



City of Long Beach

Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: November 12, 2015

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *P.H.W.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Notification of Emergency Preparedness Exercise

Over the week of November 16 - 20, 2015, Health & Human Services, in collaboration with several other Departments and local agencies, will be participating in an exercise to test notification, distribution, and medical countermeasure dispensing operations following a bioterrorism event affecting Long Beach and other regions in Southern California. The scenario in play will require staff to confirm the detection of a biological agent used for a bioterrorist attack, notify key response partners, coordinate an emergency response with the City's Emergency Operations Center and neighboring jurisdictions, request medical countermeasures from State and federal agencies, open Points of Dispensing (PODs) for mass prophylaxis to prevent the exposed population from getting sick, and coordinate public information and messaging, including activation of a Joint Information Center (JIC).

Titled Operation Cerberus, this exercise provides an opportunity to practice a multi-faceted and multi-agency response to a public health threat. The exercise will include activities such as the collection of field samples by teams from Fire and Health Haz Mat, force protection by the Police Department for antibiotics and other resources acquired from Los Angeles County for dispensing at POD sites, and operation of a closed POD (not open to the general public) by California State University Long Beach (CSULB) to prophylaxis its students, faculty, and staff. Volunteers were recruited to play persons exposed (per the scenario) who will receive prophylaxis at POD locations (snacks will be distributed to simulate antibiotics).

Completed in collaboration with twelve other health jurisdictions, this effort will be the State's largest full-scale medical countermeasures exercise ever completed, helping to build the framework for a regional response to any large-scale public health emergency. Long Beach's participation in this exercise includes representation from Police, Fire, Disaster Management, City Manager's Office (Public Affairs), Airport, Public Works, and the Port of Long Beach; from St. Mary Medical Center and CSULB; from the Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory, Emergency Preparedness & Response Program, and Veterinarian; and from various federal partners, including the Department of Homeland Security, the National Guard 9th Civil Support Team, the Joint Regional Information Center, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Funding for this exercise was made available through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security under the Urban Area Securities Initiative (UASI) Program. Grant funds were used for procurement of a contractor to design, facilitate, and evaluate the exercise, and to complete a thorough After-Action Report and Improvement Plan, which will be used to strengthen existing Departmental and Citywide plans.

Should you have questions, or request additional details regarding the exercise, please contact Diane Brown, Public Health Emergency Management Coordinator, at extension 84344.

cc: Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager
City Manager Department Heads