3. Alternate Care Facility operated during 2 waves of Covid
4. Sierra View Medical Center served as the 911 hospital for the ACF.
5. Sierra View contributed 50% of the patient volume at the ACF – providing capacity for acute illness in the hospital
6. Provided monoclonal antibody infusions



## Project Evaluation

1. Scheduled consistent meetings
2. Established core team (hospital CNOs included) and ad hoc members
3. Feedback from EMSA regarding messaging being heard at State governance
4. Approved for Alternative Care Site at PDC in Porterville
5. State-sponsored staffing provided at Tulare County Hospitals (Military at Kaweah Health also)
6. Established vaccine clinics

## Conclusions



The Coalition that was formed around collaboration was effective in working on issues and problems that faced Tulare County. This coalition continues to operate and meets monthly and ad-hoc as needed.

## Nursing and Healthcare Implications

This model can serve as a framework and format to establish a coalition at the local, regional and/or state levels to enhance communication and common vision and mission