

Columbus Public Health Office of Emergency Preparedness

2008-2009

Strategic Plan

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Columbus Public Health



CPH Vision Statement

All people who live and work in Columbus are protected from disease and other public health threats and empowered to use health services, health information, and other resources to achieve their optimum health.

Columbus Public Health is valued as the leader for identifying public health priorities and mobilizing resources and community partnerships to address them. We have resources to be effective and to support flexible, committed, and high-performing employees in accomplishing our work.

Columbus Public Health provides Columbus and Worthington residents a wide range of services from giving immunizations for children and adults, above, to responding to biological emergencies, right.

CPH Mission Statement

Columbus Public Health is a leader in improving the health and safety of Columbus by monitoring community health status, identifying and addressing public health threats, enforcing laws that protect the public's health, and providing services to prevent and control disease.



Columbus Public Health



Organization

Columbus Public Health is the local public health agency for the cities of Columbus and Worthington. The first board of health in Columbus was formed to combat an outbreak of cholera in 1833. Today, Columbus Public Health is made up of a range of programs providing clinical, environmental, health promotion and population-based services.

The department has an annual budget of \$46million and is staffed by approximately 500 employees.

CPH is led by Health Commissioner Dr. Teresa Long; Assistant Health Commissioner Dr. Mysheika LeMaile-Williams, medical director; Assistant Health Commissioner Deborah Coleman, R.N., director of nursing; and Assistant Health Commissioner Roger Cloern, administration.

Columbus Public Health Divisions:

Infectious Disease

This division addresses infectious disease health threats that threaten both the health of the individual and the community.

The division's programs focus on prevention, treatment and control and includes a sexual health clinic; sexual health lab; STD control; HIV prevention and services; communicable disease prevention and investigation, education and outreach; tuberculosis program; and Project LOVE, a public-private partnership promoting community immunizations.

Maternal Child Health

This division is dedicated to improving the health of and the health system for women, children and families. This is accomplished by providing and advocating for high quality services, effective community partnerships and leadership for a responsive health system for families.

It includes the **Community Outreach Assistance Team; Women, Infants and Children; childhood injury prevention; home visiting; women's health services; gynecology and prenatal care.**

Community Health

This division provides the following programs: **Alcohol and Drug, Dental, Neighborhood Health Services, Records Management, the Woman's Cancer Initiative, and Minority Health.**

Pandemic Influenza

A team was created in 2006 to create a comprehensive pandemic influenza plan, establish continuity of operations planning for CPH and provide preparedness education and support to our partners as well as area schools, businesses and other organizations.

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Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Division works to prevent or reduce the risks from environmental hazards.

Division programs seek to prevent disease or injury associated with food, water, air, animals, vectors, hazardous materials and hazardous waste.

Division services include: food inspections and licenses; food and food-borne illness complaints; food safety education workshop; public pool and spa inspections;

animal bites and dangerous animal complaints; rabies vaccination clinics; hazardous waste complaints and incidents; inspecting maternity hospitals and institutions; inspecting generators of infectious wastes; inspecting and licensing tattoo and body art establishments; inspecting properties for lead hazards; identifying and abating lead exposed properties; providing healthy home for residents; and control programs for mosquitoes and other disease-carrying pests.



Planning and Peak Performance

This division works to help improve the health of the Columbus community by providing assistance with planning for healthier and safer communities and assuring compliance with state and national public health standards.

The division includes the following programs: **Cardiovascular Health Project; Child Fatality Review; Healthy Children, Healthy Weights; Healthy Places; health planning; public health standards; safe communities; tobacco prevention and cessation; and vital statistics.**

Center for Assessment and Preparedness

This division is made up of the **Office of Emergency Preparedness** and the **Office of Assessment and Surveillance**. It serves Columbus Public Health by strengthening its workforce and the community's ability to successfully prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies.

Responsibilities include a leadership role in the Columbus & Metropolitan Medical Response System; the creation of response plans outlining specific response and recovery procedures and responsibilities; training staff on how to prepare and respond to public health emergencies; providing information and warning to individuals, agencies and businesses regarding emergency situations; and monitoring and assessing diseases using advanced surveillance methods.

