

National Pandemic GIS Task Force

Strategy & Action Plan

Background

In May 2020, NAPSG Foundation, the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), and the Urban Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) joined forces to establish the National Pandemic GIS Task Force. The overarching goal set forth by the Pandemic GIS Task Force is ***to increase pandemic preparedness and unity of effort by enabling effective information sharing and use of location-enabled technology for informing critical decision making.***

The Task Force is charged with providing thought leadership, strategic guidance, and expertise in the development and implementation of a nationwide strategy for unifying data, location-enabled technology, and information sharing across all levels of government in pandemic response and recovery. The Task Force is comprised of two volunteer members from each organization, support staff, and is augmented by other stakeholders with specialized expertise related to pandemic preparedness, response, recovery, and location-enabled technology. At present, the Task Force has elected to keep the seeds of governance in the form of meeting notes and tracking key decision points and has chosen not to establish a formal governance charter.

To kick-off the effort, the Task Force has elected to take action in addressing high priority strategic needs and requirements, including the following:

- Engaging the public safety community in capturing challenges, successes, and lessons learned in applying technology to address operational needs and decision making during COVID-19 response.
- Facilitating the development of a COVID-19 Technology and GIS After-Action Review and Improvement Plan.
- Coordinating among the emergency management, public health, and technology/GIS—and across all levels of government—in advancing consistent use of technology, GIS, and information sharing for pandemic preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Developing a standard Playbook for Integrating GIS in Pandemic Response & Recovery that is based on the timeline of decisions and actions carried out by emergency managers and public health official prior to, during, and after a pandemic.
- Contributing to and promulgating out a community portal for the curation and sharing of technology and GIS best practices and toolkits used in COVID-19 and pandemic preparedness.

Jointly Led by:



NAPSG Foundation



National States Geographic Information Council



Fostering Excellence in GIS
www.URISA.org

Goal

Increase pandemic preparedness and unity of effort by enabling effective information sharing and use of location-enabled technology for informing critical decision making.

Objectives

1. Identify and document capability gaps and lessons learned in information sharing and the use of GIS & technology to support coordination and decision making by public health and emergency management in response and recovery from COVID-19.
2. Develop and promote use of a standardized National Playbook for Integrating Technology & GIS in Pandemic Response & Recovery.
3. Define and promulgate best practices in data sharing and the use of GIS & technology in pandemic preparedness, response, and recovery by the public safety community at-large.
4. Develop a common language, information needs, and data schemas to support standardized data collection, management, and decision support products used in all phases of a pandemic.



Figure 1: Pandemic Technology & GIS Preparedness Cycle

Near-Term Action Plan

Provided below is a table of an initial set of milestones and target dates identified for the key actions discussed by the Pandemic GIS Task Force. This table is subject to change.

Objective	Key Milestones	Target Date
1.0	Identify and document capability gaps and lessons learned in information sharing and the use of GIS & technology to support coordination and decision making by public health and emergency management in response and recovery from COVID-19.	Ongoing
1.1	Conduct first virtual engagement session for public safety stakeholders that actively supported COVID-19 response and recovery to listen, learn, and share their technology & GIS-related challenges and success stories.	June 23, 2020
1.2	Develop and release a COVID-19 Technology & GIS Hot Wash Questionnaire to collect quantitative feedback from public safety stakeholders that actively supported COVID-19 response and recovery	June 25, 2020
1.3	Conduct second virtual engagement session for public safety stakeholders that actively supported COVID-19 response and recovery to dive deeper into the key issues and improvement areas identified in the preliminary analysis of results.	Aug. 20, 2020
1.4	Complete analysis of all results and release version 1.0 COVID-19 Technology & GIS AAR and Improvement Plan	Winter 2021
1.5	Coordinate with the FEMA / HHS COVID-19 after-action team on integrating findings from the Technology & GIS AAR into the longer-term process	Ongoing



Objective	Key Milestones	Target Date
2.0	Develop and promote use of a standardized National Playbook for Integrating Technology & GIS in Pandemic Response & Recovery	Ongoing
2.1	Conduct a literature review and analysis of existing public health and pandemic playbooks and timelines and determine which serve as a viable framework.	Fall 2020
2.2	Develop a complete draft of the National Playbook for Integrating Technology & GIS in Pandemic Response & Recovery	Summer 2021
2.3	Release draft National Playbook for 30-day public comment and complete comment adjudication	Summer 2021
2.4	Finalize version 1.0 of the National Playbook for Integrating Technology & GIS in Pandemic Response & Recovery	Fall 2021
3.0	Define and promulgate best practices in data sharing and the use of GIS & technology in pandemic preparedness, response, and recovery by the public safety community at-large.	Ongoing
3.1	Develop and launch a community-wide portal for collecting, inventorying, and sharing our best practices and toolkits related to COVID-19 and pandemic technology and GIS use.	June 1, 2020
3.2	Conduct outreach to the community in contributing best practices and toolkits into the consolidated public portal	Aug. 20, 2020 (Ongoing)
3.3	Promote use of common best practices and toolkits to support pandemic preparedness and response with technology and GIS	Ongoing
4.0	Develop a common language, information needs, and data schemas to support standardized data collection, management, and decision support products using in all phases of a pandemic.	Future