

Essential Local Public Health Activities Framework – Part 5 of 6

Area of Public Health Responsibility:

Prepare for and Respond to Disasters, and Assist Communities in Recovery

Minnesota's local public health system must be prepared to respond to disasters and assist communities in recovering from disasters. Whether the event is a flood, tornado, infectious disease, or manmade disaster such as terrorism, public health issues are inherent. The essential local activities in this area revolve around public health preparedness and planning to respond to disasters. The critical importance of these public health responsibilities has been highlighted during the past few years, and they are an area of intense focus at this time.

Definition: When 'threats to the public's health' and 'an all hazards approach' are used in this document, it will be understood that these terms mean and include terrorism, outbreaks of infectious diseases, natural and human-made disasters and other public health threats, emergencies and unusual events. An unusual event is: (1) any situation or occurrence that overwhelms and exhausts the resources of the local public health agency and the community, city/county or region; or (2) the unexpected occurrence of diseases; e.g., deaths from upper respiratory illness in 20 year olds, or diagnosing a disease that is no longer seen in the community, such as smallpox.

For all preparedness activities, it is understood that planning cannot and should not occur in isolation. Therefore it is necessary to establish and maintain regular contact with others in the community. Who is involved may differ to some degree in communities, but should minimally try to include: elected officials, law enforcement, tribal governments, city/county administration or other

city/county departments, Emergency Medical Services (fire/rescue/ambulance services), emergency management, tribal governments, hospitals, medical clinics, schools, communities of color, faith communities, and other formal and informal community leaders, such as elders and clan leaders.



Community & Family Health Division
Office of Public Health Practice
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882
651/296-9375

Public Health Responsibility: Prepare for and Respond to Disasters, and Assist Communities in Recovery

Essential Local Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See Appendix D for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential local activities 	Ten Essential Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed at the national level ▪ See Appendix E for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential service 	Statutory References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must = legislative requirement ▪ May = legislative permission ▪ See Appendices A and F for brief descriptions 	MDH Contributing Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What has to happen at MDH in order for the activity to occur at the local level 	Examples From Local Public Health
<p>EP1. Provide leadership for public health preparedness activities in the community by developing relationships with community partners and tribal governments at the local, regional, and state levels.</p>	<p>#4 Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems. #5 Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts. #6 Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety. #7 Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable. #10 Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.</p>	<p>MS12.03 subd.9a, Definitions Emergency Powers and Chap 9.061, Additional powers; emergencies (may) MS 145A.10 subd.5a, Powers and duties of Community Health Boards (may)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly delineate key preparedness roles within MDH. - Maintain regular communication with local governments about MDH preparedness activities through the SCHSAC. - Develop and maintain relationships with partners at the state, tribal and regional/cross-border levels. - Participate in the development, implementation and evaluation of training to build leadership capacity. - Meet regionally with stakeholders on issues related to public health emergencies, e.g., mental health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assign staff with key preparedness roles and maintain contact information on the MDH Workspace. - Maintain public health emergency advisory committee. - Make reports, as needed, on public health preparedness activities to local elected officials. - Develop roles and responsibilities with local and regional partners (e.g., other public health agencies, hospitals, emergency managers, clinics, first responders).
<p>EP2. Conduct or participate ongoing assessments to identify potential public health hazards and the capacity to respond.</p>	<p>#1 Monitor health status to identify community health problems. #2 Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. #4 Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems. #8 Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.</p>	<p>MS 145A.10 sub.1, Powers and duties of Community Health Boards (must)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with local public health representatives, develop assessment instruments and provide data analysis. - Provide feedback and training on assessment tools and techniques. - Utilize the Health Alert Network Workspace to provide a localized center for information exchange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout planning, continually assess the local public agency's ability to respond to emergencies. - Participate in or support assessments that are conducted by other local, state or federal agencies. - Participate in the identification of potential local or regional hazards.

Public Health Responsibility: Prepare for and Respond to Disasters, and Assist Communities in Recovery

Essential Local Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See Appendix D for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential local activities 	Ten Essential Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed at the national level ▪ See Appendix E for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential service 	Statutory References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must = legislative requirement ▪ May = legislative permission ▪ See Appendices A and F for brief descriptions 	MDH Contributing Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What has to happen at MDH in order for the activity to occur at the local level 	Examples From Local Public Health
	<p>#9 Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.</p> <p>#10 Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.</p>			
<p>EP3. Develop, exercise and periodically review comprehensive plans for all threats to the public's health.</p>	<p>#2 Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.</p> <p>#4 Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.</p> <p>#5 Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.</p> <p>#6 Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.</p> <p>#7 Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.</p> <p>#8 Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.</p> <p>#9 Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.</p>	<p>MS 12.29 subd.2, Local emergency response and recovery (must)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop an MDH all hazard response plan. - Provide protocols, templates, and technical assistance for planning, - Identify needs for additional templates, protocols, procedures and guidance and develop and disseminate tools to meet the needs. - Establish and maintain a collaborative atmosphere for public health with health care institutions. - Participate in local and regional exercises as requested. - Develop guidance for intra-state and cross-regional (interstate and international) planning. - Develop isolation and quarantine protocols and templates. - Provide training opportunities for isolation and quarantine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the development of the city/county emergency operations plan. - Develop, maintain, and exercise agency operations plans to carry out public health roles in city/county emergency plans. - City/county operations plans should be developed and exercised in coordination with regional and state plans. - Understand the local role in the MDH All Hazard Plan. - Where appropriate, incorporate cross-border issues into the local operational plan. - Prepare isolation and quarantine plans. The CHB must participate in the identification and development of the local

