



Date: December 9, 2014

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

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services /s/

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Subject: Follow up to Agenda Item #NB-31 – Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan**

---

This memorandum is a follow-up to Agenda Item #NB-31 on the October 21, 2014 City Council agenda. As noted in the October 21, 2014 memorandum (attached), the LBDHHS is prepared to respond to natural and man-made disasters or threats to public health. The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) has enhanced its public health capacity to respond to a possible bioterrorism attack or other public health emergency that could threaten the health of Long Beach residents. Even prior to the events of September 11, 2001 and the anthrax incidents in the fall of that year, planning and preparedness have been priorities for LBDHHS. The Department has taken an all-hazards approach, developing plans to minimize the consequences of bioterrorism events, disease outbreaks, and natural disasters. The LBDHHS is continually enhancing its laboratory capabilities, disease surveillance, communication efforts, community education, and workforce training activities to be better prepared to protect the health and well-being of the community.

The LBDHHS has developed a comprehensive All Hazards Emergency Management Plan with systems for rapid detection and investigation of disease outbreaks that could be the first indication of a biological attack or disease outbreak. This plan describes the Department's overall preparedness, response, and mitigation efforts for public health emergencies, and includes several plans that provide guidance and protocols on handling specific threats or incidents. Existing plans include the Pandemic Influenza Plan, the Isolation & Quarantine Plan, the Bioterrorism Response Plan, the Mass Prophylaxis Dispensing Plan and Point of Dispensing Guide, the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan, and the Public Health Emergency Response Team Protocol.

The All Hazards Emergency Management Plan, along with the aforementioned plans, contain the Department's protocols for infectious disease emergency response. Along with other resources, such as our Public Health Laboratory capabilities, these protocols support the early detection of illness and identification of communicable disease and/or bioterrorism agents for a more rapid response and mitigation efforts, such as specific measures designed to preserve health and prevent the spread of disease (prophylaxis) to exposed individuals, and effective treatment for those who have contracted the disease. We coordinate numerous trainings for the public health workforce, and collaborate on training and exercise efforts with local hospital staff to respond quickly and effectively to public health emergencies. Additionally, staff participate frequently in training exercises with the City Police and Fire Departments to enhance our coordination and roles in an emergency or incident.

### **How Does the Health Department Work with Hospitals and Other City Departments in Infectious Disease Emergencies?**

The U.S. DHHS, through its National Hospital Preparedness Program, provides funding to states, territories, and eligible municipalities to improve surge capacity and enhance community and hospital preparedness for public health emergencies. Thirteen hospitals have been designated within ten geographic regions in Los Angeles County as Disaster Resource Centers (DRCs) to work with their surrounding health care facilities in planning, training, exercises, and facilitating a regional disaster plan. Two DRCs are located in Long Beach: St. Mary Medical Center (SMMC) and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center (LBMMC).

The LBDHHS works with SMMC and LBMMC to ensure staff readiness to respond to emergencies through exercises, drills, regular communication, and attendance at each other's meetings to coordinate infection control procedures and emergency response efforts. In addition, the LBDHHS works with the DRCs to ensure that hospitals report communicable disease outbreaks and/or suspected incidents of bioterrorism to LBDHHS. LBDHHS staff attend DRC meetings and communicate on an ongoing basis for disease monitoring, and have protocols in place for notification of LBHHS staff for possible disease outbreaks.

Citywide responses to emergencies and public safety threats are coordinated through the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications Department. All City Departments including Police, Fire, Health, and community partners, such as the American Red Cross and local hospitals, meet quarterly to participate in exercises as part of the Whole Community Preparedness Training.

Annually, the LBDHHS uses its flu clinic to exercise and test its efficiency in mass prophylaxis distribution to the public. The most recent Point of Dispensing (POD) exercise was completed on October 23, 2014, with over 800 vaccines provided in a five-hour period. During this exercise, staff practiced communication and coordination protocols with Police, Fire and other agencies using the Incident Command Structure.