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Executive Summary

In July 2007, Columbus Public Health's Office of Emergency Preparedness embarked on a process to develop a one-year strategic plan. The department's mission and vision statements were revisited and updated. This plan, which shall be updated annually, is designed to determine the department's direction and to focus organizational efforts to achieve the mission and vision. The plan sets a road map for the next year that includes goals and objectives that reflect the overall mission of its Office of Emergency of Preparedness, which is to strengthen the department's workforce and the community's ability to successfully prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies.

Columbus Public Health is responsible for the long-term, continuing health protection for residents in the cities of Columbus and Worthington. The core objectives delineated to meet this responsibility are to provide leadership, support, and coordination for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for all hazards. To accomplish these objectives, Columbus Public Health develops and maintains the following documents:

Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is a federal initiative, required by presidential directive, that guarantees agencies are capable of continued performance of their essential functions under a broad range of circumstances. The COOP identifies the department's essential functions and provides standard operating guidance detailing how CPH will continue to provide these services regardless of the type of disaster.

Emergency Response Plan (ERP) establishes the framework through which CPH prepares for, responds to, recovers from and mitigates the impacts of a wide variety of health disasters that could adversely affect the health, safety and or general welfare of the residents of Columbus and Worthington. The plan identifies the responsibilities, functions, operational procedures and working relationships between the governmental entities and their various support groups and individual citizens.

Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications Plan (CERCP) provides a flexible tool that enables CPH to effectively inform and educate residents, media, partners and stakeholders about emergent public health risks; recommend and promote appropriate public health action to minimize public harm; and maintain and increase public confidence and cooperation by communicating credible information in a timely manner.

Pandemic Influenza Operational Plan (PIOP) provides a coordinated strategy for responding to an influenza pandemic in Columbus and Franklin County. The plan provides important guidance and tools to community first responders in order to enhance planning and improve response; and facilitates educational activities focused on preparing citizens for an influenza pandemic in order to improve public health outcomes, minimize social disruption and economic loss.



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Columbus Metropolitan Medical Response System Biological Response Plan (CMMRS) provides a cooperative framework for the coordinated response of local agencies for response and support to acts of bioterrorism. The plan focuses on early detection of a biological attack through medical surveillance and contains guidelines for providing the citizens of Columbus, Worthington, and Franklin County with effective immunization/prophylaxis, health care, transportation, and environmental surety.

Mass Prophylaxis and Vaccination Plan (MASS VACC) addresses the Strategic National Stockpile and its management responsibilities to fulfill the goals of saving lives and preventing illness while providing the rapid mass prophylaxis of all Columbus, Worthington, and Franklin County residents within 48 hours.

Medical Reserve Corps Plan (MRC) provides guidance for recruitment, credentialing, training, and exercising of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. The plan contains standard operating procedures for the activation and operation of the Volunteer Reception Center and the mobilization of volunteers to meet the community's emergency response needs.

Summary of Strategic Goals

The Office of Emergency Preparedness serves Columbus Public Health by strengthening its workforce and the community's ability to successfully prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies.

- Assure Federal and State compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by incorporating NIMS principles into planning, training and exercising.
- Assure a rapid response to the health needs of our residents by ensuring a trained and competent workforce.
- Identify and measure public health risks prior to incidents using the FEMA hazard assessment tool
- Maintain and enhance interoperable and redundant communication and information management systems
- Educate residents on prevention, protection and recovery from public health threats and hazards.
- Ensure community protection through vaccination and antibiotic administration in response to a public health emergency
- Continue to monitor various early warning systems to collect, analyze and investigate data to proactively assess potential and existing outbreaks.



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Demographics and Geography

The city of Columbus, the capital of the state of Ohio and seat of Franklin County, has a population estimate of 747,755 and covers 210 square miles. The population of Worthington, which Columbus Public Health also serves, is estimated at 13,282.

