

Emergency Preparedness and Response

DEFINITIONS: AUGUST 2025 (PENDING SCHSAC APPROVAL)

A. Develop, exercise, and update All-Hazards preparedness and response plans using established guidelines to address acute and long duration incidents and events.

1. Develop, implement, and maintain written policies and procedures to activate and alert public health personnel and response partners during an emergency.
2. Develop, exercise, and update emergency preparedness and response plans based on identified risk assessments.
3. Establish the response and recovery role of public health in incidents and events, in collaboration with partners.
4. Inform staff and appropriate partners of public health roles in response plans.
5. Train staff and provide opportunities to exercise the response plan.
6. Collaborate with community-based organizations and partners to provide and participate in training events and exercises.
7. Evaluate and continuously improve the response of the governmental public health system and the health department to incidents, using after-action reports and improvement plans (AAR-IPs).

B. Integrate environmental, social, physical, and economic conditions to protect the needs and abilities of all people in response and recovery activities and plans.

1. Build and maintain relationships with the public and partners to establish trust with governmental public health.
2. Convene cross-sector partners to identify strategies or initiatives for community-based organizations and governmental partners.
3. Collaboratively assess and plan for the considerations of access and functional needs of at-risk populations.

C. Lead the public health and medical response strategies for the jurisdiction and state, also known as Emergency Support Function 8.

1. Assure staff are adequately trained on emergency preparedness and response competencies and plans in the incident command system.
2. Assure leadership of governmental public health are trained and equipped to lead response and recovery activities.
3. Assess the scope and responsibility for public health response internally and externally.
4. Governmental Public Health participates and partners with regional Health Care Preparedness Coalitions, or other similarly positioned coalitions.

D. Assure mobilization of personnel and partners for emergency response, using the incident management system for coordination.

1. Activate and alert public health response personnel using established communication systems.
2. Operate within, and as necessary lead, the established incident command system according to the role of public health.
3. Convene public health partners to identify strategies for governmental public health response to incidents, and to assess the need for community incident response efforts.
4. Coordinate with local, state, Tribal, and federal emergency managers and other first responders, health care coalitions, and private sector and nonprofit partners.

E. Maintain operational plans for Continuity of Operations and Administrative and Budget Preparedness for response and recovery.

1. Identify priorities or essential public health functions and the staff, resources, and facilities needed for continuity of operations during an incident.
2. Collaborate with public health leadership and staff to clarify roles and responsibilities during a continuity incident.

PENDING SCHSAC APPROVAL

3. Assure administrative and budget processes and systems are documented, tested, and evaluated to assure public health can rapidly receive and use funds; procure resources, materials, and supplies; execute contracts; and hire personnel during incidents and events.
4. Conduct training and exercises for public health leadership and staff on both plans.

F. Promote readiness and resilience of communities and partners, enabling necessary action before, during, or after an emergency.

1. Convene public health and community partners to jointly strategize response actions.
2. Conduct community engagement activities to promote Whole Community planning, response, and recovery.

G. Plan for and lead public health recovery initiatives.

1. Assess the need for incident recovery efforts for communities, jurisdictions, and governmental public health staff.
2. Implement prioritized strategies or initiatives to support recovery from incidents.
3. Collaborate when feasible with disaster behavioral health specialists, mental health professionals, and/or partners in recovery activities.
4. Assess the behavioral health needs of and implement strategies to support public health staff recovery following an incident or event.

H. Strengthen and maintain the infrastructure for public health emergency response.

1. Assess the legal and statutory process for issuing and enforcing state and local emergency health orders.
2. Issue and enforce emergency health orders, as necessary and appropriate, inclusive of prevention or control of infectious diseases and environmental health risks.
3. Develop, implement, and maintain a situation and information sharing infrastructure which may receive notice of emergencies on a 24/7 basis.
4. Provide information before, during, and after a public health emergency per Communications capability standards and crisis and emergency risk communication (CERC) principles.
5. Access and utilize a Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Reference laboratory for biological agents and an LRN chemical laboratory at a level designated by CDC.