



United States Department of  
**Health & Human Services**  
Office of the Secretary  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

# Uses, Benefits and Challenges of Broadband Technologies in Large-Scale Events

## HHS Overview

- **THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)** is the United States Government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.
- **HHS REPRESENTS ALMOST A QUARTER OF ALL FEDERAL OUTLAYS**, and it administers more grant dollars than all other federal agencies combined. HHS' Medicare program is the nation's largest health insurer, handling more than 1 billion claims per year. Medicare and Medicaid together provide health care insurance for one in four Americans.
- **HHS Budget**, FY 2008 -- \$707.7 billion (yep that's a "B")
- **HHS employees** – 64,750
- The Commissioned Corps is an elite team of more than 6,000 well-trained, highly qualified public health professionals dedicated to delivering the Nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science.

# HHS Response Overview

## Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act “PAHPA”

- Extensive 137-page bill signed by President 12/06. Affects all aspects of the Department’s preparedness and response functions.
- Codifies HHS as lead of Federal public health and medical response to public health emergencies and National Response Plan (NRP) incidents.
- Directs HHS to enter into an interagency agreement with DHS, VA, DoT to assume operational control of Federal public health and medical personnel and assets during incidents (except Department of Defense (DOD)).
- Creates a new Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR):
  - **Senate confirmed position**
  - **Principal advisor to the Secretary on public health and medical preparedness and response**
  - **Deployment authority for Federal personnel (including National Disaster Medical System)**
  - **Oversee advanced research, development, and procurement of qualified countermeasures**
  - **Coordinate public health and medical response systems with Federal, State, local, Tribal and EMAC**

## Mission and Vision

- **Mission:** Lead the nation in preventing, responding to and reducing the adverse health effects of public health emergencies and disasters
- **Vision:** A nation prepared to prevent, respond to and reduce the adverse health effect of public health emergencies and disasters

# National Disaster Medical System NDMS

- Partner w/ VA, FEMA, DOD
- **8000 Intermittent Feds**
- Over 100 teams
- Self sustaining for 72 hrs
- Extensive use of EMR
- Patient Tracking



# Secretary's Ops Cntr



- Created after 9/11
- 24/7 operation
- All ESF #8 partners

# MCP



## Questions

- How do we ensure sufficient reliability and redundancy of broadband communications infrastructure to protect against large-scale events capable of causing extensive physical damage or destruction?
  - Providing portable/mobile solutions to bring the service to the folks that need it
- Electronic Medical Records such as prescription information and patient tracking
- How can the feds help?
  - Help with funding via grants
  - Help to create national standards such as Project Connect from the National Coordinator for Health IT.