

Ohio Department of Health



SAMPLE PLAN Nuclear Biological and Chemical (NBC) Health Department Emergency Response Plan Annex II

**Bureau of Environmental Health and Toxicology
Disaster Preparedness and Response Program**

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MODEL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NUCLEAR BIOLOGICAL CHEMICAL (NBC) DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

(i) **PURPOSE:**

Model County offers potential terrorist targets for using Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), involving Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) Agents. It is necessary that the Model County Health Department be prepared to respond to such emergencies to minimize public health effects and manage the consequences by appropriate response plan.

(ii) **PLAN ORGANIZATION:**

(a) **Health Department Plan:**

The County Health Department Emergency Response Plan provides plan for Natural and Hazardous Material incidents. Emergency Response plans for Radiological Emergencies and WMD / NBC Emergency Response plan for Terrorist events, are attached to the department emergency response plan, as Annex I and II, respectively.

The NBC Disaster Response Plan (Annex II) refers to the relevant sections of the Health Department Emergency Response Plan and the Annex I, where the planning contents are the same.

Only special considerations in planning NBC incidents are included in the NBC Disaster Response Plan such as the organized effort necessary to minimize the effects of NBC agents used by terrorists through response including Detection, Treatment Preventive and Remedial measures.

(b) **The County Plan:**

The responsibilities and functions regarding disaster response are laid out in the **Annex-H** of the **Model County Disaster Response Plan**. Health Department Emergency Response Plan, along with Annexes is integrated into the County Plan and Annex H.

II. ASSUMPTIONS

- In the event of a NBC incident Model County could receive State and Federal agency's assistance. These agencies have sophisticated system to detect and monitor NBC agent exposures and predict its spread.
- Outside assistance would complement and not supplant Model County Health Department own operating system.
- All the agencies involved are operating under the Incident Command System.

III. OPERATIONS

(i) GENERAL:

- Health Department activates Health Department Emergency Response plan and its Annex I and II, during any disaster, as needed.
- Health Department implements procedures outlined in the Ohio Guidelines for Biological incidents (referred in this document as Ohio Guidelines), in response to terrorist biological incidents. A copy of the Ohio Guidelines, for reference is placed as **Attachment A**, to this document. Health Department may initiate ODH Health Alert Network (HAN), system into its operations under the direction from ODH.
- All events are divided into Notification, Response and Recovery Phases. A checklist of actions for each phase/event (Ohio Guidelines) is in **Attachment B** to this plan.
- The ODH “Manual of Infectious Diseases”, is used as a guide by the Health Department for reporting different classes of diseases to ODH. Class A-1 reportable diseases are listed in **Attachment E**
- NBC emergency response operations, includes critical activities such as rescue, triage victims, personnel protection, decontamination, sample collection, identification of the biological agent, medical treatment, and surveillance, handling the diseased, mass inoculation, and quarantine operations.
- Local government officials have first line of responsibility for emergency planning and response within their jurisdiction.
- Many elements of local, state and federal government will be integrated into a coherent biological response system including Facilities, Equipment, Trained Personnel, Communications and Plans and Procedures.
- All incidents will be treated as real and an all hazard approach is followed.

(ii) COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTIFICATIONS:

- A report may be initiated by a concerned / threatened citizen or an organization.
- 911 operator or any government agency may receive the initial notification from the affected individual, or the organization.
- If any government agency receives the initial call, will notify immediately to the 911 operator.
- If the 911 operator receives the initial call, the Law Enforcement agency, Fire and EMS are dispatched.
- After the initial responders are dispatched, 911 operator notifies the Health Department, County EMA and the regional FBI.
- Health Department notifies Ohio Department of Health and establishes the bridge telephone line.
- Health Department consult with state and federal agencies issues regarding Evacuation and Isolation, Risk of contagion, Sheltering and subsequent re-opening of

site, Decontamination of individuals and property, Specimen Collection, Laboratory Capabilities / time frame, Special instructions to Hospitals, Diseased individuals, Test Result Notification, Use and supply of Prophylaxis/Vaccine, Surveillance, Public Health Advisories.

- Health Department notifies County EMA and County Hospital emergency department and County area Poison control center.
- County EMA notifies State EMA, FBI, and other government agencies as the event develops. (A flow diagram for communications and notifications during a biological incident is provided as **Attachments C and D**, to this document)
- Based on the first responder’s assessment the County EMA may activate the Emergency Operation center. MC HD coordinate communications from the emergency operation center (EOC) if activated.
- Protocol for Local, state and national emergency declarations will be same as the county disaster response plan.

(iii) INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a) Protocol:

Health Department implements the protocols established by the Ohio Department of Health. In the event the case report is not for a class A1 infectious disease, but there is indication of epidemic spread or intentional infection, complete “Patient Contact Form” (Form is in **Attachment F**), Contact Dr. Forrest Smith or Dr. Elizabeth Koch immediately. Secondary contacts are Dr. Roger Krogwold or Dr. Kathy Smith or ODH Emergency Response staff.

Contact ODH Emergency Response staff if additional state resources are indicated.

(b) Class - A1, Diseases (See Attachment E)

Diseases which might have potential for epidemic spread because of severity, such as Anthrax, Botulism- food borne, Cholera, Diphtheria, Measles, Meningococcal disease, Plague, Rabies- human, Rubella (not congenital). For Anthrax, Botulism, and Plague or if there is more than one unrelated case report for the other A1s, notify Dr. Forrest Smith or Dr. Elizabeth Koch immediately.

ODH CONTACTS	OFFICE	OFF HOURS
Elizabeth Koch, M.D	614-644-8024	614-443-2963
Forrest Smith, M.D	614-466-0265	614-457-0132
Roger Krogwold, M.D	614-728-7408	614-336-4130
Kathy Smith, D.V.M	614-466-0283	614-654-6654
Duty Officer	614-728-3463	
Duty Officer Pager	614-630-8531	

Refer to **Attachment G** of this plan for Ohio Department of Health, Standard Operating Guides (SOG).

(iv) EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE LIST:

- **List (Model County Health Department Staff) phone numbers and addresses.**
As provided in the MC HD Emergency Response Plan
- **Law Enforcement Agencies:**
Police Dispatch (911)
Police Station Number
Sheriff Department
- **County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)**
- **County Hospital Emergency Room**
ER Physician
ER Staff Nurse
- **Area Poison Control Center**
Cleveland, Ohio 216-231-4455
Columbus, Ohio 614-722-6478
- **Ohio Department of Health:**
 - Disaster Response Coordination:**
Chief - Bureau of Environmental Health and Toxicology
Phone 614-466-5599
Pager 614-433-4290
Fax 614-564-2410
Section Chief – Disaster Preparedness and Response Program
Phone 614-995-4845
Pager 614-320-9793
Fax 614-644-7740
 - Biological Incidents:**
Duty Officer - Bureau of Infectious Diseases Control
Phone 614-728-3463
Pager 614-630-8531
 - Nuclear Incidents:**
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Phone 614-644-2727
 - State Emergency Operation Center – ODH**
Phone 614-799-6444
614-799-6445
Fax 614-889-7183
- **CDC**
 - CDC Emergency Response 740-488-7100
 - Botulism Antitoxin CDC 404-639-2206 (Business hours)
 - Botulism Antitoxin CDC 404-639-2888 (Emergency /off hours)
- **Federal Bureau of Investigation**
Cleveland FBI 216-522-1400
Columbus FBI 614-224-1183
Cincinnati FBI 513-421-4310
Dayton FBI 937-222-7483

Toledo FBI 419-243-6122

- **National Response Center** 800-424-8802
Biological Incident 1-888-872-7443
(Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases)
Radiation Incident Pager 1-800-SKY-PAGE
Enter PIN 801-0338
(Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute) Phone 301- 295- 0316
REACTS 423-481-1000 (Beeper 241)
- **Chemical/Hazardous Material Incidents**
CHEMTREC
ATSDR
- **USPHS** 1-800-759-7243 #237-6227
- **VA Emergency Response** 216-546-2709 #838-8909

(vi) **ALTERNATE COMMUNICATIONS AND METHOD OF IDENTIFICATION:**

List of alternate sources of communications and methods of identification are as provided in the Health Department Emergency Response Plan.