Public Health Responsibility: Prepare for and Respond to Disasters, and Assist Communities in Recovery

Essential Local Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See Appendix D for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential local activities 	Ten Essential Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed at the national level ▪ See Appendix E for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential service 	Statutory References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must = legislative requirement ▪ May = legislative permission ▪ See Appendices A and F for brief descriptions 	MDH Contributing Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What has to happen at MDH in order for the activity to occur at the local level 	Examples From Local Public Health
	#10 Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.		issues. - Develop Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) guidance and templates.	public health role in patient care coordination.
EP4. Participate in surveillance and monitoring activities to detect patterns of unusual events; implement appropriate actions.	#1 Monitor health status to identify community health problems. #2 Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. #4 Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems. #6 Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety. #10 Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.	<i>MS 144.05, General duties of Commissioner (must)</i> 145A MN Rules 4605.7500, Disease investigations (must)	- Provide ongoing outbreak response training. - Provide ongoing training about how to increase provider disease reporting. - Provide communication about ongoing disease investigations. - Secure , facilitate and/or provide guidance on isolation and quarantine. - Provide guidance on state and local roles in surveillance, developed with local public health and tribal governments' input. - Maintain the Health Alert Network system. - Provide guidance and training on Health Alert Network expansion and education.	- Implement disease-reporting protocols, as outlined in the DP&C Common Activities Framework. - Maintain communication with local partners through HAN and personal contacts. - Participate in training provided by the MDH as needed.
EP5. Participate in an all hazard response and recovery.	#2 Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community. #3 Inform , educate, and empower people about health issues. #4 Mobilize community	MS 12.29, subd.2, Local emergency response and recovery (must)	- Assist in identification of roles of state, regional and local public health staff in county, regional and statewide responses. - Provide current scientific information about hazards to local public health and tribal	- Respond to events of bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats and emergencies, according to the established plan.

Public Health Responsibility: Prepare for and Respond to Disasters, and Assist Communities in Recovery

Essential Local Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See Appendix D for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential local activities 	Ten Essential Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed at the national level ▪ See Appendix E for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential service 	Statutory References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must = legislative requirement ▪ May = legislative permission ▪ See Appendices A and F for brief descriptions 	MDH Contributing Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What has to happen at MDH in order for the activity to occur at the local level 	Examples From Local Public Health
	<p>partnerships to identify and solve health problems.</p> <p>#5 Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.</p> <p>#6 Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.</p> <p>#7 Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.</p> <p>#8 Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.</p> <p>#9 Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.</p> <p>#10 Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.</p>		<p>governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote Incident Command training for state and local staff. - Participate in exercises. 	
<p>EP6. Develop and maintain a system of public health workforce readiness, deployment and response.</p>	<p>#4 Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.</p> <p>#8 Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.</p> <p>#10 Research for new insights and innovative solutions to</p>	<p>MS 145A.10 subd.1, Powers and duties of Community Health Boards (may)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the recommendations outlined in the “Minnesota Emergency Preparedness Education and Training Plan for preparing the Local Public Health Work Force.” - Initiate and maintain the MN Responds! volunteer database and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the development and implementation of local and/or regional training plans. - Develop or refine a system to deploy the workforce necessary to respond to a public health emergency.

Public Health Responsibility: Prepare for and Respond to Disasters, and Assist Communities in Recovery

Essential Local Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See Appendix D for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential local activities 	Ten Essential Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed at the national level ▪ See Appendix E for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential service 	Statutory References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must = legislative requirement ▪ May = legislative permission ▪ See Appendices A and F for brief descriptions 	MDH Contributing Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What has to happen at MDH in order for the activity to occur at the local level 	Examples From Local Public Health
	health problems.		workforce registry. - Work with local public health and American Indians, communities of color, immigrants and/or refugees to assure a diverse deployment workforce. - Facilitate discussions of needed staff and the skills and training staff need for their jobs/roles. - Provide trainings for public health staff by agency, county or region.	- Develop a process of identifying and recruiting a surge capacity workforce that can be called upon during a public health emergency.
EP7. Develop and implement a system to provide timely, accurate and appropriate information in a variety of languages for elected officials and the public, the media, and community partners including tribal governments in the event of all types of public health emergencies.	#3 Inform , educate, and empower people about health issues. #7 Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable. #8 Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.		- Continue to employ an MDH communication/public information officer. - Arrange for risk communication training and include advanced training. - Provide guidance on the development of county and regional risk communication plans. - Maintain the Health Alert Network and utilize MDH Workspace for preparedness communication. - Work with American Indians, communities of color, immigrants and/or refugees to develop communication systems and strategies appropriate to their	- During business hours, reply to all health alert messages within two hours of receipt. - Transmit MDH health alert messages to local health alert contacts (when appropriate) within two hours of receipt. - Participate in 24/7 alerting tests and maintain 24/7 alerting capacity. - Test local HAN primary and backup systems at least twice a year - Complete risk communication assessment tool provided by the state. - Maintain and exercise risk communication component of

Public Health Responsibility: Prepare for and Respond to Disasters, and Assist Communities in Recovery

Essential Local Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See Appendix D for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential local activities 	Ten Essential Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developed at the national level ▪ See Appendix E for list ▪ Numbers listed below correspond with appropriate essential service 	Statutory References <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must = legislative requirement ▪ May = legislative permission ▪ See Appendices A and F for brief descriptions 	MDH Contributing Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What has to happen at MDH in order for the activity to occur at the local level 	Examples From Local Public Health
			communities. - Develop or provide assistance in developing pre-event outreach plans for the public and the media.	response plan. - Risk communication plan should include strategies for communicating with special populations.