



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A Guide for Leaders and Responders



**A Message from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) created this guide to provide public officials (e.g., mayors, governors, county executives, emergency managers) and first responders (e.g., police, fire, EMS) with information on the public health response to emergencies.

This publication is also available online at <http://www.hhs.gov/emergency>. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at HHS will keep the online version updated with new information on initiatives, new learning, and any evolutions in the organization of public health emergency response. We urge you to refer to the Web version for the latest information.

If you have any questions or comments about the guide itself, please contact the HHS Public Affairs Office at (202) 690-6343.

***Please note:** Since this guide was printed, HHS has begun implementing the provisions of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act. As a result, there have been some changes to preparedness and response program responsibilities at HHS, and selective edits were made to the guide in October 2007 to reflect these changes. Other content and Web sites were last reviewed as of the final editing of this manual in May 2007.*

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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The following agencies, organizations, and individuals provided expert guidance and review for this guide.

Federal Government Agencies

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- › Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- › Food and Drug Administration
- › Health Resources and Services Administration
- › Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- › Indian Health Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

National Associations

American Ambulance Association

American Red Cross

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

International Association of EMTs and Paramedics

International Association of Fire Chiefs

National Association of Counties

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of State EMS Directors

National Conference of State Legislatures

National EMS Management Association

National Governors Association

National Information Officers Association

The United States Conference of Mayors

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This guide was adapted for this audience from HHS' "Terrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies: A Reference Guide for Media," which can be accessed online at <http://www.hhs.gov/emergency>. Many additional agencies and individuals also participated in the creation and review of that guide.

CONTENTS

01



INTRODUCTION

1

02



PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

5

Detecting Public Health Threats	8
Surveillance Systems	8
BioSense	8
Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance Project	9
The Role of Epidemiology	9
Is It Terrorism?	10
Responding to Public Health Threats	10
Why Does It Take So Long To Get Lab Results?	10
Laboratory Response Network	11
Biosafety Level Classifications	13
The Relationships Between Hospitals and Public Health	13
Information Sharing In the Public Health Community	14
Containing Public Health Threats	15
Strategic National Stockpile	15
Cities Readiness Initiative	16
Vaccination Strategies	16
Critical Infection Control Measures—Isolation and Quarantine	17
Federal Medical Response Teams	18
Other HHS Supplementary Personnel and Resources	20
American Red Cross	20

03



THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES IN AN EMERGENCY

23

National Response Plan	24
What To Expect From HHS	24
Crisis Counseling Services	24
How HHS Works With Other Federal Agencies: Who Is Responsible for What in Different Situations	25
In All Emergency Situations	25
In a Natural Disaster	25
In a Natural Outbreak	25
In a Bioterror Attack	26
In a Chemical Incident	26
When Radiological Materials Have Been Released	26

04**FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SUPPLY****29**

Impact of Foodborne Illnesses	30
Federal Partners in Food Safety and Security	31
FDA	31
USDA	31
Food Recall	31

05**ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND TESTING****33**

Water Supply	34
Federal Partners in Protecting the Water Supply	34
Air	35
Federal Partners in Monitoring the Security of the Air We Breathe	35
BioWatch	35

06**LEADING THROUGH COMMUNICATION: THE ROLE OF RISK COMMUNICATION DURING A TERRORIST ATTACK OR OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY****37**

Communication Challenges During Public Health Emergencies	38
What Are the Objectives of the Public in a Health-Related Emergency?	39
How People Feel Can Affect Their Ability To Meet Those Objectives	39
What Does This Mean for Communication With the Media and the Public?	40
Crisis Communication Lessons Learned From Public Health Emergencies	43
The Nature of Crisis News: When a Local Story Becomes National, Then 24/7	44
How Is It Different?	44
Newsrooms During Crisis	44

07**LEGAL AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS****47**

Public Health Laws	48
Legal Questions That May Arise During a Public Health Emergency	48
Legal Authority Related to Isolation and Quarantine	48
For First Responders	49
Resources for Updating Public Health Laws	49

08**TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF AND EACH OTHER****51**

The Importance and Challenge of Safety and Coping	52
Self-Care Before the Emergency	52
Self-Care During the Emergency	53
Physical Care	53
Emotional Care	54
Self-Care After the Emergency	56

09	CONDUCTING EXERCISES FOR PREPAREDNESS	59																				
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">Public Health Aspects of Emergencies To Consider in Exercise Planning</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">Common Barriers to Conducting Successful Exercises</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">60</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">10 Tips for Successful Exercises and Overcoming Common Barriers</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">61</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">Resources for Exercising</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">62</td> </tr> </table>			Public Health Aspects of Emergencies To Consider in Exercise Planning	60	Common Barriers to Conducting Successful Exercises	60	10 Tips for Successful Exercises and Overcoming Common Barriers	61	Resources for Exercising	62												
Public Health Aspects of Emergencies To Consider in Exercise Planning	60																					
Common Barriers to Conducting Successful Exercises	60																					
10 Tips for Successful Exercises and Overcoming Common Barriers	61																					
Resources for Exercising	62																					
10	POST-EVENT: LEADING YOUR COMMUNITY TOWARDS RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY	65																				
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">Understanding the Reactions of the Community</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">Recognizing the Ripple Effect</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">Range of Reactions</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">66</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">Factors That Influence Intensity of Reactions</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">67</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">Community Members With Special Needs</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">68</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">Activities That Can Help Communities Recover</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">68</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">Working With Local Volunteer Organizations and Community Partners</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">68</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">Helping the Community Cope: Additional Resources</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">68</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">Services and Training</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">69</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">Specific Publications</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 30px;">69</td> </tr> </table>			Understanding the Reactions of the Community	66	Recognizing the Ripple Effect	66	Range of Reactions	66	Factors That Influence Intensity of Reactions	67	Community Members With Special Needs	68	Activities That Can Help Communities Recover	68	Working With Local Volunteer Organizations and Community Partners	68	Helping the Community Cope: Additional Resources	68	Services and Training	69	Specific Publications	69
Understanding the Reactions of the Community	66																					
Recognizing the Ripple Effect	66																					
Range of Reactions	66																					
Factors That Influence Intensity of Reactions	67																					
Community Members With Special Needs	68																					
Activities That Can Help Communities Recover	68																					
Working With Local Volunteer Organizations and Community Partners	68																					
Helping the Community Cope: Additional Resources	68																					
Services and Training	69																					
Specific Publications	69																					
11	BIBLIOGRAPHY	71																				
	APPENDICES	77																				
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">APPENDIX A: RESOURCE LIST</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">78</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">APPENDIX B: BIOLOGICAL AGENTS</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">80</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">APPENDIX C: CHEMICAL AGENTS</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">92</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">APPENDIX D: RADIATION EMERGENCIES</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">102</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">APPENDIX E: THE THREAT OF PANDEMIC INFLUENZA</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">107</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">APPENDIX F: DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding: 2px 5px 2px 15px;">111</td> </tr> </table>			APPENDIX A: RESOURCE LIST	78	APPENDIX B: BIOLOGICAL AGENTS	80	APPENDIX C: CHEMICAL AGENTS	92	APPENDIX D: RADIATION EMERGENCIES	102	APPENDIX E: THE THREAT OF PANDEMIC INFLUENZA	107	APPENDIX F: DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT	111								
APPENDIX A: RESOURCE LIST	78																					
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APPENDIX C: CHEMICAL AGENTS	92																					
APPENDIX D: RADIATION EMERGENCIES	102																					
APPENDIX E: THE THREAT OF PANDEMIC INFLUENZA	107																					
APPENDIX F: DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT	111																					
	INDEX	115																				