As public health faces emerging diseases, such as the recent cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the US and Enterovirus D68, the LBDHHS conducts advance planning and revises its emergency response protocols, as appropriate, based on scientific evidence and guidance from the federal and state agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. The LBDHHS All Hazards Emergency Management Plan contains the Department's protocols for infectious disease emergency response. If you have any questions, please contact me at 570-4016.

KC/CB/dak  
Attachment



**City of Long Beach**

Working Together to Serve

**Memorandum**

**Date:** October 21, 2014  
**To:** X Patrick H. West, City Manager *[Signature]*  
**From:** Kelly Colopy, Director, Health and Human Services /s/  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #NB-31 - Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan

**Background**

This memorandum responds to Agenda Item #NB-31 on the October 21, 2014 City Council agenda, and serves to provide a summary of the long-standing and existing efforts of the Health and Human Services Department (LBDHHS) with regard to public health emergencies, including plans in place for the control of infectious disease outbreaks.

The Public Health All Hazards Emergency Management Plan (All-Hazards Plan) outlines actions that the LBDHHS will take in response to a natural or manmade event that could impact public health. Each section of the All Hazards Plan addresses specific public health emergency situations. These sections include:

	<b>Response</b>
Department Operation Center Plan	Describes levels of activation and process for coordinating all responses related to emergency management, medical services, public health, environmental health, epidemiology, and health education/outreach.
Public Health Emergency and Outbreak Response Plan (PHERT)	The purpose of this plan is to establish a pre-designated, highly trained interdisciplinary team of public health professionals that are immediately available to conduct epidemiological disease investigations and assess community health needs, and to provide guidance for the rapid deployment of these teams for events requiring additional epidemiological and/or public health support during public health emergencies or disease outbreaks.
Isolation and Quarantine Plan	This operational plan provides the framework for authorizing, implementing and enforcing isolation and quarantine (I & Q) measures that the Health Officer or designee may utilize for the control of communicable disease. The Health Officer may invoke I & Q measures in response to a naturally occurring outbreak of communicable disease or an intentional release of a biological agent. The City Health Officer may implement I & Q measures in individual situations, or in response to a declared emergency.

<b>Biological</b>	
Pandemic Influenza Plan	The purpose of the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan is to provide a framework and guidelines for the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services' response to pandemic influenza. The goal of the plan is to minimize morbidity and mortality and reduce disruption to critical social and medical services during a pandemic.
Smallpox Plan	Describes public health protocols for responding to smallpox disease outbreaks.
<b>Natural/Environmental</b>	
Heat Emergency Plan	Provides guidance to the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) and its partner agencies in order to reduce the potential for harm to Long Beach residents caused by extreme heat conditions.
LBDHHS Disaster Plan	Describes protocols for public health response in case of a disaster caused by an earthquake, fire, flood, civil unrest or any other incident, which may threaten life, limb, property or the environment.
<b>Bioterrorism</b>	
Bioterrorism Plan	Describes LBDHHS' response procedures to a biological threat incident (accidental or intentional) and how to coordinate information among local, county, state and federal agencies to provide correct information to the public.
Mass Prophylaxis Plan	Describes the procedures necessary for LBDHHS and its response partners to conduct either oral or vaccination mass prophylaxis procedures for a public health emergency or routine flu season. This includes, but is not limited to man-made and naturally occurring events, such as infectious disease outbreaks, pandemic influenza, bioterrorism events, or other incidents

While not specifically referred to as an Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan (IDER), as you can see, the Public Health All Hazards Emergency Management Plan encompasses the City's protocol for dealing with infectious diseases. The plan is reviewed annually, and training and drills are contained in the LBDHHS Multi-Year Training Plan and Public Health Emergency Preparedness program scope of work. Drills include Point of Dispensing (POD) exercises and tabletop, functional and full scale exercises with local, regional and state partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you. I will be happy to speak to the item when it comes up on the Council agenda. If you have any questions, please contact me at 570-4016.

KK: