



STATE OF UTAH

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN



ESF #8, Appendix #2 Public Health

- Primary Agency:** Utah Department of Health
- State Agencies:** Department of Agriculture and Food
Department of Environmental Quality
Utah National Guard
- Local Agencies:** Local Health Departments
County Emergency Management
Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
Community Emergency Response Teams
- Federal Agencies:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Food and Drug Administration

I. PURPOSE

To describe the State's primary and support agency roles and responsibilities in supporting local, county, and State public health operations toward infectious disease control and in ensuring environmental health and sanitation surveillance during and after a major incident.

II. AUTHORITIES

- A. Under [Utah Code Title 53 Chapter 2a](#), in the aftermath of a major incident, any person holding any license, certificate, or other permit issued by any State evidencing the meeting of qualifications of such State for professional skills may render aid involving such skill to meet the emergency as fully as if such license had been issued in this State.
- B. Under [Utah Code Title 26 Chapter 6b](#), a county health department or public health services district may adopt quarantine and sanitary measures consistent with Department rules and to prevent the spread of the infectious disease upon the results of a confirmed disease investigation.
- C. The Governor, through consultation with the Executive Director of the Department of Health (UDOH), may issue enhanced surveillance advisories for illnesses related to bioterrorism events. During the time an enhanced surveillance advisory is active, statutes allow and require increased reporting of illnesses, accessing confidential patient information for patient tracking, information sharing among local and State

public health authorities and public safety, and specimen testing by the State Laboratory.

- D.** During a major incident, UDOH shall coordinate all matters pertaining to the public health and medical emergency response of the State. This may include issuing orders that:
 - 1. Mandate medical examinations for exposed persons
 - 2. Ration medicine and vaccines
 - 3. Request the coordination and transport of medical support personnel to assist ill and exposed persons
 - 4. Provide for procurement of medicines and vaccines
 - 5. Mandate treatment or vaccination of persons
 - 6. Isolate and quarantine persons
 - 7. Support medical care and medical facility operations
- E.** During a major incident, UDOH and Local Health Departments may establish and maintain places of isolation and quarantine and require isolation or quarantine of any person by the least restrictive means necessary to protect public health.

III. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

In the aftermath of a major incident, the public's health can be jeopardized in many ways.

- A.** UDOH will respond to emergencies that may have an adverse effect on the public health system.
- B.** Contaminants may enter water supply systems.
- C.** Mass decontamination efforts associated with biological, chemical, or radiological agents may be required.
- D.** Psychological effects on victims, first responders, and volunteers will remain long-term issues.
- E.** Spoilage or contamination of food and drugs can be widespread.
- F.** Quarantine or condemnation measures may become necessary to control the spread of infectious diseases.
- G.** There may be a need for more pharmaceuticals, vaccines, and other medical supplies than are available locally during a major incident.
- H.** Local resources such as first responders and healthcare systems may be overwhelmed with response efforts continued for long periods of time.
- I.** Public health and medical assistance may be needed from other federal agencies.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A.** The UDOH is the primary State agency in the development and maintenance of State plans and programs for coordinating public health activities during a major incident. UDOH emergency support protocols pertinent to Appendix #2 will include:

1. Major incidents will be responded to at the local level.
2. As required, UDOH will staff positions at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
3. As required, UDOH will activate the Department Operations Center (DOC).
4. When local and county resources are exceeded, county authorities may submit a request for assistance through the county emergency operations center to the EOC.
5. UDOH will respond by coordinating the delivery of health and medical resources, consultations, laboratory services, public information, and other services. UDOH will coordinate the State's public health response during an emergency.
6. UDOH will coordinate the ordering and use of health and medical assets received from State and federal sources.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. State Agencies

The DEQ and UDOH have complementary but separate roles in public health issues. DEQ identifies environmental contaminants and their health significance through inspection, sampling, and site visits.

1. UDOH responds to major incidents by coordinating resources in the following areas:

Emergency Preparedness and Response:

- a) Coordinate the activities of State and local health agencies and pertinent federal agencies in determining the cause of, scope of, and the response to a public health incident
- b) Ensure adequate staffing for the State EOC, dispensing/vaccination clinics and other public health activities
- c) Ensure adequate staffing for the UDOH DOC for extended operations
- d) Provide effective communications links among public health, health care, and emergency response partners for alerts, information, and systems for tracking data and activities through the Health Alert Network
- e) Facilitate the procurement of pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and vaccines from local caches and other resources when needed
- f) Evaluate with DEM, the need for the requisitioning of the federal Medical Countermeasures (MCM) and, in conjunction with the DEM, make the recommendation to the Governor as outlined in the MCM Appendix #3 to Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 - Health and Medical Services

