

STRAC Crisis Guidelines

Executive Summary



Supporting our community, our health system, and our doctors.

- The **STRAC Guidelines** were written by a diverse team of doctors, experts, and leaders who work with STRAC.
- Their goal was to develop evidence-based ethically sound guidelines for the people and culture of San Antonio and the surrounding community.
- The **Guidelines** describe crisis levels of a pandemic, such as COVID-19.

Preparing and Responding to each crisis level:

Early in the pandemic



Doctors, first responders, nurses and health systems should save as many lives as possible, while prioritizing those who are in the greatest need and delivering fair and equitable healthcare free of discrimination.



For **Crisis Level 1**, the **Guidelines** recommend postponing elective surgeries, limiting hospital visitation, and preserving oxygen and protective equipment supplies.



Our collective goal is to avoid Crisis Levels 2 and 3

Hospitals are full



Overall the **Guidelines** recommend doctors use their best judgement, but for Levels 2 and 3 there is an “algorithm” for prioritizing patients.



For **Crisis Level 2**, the **Guidelines** recommend increasing protective equipment supplies and taking steps to make hospital beds available (e.g., cancel elective surgeries, care for patients at home).

Highest threat level



The **process** includes an evidence-based **survival tool** to complement a doctor’s clinical judgement.



At **Crisis Level 3**, many people are sick but there are not enough hospital beds or ventilators to cover all patients.



The **process** encourages doctors to talk early on with patients (or their representatives) about their preferences and their goals. The **survival tool** helps doctors describe the likelihood of survival from chronic and acute conditions.

The **Guidelines** recommend that each health system have a multidisciplinary review committee to update and apply crisis guidelines, and ensure that decision-making processes are respectful, compassionate, and working to save as many lives as possible in our community.