(vii) **CHAIN OF COMMAND: (Sample)**

Health Department:

- Health Commissioner is the director of the Health Department operations and reports to the Board of Health.
- Nursing Division Director acts as secondary in chain of command.
- Medical Director provides health assessment and reports to the Health Commissioner
- Environmental Health Director coordinates information and field staffing. Reports to the Health Commissioner
- The Nursing Division and Environmental Division staff reports to the Nursing Division Director

(viii) **INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS):**

- Incident command and control issues will likely involve a unified command system in order to properly coordinate the various agencies and authorities involved in responding in the incident. Some key agencies may include:

Local Level

Fire and EMS
County Sheriff
Health Department
EMA
Hospitals

- The Fire Department Chief is the incident Commander on scene for crisis management. The Emergency Management Agency is the lead agency for consequence management.
- The FBI is the lead agency for criminal investigation including evidence collection and custody. Until FBI arrives the Sheriff's department is the lead agency for securing the crime scene and further assist FBI.

State Level
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
State Fire Marshal
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

- The Ohio State Highway Patrol is the lead agency for the crisis management. The designation of the lead agency for the state for consequence management is contingent upon the actual event and will be designated by the state Emergency Management Agency.
- In the event of nuclear and or biological agents, Ohio Department of Health is the lead agency. In the event of chemical agent the state environmental protection agency would be the lead agency assisted by the Ohio Department of Health for medical issues.

Federal Level
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal emergency Management Agency
US PHS / CDC
DOE
NRC

- Presidential Decision Directive –39 identifies the FBI as the lead federal agency for crisis management during terrorist incidents. It identifies FEMA as the lead agency for consequence management.

Transition of Incident Command:

The incident commander for major terrorist incident will likely be, initially, the Fire Chief on scene. As state and federal assistance arrives and the scope of the response grows more complex, the need to transition Incident Command to a higher level may become necessary. Health Department and all county officials must implement this transition.

(vi) **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Following are the responsibilities of the Health Department:

- Provide technical assistance to the ICS on the scene with regard to decontamination, personnel protection equipment , exposure assessment, Drugs / vaccine use, methods of collecting samples and liaison between incident commander and Ohio Department of Health and CDC
- Support EMS at Triage and coordinate with Hospital regarding treatment of victims with the hospitals and infectious disease control practitioners as provided by ODH/CDC
- Provide nursing assistance to hospital if needed
- Report ODH Class A 1 Communicable diseases
- Receive sample analysis reports and implementing the health protection and prevention guidelines provided by ODH/CDC
- Provide, receive, distribute, store and administer vaccine
- Follow up with victims, Conduct surveillance and coordinating surveillance reports in reporting to ODH
- Coordinate with contiguous county health departments and prepare public health advisories and announcements
- Coordination with county coroner and funeral homes
- Coordinate with Red Cross
- Provide staffing and coordinate at the County Emergency Operation Center when activated
- Provide/coordinate mental health services
- Request for assistance from ODH and CDC

(vii) ASSIGNMENTS

(a) Health Commissioner:

- Receive the emergency call from individual / organization, other agencies, or from the Disaster Response Team from the site.
- Instructs to shut down HVAC system when warranted and standby for the situation as it develops
- Acts as the spokes person for the health department and is in-charge of public information.
- Coordinate staff functions
- Consult with Medical and Nursing Directors
- Reports to the Board of Health

- Executive member of the County Administration.
- Functions in the Unified Command

(b) Nursing Division Director:

- Acts as MC HD emergency response coordinator for biological incidents.
- Functions from the Emergency Operation Center when activated
- In the absence of Medical Director the Nursing Director will also perform the functions of the Medical Director.