- g) Ensure the delivery of MCM assets to the locally affected county. Local health department authority dispenses or delivers medications and supplies to appropriate first responders, hospitals, and the public
- h) Ensure local health departments and other local partners have enough resources to operate and maintain mass vaccination and dispensing clinics for the duration of the public health emergency
- i) Maintain and implement response protocols for various infectious diseases. These protocols will include planning guidance for all populations
- j) Provide and coordinate public health information as required
- k) Evaluate the need for and areas of implementing isolation and quarantine measures
- l) Coordinate the handling of mortuary operations
- m) Assist county and State agencies in coordinating the disposition of deceased contaminated and non-contaminated animals and livestock posing a public health threat
- n) Coordinate and request assistance from other federal agencies
- o) Coordinate with medical and humanitarian associations, voluntary organizations to provide needed resources during the response and recovery of a major incident

Environmental Health:

- a) Coordinate with the DAF and DEQ on public health aspects related to contaminated food products, animals, and environmental media
- b) Ensure observance of health regulations in the impacted area(s)

Infectious, Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases:

- a) Administer and coordinate epidemiological and disease surveillance activities in order to:
 - (1) Identify disease patterns
 - (2) Detect outbreaks
 - (3) Track and provide follow-up to patients
 - (4) Provide recommendations on treatment
 - (5) Provide prevention and mitigation messages
 - (6) Assess the public health impact of the emergency
 - (7) Define affected populations
- b) Ensure appropriate levels of epidemiological and/or disease surveillance activities in response to infectious disease outbreaks
- c) Evaluate the need for and areas of implementing isolation and quarantine measures

- d) Provide technical assistance and public health assessments in response to results of environmental samplings

Immunization Program:

- a) Provide information on available immunization clinics during and following a public health emergency
- b) Inform the public on disease prevention and immunization requirements resulting from a public health emergency

State Laboratory:

- a) Provide laboratory services for suspected contamination of food, water, drugs, and other consumables
- b) Provide laboratory services for suspected contamination by biological and/or chemicals agents resulting from a terrorist or suspected terrorist incident
- c) Coordinate additional testing with the CDC as needed or appropriate

Hospital/Emergency Medical Services:

- a) Coordinate Emergency Medical Services (EMS) such as procuring ambulances and other EMS-related needs
- b) Coordinate and evaluate the surge capacity of hospitals. This includes assisting with obtaining resources such as bed space at hospitals and other hospital-related needs
- c) Coordinate and work with the Veterans Hospital system for National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) operations
- d) Coordinate the licensing and credentialing of health care providers when needed
- e) Provide health and medical prevention information to physicians, health care workers and others to mitigate the emergency situation
- f) Coordinate the procurement of health and medical supplies and equipment
- g) Ensure observance of public health regulations in all temporary emergency medical treatment centers and mass care shelters

Tribal and Interstate:

- a) Coordinate with county and tribal regions to provide needed resources and services during an emergency, disaster, or bioterrorism event
- b) Address interstate and international public health issues and resources

Other State Agencies:

UDOH shall coordinate with other State agencies to provide needed public health resources and services during a major public health incident. These State agencies and their roles and responsibilities are

outlined in the ESF #8 - Health and Medical Services and its appendices.

The following specific State agency roles are anticipated in support of this Public Health Appendix:

2. DEQ shall:

- a) Direct the issuance of boil orders and notices of unsafe drinking water
- b) Assist in the coordination of acquiring a safe supply of drinking water
- c) Coordinate the use of labs for emergency bacteriological and/or chemical analysis
- d) Provide advisories on solid and human waste collection and disposal
- e) Assist UDOH in the identification and management of chemical agents resulting from a terrorist incident involving WMD or other human-caused accident
- f) Coordinate with appropriate local and State agencies on the disposition of contaminated animals and livestock
- g) Coordinate with local and State agencies on public health issues resulting from contaminated food, food products, animals, and/or environment
- h) Provide emergency permits and variances from State rules as necessary

3. DAF shall:

- a) Provide technical advice and assistance regarding the handling and disposition of contaminated and non-contaminated animal remains
- b) Monitor and test affected area for food supply, livestock and pet animal contamination that may be detrimental to public health
- c) Maintain public welfare and health through issuance of incident-related public information notices on food security, food contamination/disposal issues and the care of pets, livestock, and crops/gardens, etc. within disaster area

B. Local

Local health department and county emergency management remain the primary authority for ensuring the public health and welfare of the impacted populations within their respective jurisdictions. Requests for State or federal resources in support of public health and medical issues must be coordinated through the impacted county EOC(s).

C. Voluntary

Local VOAD member organizations may have resources available to assist in public health emergencies.

D. Federal

Federal agencies roles and responsibilities in support of health and medical services provided during a major incident are outlined in the ESF #8 - Health and Medical Services and appendices.

VI. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

DEM and UDOH will review and revise Appendix #2 as required. Participating agencies will prepare Standard Operating Guidelines and update respective internal operating plans in support of Appendix #2.