

PHEP Capabilities Summary

Capability 1: Community Preparedness

Community preparedness is the ability of communities to prepare for, withstand, and recover — in both the short and long terms — from public health incidents.¹ By engaging and coordinating with emergency management, healthcare organizations (private and community-based), mental/behavioral health providers, community and faith-based partners, state, local, and territorial, public health's role in community preparedness is to do the following:

- 1) Support the development of public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health systems that support recovery.
- 2) Participate in awareness training with community and faith-based partners on how to prevent, respond to, and recover from public health incidents.
- 3) Promote awareness of and access to medical and mental/behavioral health ² resources that help protect the community's health and address the functional needs (i.e., communication, medical care, independence, supervision, transportation) of at-risk individuals.
- 4) Engage public and private organizations in preparedness activities that represent the functional needs of at-risk individuals as well as the cultural and socio-economic, demographic components of the community.
- 5) Identify those populations that may be at higher risk for adverse health outcomes.
- 6) Receive and/or integrate the health needs of populations who have been displaced due to incidents that have occurred in their own or distant communities (e.g., improvised nuclear device or hurricane).

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Determine risks to the health of the jurisdiction.

Function 2: Build community partnerships to support health preparedness.

Function 3: Engage with community organizations to foster public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health social networks.

Function 4: Coordinate training or guidance to ensure community engagement in preparedness efforts.

Capability 2: Community Recovery

Community recovery is the ability to collaborate with community partners, (e.g., healthcare organizations, business, education, and emergency management) to plan and advocate for the rebuilding of public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health systems to at least a level of functioning comparable to pre-incident levels, and improved levels where possible.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Identify and monitor public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health system recovery needs.

Function 2: Coordinate community public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health system recovery operations.

Function 3: Implement corrective actions to mitigate damages from future incidents.

Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination

Emergency operations coordination is the ability to direct and support an event or incident with public health or medical implications by establishing a standardized, scalable system of oversight, organization, and supervision consistent with jurisdictional standards and practices and with the National Incident Management System.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Conduct preliminary assessment to determine need for public activation.

Function 2: Activate public health emergency operations.

Function 3: Develop incident response strategy.

Function 4: Manage and sustain the public health response.

Function 5: Demobilize and evaluate public health emergency operations.

Capability 4: Emergency Public Information & Warning

Emergency public information and warning is the ability to develop, coordinate, and disseminate information, alerts, warnings, and notifications to the public and incident management responders.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Activate the emergency public information system.

Function 2: Determine the need for a joint public information system.

Function 3: Establish and participate in information system operations.

Function 4: Establish avenues for public interaction and information exchange.

Function 5: Issue public information, alerts, warnings, and notifications.

Capability 5: Fatality Management

Fatality management is the ability to coordinate with other organizations (e.g., law enforcement, healthcare, emergency management, and medical examiner/coroner) to ensure the proper recovery, handling, identification, transportation, tracking, storage, and disposal of human remains and personal effects; certify cause of death; and facilitate access to mental/behavioral health services to the family members, responders, and survivors of an incident.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Determine role for public health in fatality management.

Function 2: Activate public health fatality management operations.

Function 3: Assist in the collection and dissemination of antemortem data.

Function 4: Participate in survivor mental/behavioral health services.

Function 5: Participate in fatality processing and storage operations.

Capability 6: Information Sharing

Information sharing is the ability to conduct multijurisdictional, multidisciplinary exchange of health-related information and situational awareness data among federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal levels of government, and the private sector. This capability includes the routine sharing of information as well as issuing of public health alerts to federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal levels of government

and the private sector in preparation for, and in response to, events or incidents of public health significance.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Identify stakeholders to be incorporated into information flow.

Function 2: Identify and develop rules and data elements for sharing.

Function 3: Exchange information to determine a common operating picture.

Capability 7: Mass Care

Mass care is the ability to coordinate with partner agencies to address the public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health needs of those impacted by an incident at a congregate location. This capability includes the coordination of ongoing surveillance and assessment to ensure that health needs continue to be met as the incident evolves.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Determine public health role in mass care operations.

Function 2: Determine mass care needs of the impacted population.

Function 3: Coordinate public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health services.

Function 4: Monitor mass care population health.