(c) Medical Director:

- Health advisor and coordinates the assessment functions along with the Ohio Department of Health.
- The Environmental Division Director is responsible for setting up the one bridge line.

(d) Staff / Personnel

- The Nursing staff, Environmental Health Staff and the support staff will be detailed with assignments by the Health Commissioner as situation develops including providing response to the site, emergency operation center duties, Hospital Emergency room assistance, mass vaccination etc.

IV. RESOURCES COORDINATION

(i) PHARMACEUTICALS AND VACCINE:

- Health Department is not equipped with the special pharmaceuticals and vaccines for Bioterrorism attacks. The vaccines that are needed for the responders and those exposed are only available in limited basis with CDC, US Public Health Services, and US Army.
- When government supplies became available Health Department will assist State and Federal officials in the distribution, administration and management of supplies.
- Health Department will use County Hospital pharmacy department for stocking, and release when required under the direction from the Health Commissioner.
- Under the direction from the Health Commissioner, those primary drugs and vaccines would be made available to first responders, in coordination with the County Fire Department and to the hospital.
- Health Department will maintain a list of local pharmacies and local analytical /clinical laboratories and develop a memorandum of understanding for support during emergencies.
- Develop a memorandum of understanding with the regional Metro Medical Response System units for support in providing pharmaceuticals and vaccine.
- Develop memorandum of understanding with other health departments for support in supplying pharmaceuticals and vaccine.

(ii) DECONTAMINATION:

- Health Department will coordinate the decontamination efforts, with the first responders at the site and consequent decontamination needs at the County Hospital. Health Department will coordinate and assist disposal of decontamination run off as hazardous waste.
- Health department maintains a list of hazardous waste movers and also develops a memorandum of understanding to support during emergencies.

(iii) EVACUATION AND SHELTERING:

- Current disaster shelters will be considered first. Secondary shelters may be come necessary and the pre-identified secondary shelters are as follows:

MC Auditorium
MC Convention center
Model University Auditorium and Gymnasium hall

- Health Department will provide consultation to the incident commander with issues related to evacuation, sheltering and isolation of individuals exposed, as guidance provided by Ohio Health Department and CDC.
- Health Department will dispatch sanitarians to inspect the safe habitation in the designated shelters.
- Health Department will dispatch public health nurses to the shelters to provide assistance in providing the medical aid and administering the vaccine if needed.

(iv) EMERGERNCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS):

- Health Department and EMS will coordinate to ensure proper tracking of victims/patients. Standard Triage tag color code is followed (Red - Critical, Yellow - serious, Green - Emergency Transport not necessary, and Black - Dead or Dying). The same color code tagging is followed by all County Hospitals in their disaster response plan.
- Health Department coordinates the Air Medical Transport and signed a memorandum of understanding for disaster response.

(v) CORONER:

Health department coordinates with County Coroner regarding dead victims, body identification and preservation and personnel safety. The information is used to maintaining vital statistics and issues related to death certificates.

(vi) POISON CENTER

The health department notifies poison center when a NBC event occurred with information related to material used if known. The poison center will use a caller ID verification code will be used. The Poison center performs research on material data for personnel protection, emergency medical information. The found information will be provided to the health department and the hospitals and to the incident commander if requested. Secured phone lines will be used between hospitals,

poison center and health department. The health department developed a memorandum of understanding with the regional poison center.

(vii) RED CROSS

The Health department signed a mutual aid agreement with local and regional Red Cross to support each other with medical aid assistance, providing public health nursing staff, sanitarian staff, and to administer shots and vaccine.

