



Disease Outbreak Support Plan

This is a summary of a detailed 68-page plan that lays out what actions and procedures will be taken to control the outbreak of an infectious disease in Louisville.

Executive Summary

The mission of Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) is to achieve health equity and improve the health and well-being of all Louisville residents and visitors. Our vision is a healthy Louisville where everyone and every community thrives. Events that disrupt the ordinary provision of services of the department are an inevitable and unavoidable occurrence. FEMA's National Preparedness Goal (Second Edition, September 2015) defines what it means for the whole community to be prepared for all types of disasters and emergencies by stating:

“A secure and resilient nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

This Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and its annex addressing a communicable disease response outlines how LMPHW and community partners will continue to provide critical public health services before, during and after an event. An all-hazards approach to planning is primarily used throughout this plan, with recommended incident-specific response plans that build upon and complement the basic plan are outlined in the annexes. As required by the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government Emergency Operations Plan (LJCMEOP), this plan complements the identified emergency response efforts of LMPHW as a primary and supporting ESF – 8 (Health & Medical) agency under the LJCMEOP.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to document systems and protocols for the surveillance and investigation of diseases of public health interest. The primary objective is to respond efficiently to minimize the spread of communicable disease through community surveillance and disease investigation. When the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health & Wellness (LMPHW) is required to investigate a suspected outbreak, this plan is utilized to control and prevent the spread of disease.

Infectious disease emergencies are circumstances caused by biological agents, including organisms such as bacteria, viruses or toxins with the potential for significant illness or death in the population. Infectious disease emergencies may include naturally occurring outbreaks (e.g., measles, mumps, meningococcal disease), emerging infectious diseases (e.g., SARS, avian influenza), and bioterrorism. The circumstances of infectious disease emergencies may vary by multiple factors, including type of biological agent, scale of exposure, mode of transmission and intentionality (bioterrorism), and many others. Public health measures to contain such outbreaks are especially important for diseases with high morbidity or mortality and limited medical prophylaxis and/or treatment.

Authority

The Kentucky Disease Surveillance Administrative Regulations 902 KAR 2:020 requires reporting of Communicable Diseases to the local health department and to the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). The LMPHW Office of Communicable Disease Prevention Services (CD) is the designated authority for the receipt of communicable disease reports that are generated by the private and public sectors. When a disease of public health interest is detected and reported to the LMPHW, CD is legally required to investigate the disease.

Communicable Disease Reporting can be phoned in to LMPHW CD office at (502) 574-6677, Monday through Friday from 8:00 – 5:00 or faxed during this same time to (502) 574-5865. For afterhours reporting or our 24/7 line, the phone number is (502) 574-8200. The secure fax for afterhours reporting is (502) 574-5865.

This plan follows guidance included in the Center for Disease Control (CDC) “Updated Preparedness and Response Framework for Influenza Pandemics” and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) document, “Pandemic Influenza Plan – 2017 Update.”

Activation

1. This plan may be activated by the following person(s):
 - a. The Governor, Mayor, other City Administrator, or a designated successor,
 - b. The LMPHW Director, or a designated successor.
2. This plan may be activated under any the following situations:
 - a. An emergency is declared by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky;
 - b. An emergency or disaster occurs or is imminent;
 - c. Any disaster or other emergency state of affairs which constitutes a threat to the public’s health, regardless of whether a disaster has been declared by the state, or whether local authorities have requested assistance from LMPHW; and,
 - d. Any disaster or other emergency which disrupts the normal daily operating procedures of LMPHW, personnel, or damages LMPHW facilities and/or resources.

Objectives

The processes and public health response measures to be used during a suspected communicable disease response are guided by the following objectives:

A. Coordinated and Timely Response

The implementation of public health response measures is a multi-agency effort. The measures implemented by the respective agencies should be well coordinated to avoid confusion, inconsistencies, duplication of effort or waste of resources. Some measures may need to be rapidly implemented with resources deployed in a timely manner.

B. Sustainable Measures

Response to a suspected communicable disease event may be prolonged. The adopted measures should be sustainable until the situation reconciles.

C. Minimize Inconvenience to Travelers and Trade

Processes and public health response measures introduced during a suspected communicable disease response event should be targeted to contain the event and to mitigate the risks to additional travelers and staff. Care should be given to minimize inconvenience to all travelers or the disruption of trade.

D. Rapid Return to Steady State as the Event Subsides

Returning to steady state is a priority. For extended responses, criteria for demobilization may be developed. Additional associated process may be needed to ensure return to routine operations is in line with the health risk.

For more information on this plan contact Paul Kern (Public Health Preparedness Administrator) at (502) 574-3646 or paul.kern@louisvilleky.gov