



THE JOHNS HOPKINS GO TEAM



Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the Johns Hopkins GO TEAM! To learn more, please read the following information below.

What is the Johns Hopkins Go Team?

The Johns Hopkins Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR) received a Federal grant to create, train, and equip a rapidly deployable medical team that could respond to regional or national disasters. One hundred fifty healthcare workers from a variety of departments were recruited and registered for the “Go Team.” The Team is designed to be modular, meaning that the number of members deployed (sent) is dependent on the needs of the area in crisis. The Go Team may be asked to perform mass casualty triage, establish and/or staff field clinics for victims, provide medical support to first responders or shelters, backfill in hospitals, and/or provide public health services such as surveying and vaccinations. The overall goal of the Johns Hopkins Go Team is to provide a valuable disaster response asset and to enhance the disaster preparedness of Johns Hopkins employees through training and education.

Who is on the Go Team?

The Go Team is comprised of a variety of care providers from across the Johns Hopkins Institutions, including, but not limited to:

- Physicians
- Physician extenders
- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Mental health providers
- Support technicians
- Respiratory therapists
- EMT's
- Researchers
- Logistics specialists—facility and supply managers
- Dieticians
- Administration/financial officers
- Safety officers
- Security officers
- Epidemiologists
- Public affairs
- IT/communications officers

Who should consider applying?

Only permanent part-time or full-time employees of the Johns Hopkins Institutions may apply at this time. We are currently not accepting applications from students, residents, traveling nurses, or per diem employees.

Do Go Team members receive special training?

Yes. Selected team members undergo a specialized training program that includes web-based modules, classroom courses, and in-field training sessions. All members are asked to complete:

(1) Two web-based Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) courses:

- Introduction to the National Incident Management System (IS-700)
- Introduction to the Incident Command System for Healthcare/Hospitals (IS-100.HC)

(2) Interactive video-based educational modules will also be used to improve the knowledge base of all Go Team members in topics such as:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Bombs and Bomb Treats
- Bioterrorism for Healthcare
- Radiological Terrorism for Healthcare
- Chemical Terrorism for Healthcare
- Hospital Incident Command System
- Decontamination and Level C PPE
- Influenza

(3) Two specialized courses shall be used to train team members:

- *Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS)*: This basic course emphasizes an all-hazards approach to mass casualty incident management. This awareness level course is one day in length. All team members will be strongly encouraged to take this course.
- *Advanced Disaster Life Support*: This advanced course is a practicum for those who have successfully completed the BDLS course. It prepares participants for mass casualty decontamination, use of personal protective equipment, essential disaster skills, and mass casualty incident communication. This course uses simulated scenarios, interactive sessions and drills with high-fidelity mannequins and volunteer patients to provide a true-to-like practical experience in treatment and response. The course is presented over 2 days. Only “Team Leaders” will be expected to complete this course.

Additional workshops and/or in-field trainings are held so that the Team can learn vital skills such as use of all supplies and equipment and self-supporting activities such as camping, water purification and in-field cooking. For example, the Go Team Medical Director designed a 3-4 day in-field experience through Outward Bound to provide supplemental training for selected “Team Leaders.” The experience focused on leadership skills, team building, communication skills, incident command, deployment responsibilities, use of specialized equipment, etc.

What is it like in the disaster area?

Deployment to a disaster zone can be very rewarding. However, there are significant physical and mental challenges associated with deployment. All members of the Hopkins Go Team should be aware of the following:

- Disaster zones are inherently dangerous.
- The Team may be sleeping in tents, on cots and/or on the floor.
- Climate control (air conditioning, heat) and showers are not guaranteed.
- The Team may face extreme weather.
- The Team may be required to filter or treat water.
- Food may consist of military rations or dehydrated meals, and mealtimes may be erratic.
- Members should expect to work long hours in stressful situations.
- Communication with family members at home may be limited.

How does the Go Team get deployed and do members provide their own supplies and equipment?

The Hopkins Go Team will NOT self-deploy to a disaster area without a formal, written request from an official response agency or healthcare entity requesting assistance. Team deployment will be approved in consultation with Johns Hopkins Health System and University leadership.

The Go Team will most likely be deployed as part of a Federal or Maryland state response asset (e.g. EMAC request), in which case the team would be provided with shelter, food, and supplies while in the disaster zone. Team members are responsible for bringing personal items. There is a possibility, however, that the Go Team would be requested directly by a state or local response agency or private entity, in which case the Team may need to be self-supportive for a few days. Some supplies and equipment for Team support have been purchased with funding from the HRSA grant.

How long could the Go Team be deployed?

The typical deployment lasts 1-2 weeks.

Can a Team member down a deployment?

Yes. Being a member of the Go Team does not legally obligate members to be a part of a deployment if they choose to decline.

How much advance notice is given about deployment?

CEPAR will make every effort to put the Go Team on alert when a disaster occurs or an event is evolving. The Team will generally have 24 hours advance notice of a deployment.

Do Go Team members get paid?

Officially deployed Go Team members will continue to receive their base salary during deployment. There is no additional compensation for training sessions, although members may receive CME/CEU credit for some of the online training. It is the responsibility of the Team member to request approval from his/her direct supervisor for time away and to confirm that appropriate coverage is in place during his/her absence.

Who pays for transportation costs to the disaster area?

Generally speaking, Team members will not incur any travel costs, as it is usually covered by the state or requesting agency.

Are malpractice insurance and/or Worker's Compensation covered during deployment?

Officially deployed Team members shall be covered by JHMI malpractice insurance and worker's compensation.

Who do I contact if I have other questions or am interested in applying to the Go Team?

Please email CEPAR@jhmi.edu if you have further questions or are interested in applying to the Go Team. We will get back to you as soon as possible.