The latest census data show that the racial makeup of Columbus is 65.6 percent White, 26.4 percent African-American, 4.1 percent Asian and 4.0 percent Hispanic or Latino. First languages spoken by residents of Columbus include English (88 percent), Spanish (4 percent) and a mix of other languages, including Somali, (8 percent).

The city of Columbus is in the center of the state and in the drainage area of the Ohio River. Rivers that flow through Columbus are the Scioto and the Olentangy. Several major highway interstates pass through Columbus including I-70, I-670 and I-71, while I-270 encircles the city as an outerbelt system. The topography is somewhat rolling due to the county's location between level plateaus to the west and northwest and the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to the southeast. The metropolitan area is bordered by Delaware, Fairfield, Licking, Madison, Pickaway and Union counties.



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Goals and Objectives

For each goal statement, a set of objectives were identified and prioritized by the Office of Emergency Preparedness. These objectives are intended to ensure that the goals are achieved within the next grant year. Although this strategic plan does not specifically outline goals and objectives beyond one year, some goals will continue to be enhanced and changed during the lifespan of this plan.



Goal 1: Assure federal and state compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by incorporating NIMS principles into planning, training and exercising.

- Complete NIMS Compliance Assistance Support Tool annually to evaluate compliance with NIMS objectives and metrics.
- Ensure all new employees complete the required NIMS training within three months of hire.
- Coordinate trainings and exercises annually that incorporate Incident Command System (ICS) and incident action planning principles.
- Ensure all emergency response plans, protocols, and guidelines are NIMS compliant.
- Improve plans, trainings and exercises by incorporating lessons learned from after action reports and improvement plans.
- Strengthen preparedness and resource management through the continued development of mutual aid agreements (MOUs and MOAs) and contracts for services.
- Maintain and update the CPH Memorandum of Understanding/ Agreement Registry.

Goal 2: Improve planning, training and exercise efforts in order to assure a rapid and organized response to the health needs of our residents.

- Define and harmonize responsibilities for public health planning and complete public health response in Columbus and Franklin County through monthly meetings of the Columbus Public Health/Franklin County Board of Health Joint Planning Team. response plans addressing all public health sectors.
- Conduct quarterly meetings with Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency to integrate ESF 8 into Franklin County Emergency Response Plan.
- Continue to conduct planning meetings with local partners from law enforcement, fire, hospitals, American Red Cross and others.
- Maintain and enhance partnerships locally and regionally by coordinating the efforts of the Regional Medical Response System, the Columbus & Metropolitan Medical Response System and their subcommittees.

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- Use OhioTRAIN and the Columbus Human Resources Information System as the learning management systems for public health training.
- Develop and implement a Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan with the Franklin County Board of Health using the Target Capabili-

Goal 3: Identify and measure public health risks prior to incidents using the FEMA hazard assessment tool.

- Participate in EMA risk management planning.

- Maintain a Columbus Public Health & Franklin County Board of Health Infectious Disease Hazard Analysis Report.
- Develop a comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment Program based off of the

Goal 4: Maintain and enhance interoperable and redundant communication and information management systems.

- Conduct training on the Tactical Communication Annex to the Emergency Response Plan.
- Maintain and enhance the MARCS Interoperable Communication Evaluation Program.
- Provide MARCS Level I and II classes and MARCS Refresher training annually.
- Incorporate redundant methods of communications in exercises to test and improve interoperability.
- Conduct test drills using various communication methods.
- Maintain and increase membership accounts in the Central Ohio Health Alert Network.
- Maintain partner licenses on the Ohio Public Health Communication System.

Goal 5: Educate residents on prevention, protection and recovery from public health threats and hazards.

- Develop a community education plan on prevention, protection and recovery from all hazards and threats.
- Engage core partners through public education campaigns.
- Collaborate with the Franklin County EMA to provide emergency preparedness education to the public through Citizen Corps.
- Incorporate the principles of family emergency preparedness and Ready in 3 into all presentations and public information messages.

