

In August 2011, the CDC (Center for Disease Control) implemented a set of capabilities to guide the strategic planning process for public health preparedness. These standards are meant to help guide and accelerate state and local preparedness planning, and identify gaps in preparedness, all in the interest of creating safer, more resilient and prepared communities.

Overview of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capabilities:

- 1. Community Preparedness:** Support communities to be able to prepare for, withstand and recover from public health incidents.
- 2. Community Recovery:** Collaborate with community partners to help rebuild public health, medical and behavioral/mental health systems to pre-incident functional levels.
- 3. Emergency Operations Coordination:** Coordinate the activation of public health emergency operations and establish a standardized system of oversight and organization during an incident with public health or medical implications.
- 4. Emergency Public Information and Warning:** Develop, coordinate and dissemination information, alerts and notifications to the public and emergency management responders.
- 5. Fatality Management:** Coordinate with relevant organizations to ensure property recovery, handling, management and disposal of human remains and personal effects, as well as certify the cause of death and facilitate access to services for family members, responders and survivors of an incident.
- 6. Information Sharing:** Share health-related information and situational awareness data among all levels of government (federal, state, local) and to the private sector in response to public health-related incidents.
- 7. Mass Care:** Coordinate with partner agencies to address public health needs in response to an incident at a congregate location.
- 8. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing:** Provide medical countermeasures, including vaccines, antibiotics and antiviral drugs in accordance with public health guidelines.
- 9. Medical Materiel Management and Distribution:** Acquire, maintain, distribute and track medical materiel, including gloves, masks and pharmaceuticals during an incident.
- 10. Medical Surge:** Provide adequate medical evaluation and care during an incident that exceeds the capacity of current medical infrastructure, including recovery of health system operations that were compromised.
- 11. Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions:** Recommend strategies for disease, injury and exposure control to applicable lead agencies outside of public health.

12. Public Health Laboratory Testing (N/A)

13. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation: Create, maintain and support routine surveillance systems and epidemiological investigation processes in response to public health-related incidents, such as infectious disease outbreaks.

14. Responder Safety and Health: Protect public agency staff who respond to incidents and support the needs of hospital and medical facility personnel if needed.

15. Volunteer Management: Coordinate the identification, recruitment, management and engagement of volunteers who support public health responses to incidents.