(viii) HOSPITALS:

- Refer to Health Department Emergency Response Plan, section on Coordinating with other agencies.
- Health Department coordinates with MC Hospital Disaster Response Plan and signed a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual aid during mass casualty incidents for clinical, nursing and vaccination support.
- Health Department established protocols with MC Hospital for surveillance programs.

V. PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

- In addition to the information provided in the Public Health Information section in the Health Department Emergency Response Plan, the following special considerations would be taken in a NBC event.
- All on site incident press releases, information will be assigned to the Health Commissioner or his/her designee who will work with the public information officer assigned to the incident commander. The Public Information Officer, assigned to the incident commander differ questions to the Health Commissioner or his/her designee regarding biological, chemical, and radiological hazards to the public health.
- Fact sheets will be utilized for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical agents, where concern exists about Disease, Immunization, Communicability, Exposure and Health effects, Personnel protection including use of potassium iodide, Risk factors, Community resources, and other environmental issues. These fact sheets will be used to reach decisions at the incident site.
- For some of the commonly used NBC agents the fact sheets and treatment, prevention and surveillance procedures can be utilized established by the department, Ohio Department of Health and CDC.
- These protocols will become the standard operating guides for the department.
- Health Department will prepare prescript information and press releases for the common agents used as WMD, to be used during the emergency.

VI. TRAINING

- The training includes, tabletop exercises, drills within the department and also along with County EMA and County Hospital.
- For NBC training Health Department will be using the training resources provided by ODH and CDC.

- Health Department participates in the tabletop exercises and drills organized by ODH and in the regional training activities.
- Health Department coordinates all training with the County Hospital.
- Refer to the Training section in the Health Department Emergency Response Plan.

- **Debriefing:**

All parties involved in the response to the NBC incident will participate in a critical incident stress debriefing. The debriefing will be conducted for the health department in the department office after the termination of the incident. Debriefing will be the time to reflect on strengths and weaknesses of the response to the event. The incident commander may also conduct a debriefing session on site and all participants in the incident will participate.

VII. APPROVAL

- The Health Department Emergency Response Plan with Annex II NBC / WMD Terrorist Emergency Response Plan, is Approved by the County Board of Health.
- **This Plan is integrated into the County Disaster Response Plan.**

VIII. REFERENCE SECTION

OHIO GUIDELINES

Attachment - A

OHIO GUIDELINES CHECKLIST

Attachment - B

LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS FLOW CHART

Attachment - C

STATE / FEDERAL COMMUNICATION FLOW CHART

Attachment - D

REPORTABLE DISEASES

ATTACHMENT - E

**PATIENT CONTACT FORM FOR
SUSPECTED BIOLOGICAL EXPOSURE**

Attachment - F

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STANDARD OPERATION GUIDES**

Attachment - G

TABLE OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS

Attachment - H

TABLE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS

Attachment - I

**TABLE OF SAFE AND HAZARDOUS CONCENTRATION
LEVELS OF SELECTED CHEMICALSLEVELS**

Attachment - J

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Attachment - K

LIST OF WEB SITES

Attachment - L

SAMPLE FACT SHEET

Attachment - M

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHECKLIST (REVISED)**

Attachment - N

LIST OF DEVIDERS

Ohio Guidelines

Attachment – A

Ohio Guidelines Checklist

Attachment – B

Local Communication Chart

Attachment – C

State/Federal Communication
Chart.

Attachment - D

Reportable Diseases

Attachment – E

Patient Contact Information

Biological Exposure
Attachment – F

Ohio Department of Health SOG
Attachment - G

Table of Biological Agents
Attachment – H

Table of Chemical Warfare Agents
Attachment – I

Table of Safe/Hazardous
Chemical Concentration Levels
Attachment – J

Hazardous Material Incident
Report Form
Attachment – K

List of Web Site References
Attachment - L

Sample Fact Sheet
Attachment - M

Environmental Health Emergency
Response Checklist (Revised)
Attachment - N