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Goal 6: Ensure community protection through vaccination and antibiotic administration in response to a public health emergency.

- Maintain the Mass Prophylaxis/Vaccination Plan.
- Establish an organizational structure and provide training for staff positions in a Point of Distribution site.
- Exercise the implementation of a Point of Distribution site.

- Attain necessary equipment to supply a Primary POD.
- Continue to develop and revise a corporate dispensing protocol.

Goal 7: Continue to monitor various early warning systems to collect, analyze, and investigate data to proactively assess potential and existing outbreaks.

- Establish a 24/7 on-call system for the medical director.
- Develop a protocol for reviewing case completeness.
- Use Excel and epidemiological information for data analysis.
- Conduct public information training for communication efforts.
- Train staff to use tablet PCs to collect and analyze data.

Goal 8: Provide the public with accurate and timely information and warning during a public health event or emergency.

- Update the Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Plan and its appendices annually.
- Maintain contact information for partners, stakeholders, internal and external experts and media outlets.
- Provide training for PIO, Assistant PIO and public information team on media relations, message development and crisis and risk communication techniques.
- Participate in the Central Ohio Public Information Network.



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2008 Emergency Preparedness Highlights



- Established the Columbus Public Health/Franklin County Board of Health Joint Planning Team.
- Completed revisions to the Columbus Public Health Emergency Response Plan including, plan annexes (7), and plan appendices (20). These plans address both functional and hazard-specific responses. Plan was presented to emergency response partners.
- Completed Memorandums of Understanding/Agreement (6) with community organizations and response partners addressing services to ensure the continuity of public health response. These have been consolidated into a single registry.
- Developed the Columbus Public Health & Franklin County Board of Health Infectious Disease Hazard Analysis Report, which is an annual profile of the infectious diseases affecting the community and the risk reduction activities that minimize this hazard.
- Revised the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan.
- Coordinated a Functional Public Health Pandemic Flu Exercise and a Full-Scale Mass Vaccination Drive-Thru Flu Clinic.
- Facilitated the ICS Job Aide Program with the TB Program to develop ICS and Department Operation Center spreadsheets.
- Conducted 7 Pandemic Influenza Workshop and Tabletop Sessions to 128 new employees.
- Conducted emergency preparedness outreach to more than 230 employees at 17 staff meetings; also participated in the statewide preparedness month event.
- Presented monthly emergency preparedness and pandemic influenza training to all new city employees.
- Participated in and/or coordinated the following exercises: Seminars (4), Workshops (2), Tabletops (13), Drills (10), Functional (3), Full Scale (4), and Real-time events (4).
- Participated in the countywide High-Wind Response in September by maintaining a public information officer and a public health representative at the Franklin County Emergency Operations Center and operating the CPH Department Operations Center.
- Conducted 70 training sessions to nearly 856 CPH employees and conducted 32 external community presentations to 1,059 residents.
- Updated the Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication Plan; revised the organizational structure and job action sheets for the internal Public Information Team; created and presented trainings to the team and other partners; team was also included in exercises and real-time events.
- Maintained multiple multi-disciplinary planning workgroups for CMMRS: BioWatch, Pharmaceutical, Radiological, Mass Mortality and Medical Management.
- Revised and updated the CPH Emergency Response Plan to integrate ICS, NIMS and to meet FEMA standards.
- Continued to expand the Central Ohio Health Alert Network, including the registration of 85% of CPH employees.
- Developed the CPH Human Resource Database as a resource to track employee skills, work status, and emergency contact information during a public health emergency.

Columbus Public Health Contact Information

General Information

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24 hours / 7 days a week

TDD Line

(614) 645-7041
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday-Friday

www.publichealth.columbus.gov

Emergency Preparedness

614-645-7089 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
Or visit: www.publichealth.columbus.gov/emergency_preparedness

Get all the information you need about Columbus Public Health.
Sign up to receive e-mail notices of important public health information.

City of Columbus 311 Call Center

(614) 645-3111
Call to request non-emergency city services or information.



www.publichealth.columbus.gov

