



Riverside University Health System Emergency Code Update

Code Black Implementation

Introduction

- To improve Riverside University Health Systems response to violent incidents, we are implementing an update to our emergency code system. The goal of this update is to ensure that staff, facility security, and both on-site and off-site law enforcement respond swiftly and appropriately based on the severity and nature of the threat.
- Recent evaluation of our emergency codes has determined that the historical context of a Code Silver is too broad in nature, and there needs to be a more significant indicator for a verified active shooter event.
- To fulfil this need, RUHS is implementing “**CODE BLACK**” as a new emergency color code.

Code Green / Code Silver

Code Green and Code Silver are currently in use throughout the RUHS facilities and will continue to be utilized, with no changes to the protocols. Each of these emergency codes are unique in nature and require an immediate response to mitigate any potential injury to staff, patients, and visitors, with each requiring a significantly increased response from law enforcement and staff.

- **Code Green:** This involves situations where a person is physically violent or threatening physical violence. In these cases, immediate action will be taken to de-escalate the situation. Facility security and/or law enforcement should respond quickly, and staff should follow internal protocols to manage the threat, such as interventions (like restraint or containment) when necessary.
- **Code Silver:** This code involves a person with a weapon or a threat of violence while in possession of a weapon. (e.g., having a weapon, but not actively shooting or causing immediate harm). The situation may not require a full tactical response from law enforcement unless the threat escalates.

Code Black

A Code Black is specifically designated for a verified active shooter event, or other violent situation where there is an ongoing and immediate threat to life. Law enforcement will respond swiftly and decisively, with a significant presence to mitigate the threat, and staff will follow active shooter protocols (lockdown, evacuation, etc.).

- Example: A person has opened fire in the facility, and law enforcement is immediately called to mitigate any further harm or threat from the shooter. Facility staff will follow active shooter protocols, including evacuating and securing patients and visitors, if safe to do so.

It is important to note that a Code Green or Code Silver can escalate to a Code Black at any time.

Conclusion

Staff should familiarize themselves on the updated emergency codes, including the distinction between **Code Green**, **Code Silver**, and **Code Black**. As part of this update, staff will receive **new code cards** that include the new **Code Black**. These cards will serve as quick references in an emergency, ensuring staff can act swiftly and appropriately during an active shooter situation.

Additionally, these cards will include the basic concepts for the “**Run, Hide, Fight**” response.

- **Run** – Evacuate the area immediately if possible.
- **Hide** – If evacuation is not possible, find a secure location and lock the doors.
- **Fight** – If confronted by the shooter, use any means of defense as a last resort.

CODE RED	Pull Fire Alarm/ 911	Fire
CODE BLUE	911	Adult Medical Emergency
CODE BLACK	911	Active Shooter/Deadly Force
CODE SILVER	911/Security Button	Person with Weapon
CODE ORANGE	911	Haz-Mat Spill or Release
CODE WHITE	911	Pediatric Medical Emergency
CODE YELLOW	911/Security Button	Bomb Threat or Suspicious package
CODE TRIAGE	911	Internal/External Disaster
CODE GREEN	911/Security Button	Compassive Person/ Assault
CODE PINK	911/Security Button	Infant Abduction < 1 year old
CODE PURPLE	911	Child Abduction > 1 year old

RUHS – Moreno Valley Campus

CODE RED

Fire Emergency
R - Rescue patients/visitors/staff
A - Activate Alarm
C - Contain fire - Close Doors
E - Extinguish Fire/evacuate

Operating a Fire Extinguisher
P - Pull the pin
A - Aim the extinguisher at base of fire
S - Squeeze the trigger
S - Sweep from side to side

CODE BLACK/SILVER
Active Shooter Response
RUN HIDE FIGHT (last resort)

Earthquake Response: In most situations if you feel shaking or get an earthquake alert immediately,
DROP! **COVER!** **HOLD ON!**

CODE RED	Pull Fire Alarm/ #101-00	Fire
CODE BLUE	#101-00	Adult Medical Emergency
CODE BLACK	911/#101-00	Active Shooter/ Deadly Force
CODE SILVER	#101-00	Person with Weapon
CODE ORANGE	#101-00	Haz-Mat Spill or Release
CODE YELLOW	#101-00	Bomb Threat or Suspicious Package
CODE TRIAGE	#101-00	Internal/External Disaster
CODE GREEN	#101-00	Behavioral Event
CODE PURPLE	911/#101-00	Child Abduction > 1 year old

RUHS – Arlington Campus

CODE RED

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