Capability 8: Medical Countermeasure Dispensing

Medical countermeasure dispensing is the ability to provide medical countermeasures (including vaccines, antiviral drugs, antibiotics, antitoxin, etc.) in support of treatment or prophylaxis (oral or vaccination) to the identified population in accordance with public health guidelines and/or recommendations.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Identify and initiate medical countermeasure dispensing strategies.

Function 2: Receive medical countermeasures.

Function 3: Activate dispensing modalities.

Function 4: Dispense medical countermeasures to identified population.

Function 5: Report adverse events.

Capability 9: Medical Materiel Management & Distribution

Medical materiel management and distribution is the ability to acquire, maintain (e.g., cold chain storage or other storage protocol), transport, distribute, and track medical materiel (e.g., pharmaceuticals, gloves, masks, and ventilators) during an incident and to recover and account for unused medical materiel, as necessary, after an incident.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Direct and activate medical materiel management and distribution.

Function 2: Acquire medical materiel.

Function 3: Maintain updated inventory management and reporting system.

Function 4: Establish and maintain security.

Function 5: Distribute medical materiel.

Function 6: Recover medical materiel and demobilize distribution operations.

Capability 10: Medical Surge

Medical surge is the ability to provide adequate medical evaluation and care during events that exceed the limits of the normal medical infrastructure of an affected community. It encompasses the ability of the healthcare system to survive a hazard impact and maintain or rapidly recover operations that were compromised.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Assess the nature and scope of the incident.

Function 2: Support activation of medical surge.

Function 3: Support jurisdictional medical surge operations.

Function 4: Support demobilization of medical surge operations.

Capability 11: Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Non-pharmaceutical interventions are the ability to recommend to the applicable lead agency (if not public health) and implement, if applicable, strategies for disease, injury, and exposure control.

Strategies include the following:

- Isolation and quarantine
- Restrictions on movement and travel advisory/warnings
- Social distancing
- External decontamination
- Hygiene
- Precautionary protective behaviors

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Engage partners and identify factors that impact non-pharmaceutical interventions.

Function 2: Determine non-pharmaceutical interventions.

Function 3: Implement non-pharmaceutical interventions.

Function 4: Monitor non-pharmaceutical interventions.

Capability 12: Public Health Laboratory Testing

Public health laboratory testing is the ability to conduct rapid and conventional detection, characterization, confirmatory testing, data reporting, investigative support, and laboratory networking to address actual or potential exposure to all-hazards. Hazards include chemical, radiological, and biological agents in multiple matrices that may include clinical samples, food, and environmental samples (e.g., water, air, and soil). This capability supports routine surveillance, including pre-event or pre-incident and post-exposure activities.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Manage laboratory activities.

Function 2: Perform sample management.

Function 3: Conduct testing and analysis for routine and surge capacity.

Function 4: Support public health investigations.

Function 5: Report results.

Capability 13: Public Health Surveillance & Epidemiological Investigation

Public health surveillance and epidemiological investigation is the ability to create, maintain, support, and strengthen routine surveillance and detection systems and epidemiological investigation processes, as well as to expand these systems and processes in response to incidents of public health significance.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Conduct public health surveillance and detection.

Function 2: Conduct public health and epidemiological investigations.

Function 3: Recommend, monitor, and analyze mitigation actions.

Function 4: Improve public health surveillance and epidemiological investigation systems.

Capability 14: Responder Safety & Health

The responder safety and health capability describes the ability to protect public health agency staff responding to an incident and the ability to support the health and safety needs of hospital and medical facility personnel, if requested.

This capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Identify responder safety and health risks.

Function 2: Identify safety and personal protective needs.

Function 3: Coordinate with partners to facilitate risk-specific safety and health training.

Function 4: Monitor responder safety and health actions.

Capability 15: Volunteer Management

Volunteer management is the ability to coordinate the identification, recruitment, registration, credential verification, training, and engagement of volunteers to support the jurisdictional public health agency's response to incidents of public health significance.

The capability consists of the ability to perform the following functions:

Function 1: Coordinate volunteers.

Function 2: Notify volunteers.

Function 3: Organize, assemble, and dispatch volunteers.

Function 4: Demobilize volunteers.