

Public Health & Medical Preparedness in Michigan

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) is the emergency preparedness and response arm of the Michigan Department of Community Health. The office serves to protect the health of Michigan citizens before, during and after an emergency. Established in 2002 after the tragic events of September 11 and the anthrax attacks, OPHP is funded exclusively through two federal cooperative agreements. Through its mission, the office integrates public health and healthcare preparedness initiatives that encompass all hazards, including natural and man-made disasters, acts of bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks and other emergencies that impact health. The office serves a dual role in both preparedness planning and in emergency response.

PLANNING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Medical Surge Planning. When disaster strikes and local resources become overwhelmed, several state resources are available to assist with bridging the gap:

- The **Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MITESA) Medical Unit** is a rapidly-deployable, mobile medical facility. Comprised of two separately housed, but interoperable units, the MITESA provides a 140-bed hospital that can be deployed anywhere in the State.
- During a mass fatality incident, the **Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MIMORT)** is available to support the medical examiner with recovery, processing and identification of deceased victims in a dignified manner, while the **Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU)** provides the equipment, supplies and personnel necessary to operate a fully functional morgue.
- OPHP maintains the **MI Volunteer Registry**, a “one stop shop” for Michigan citizens wishing to serve as emergency volunteers. The registry allows residents to register, undergo a background check and have any medical credentials verified prior to an emergency.

Pharmaceutical Cache Development. During a public health emergency, having critical medications available and ready to dispense rapidly can mean the difference between life and death.

- The **Michigan Emergency Drug Delivery Resource Network (MEDDRUN)** program provides caches of medications and supplies necessary to treat approximately 100 patients each. MEDDRUN utilizes Michigan’s rotary air and select ground Emergency Medical Services agencies to deliver critical medications and supplies to hospitals and on-scene, and can be deployed to 90% of the State in less than one hour of request.
- **CHEMPACK** is a supplemental source of pre-positioned nerve agent (NA)/organophosphate antidotes and medications that are readily available for use by state and/or local emergency responders when local supplies become depleted.
- When local and state sources of life saving medications, countermeasures and/or medical supplies become depleted, the **Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)** can be requested by the governor. The SNS is a federal cache that can be delivered to any state within the United States within 12 hours of the decision to deploy. OPHP, and all 45 local health departments and 180 hospitals have developed plans to receive, distribute and dispense the SNS quickly and efficiently. In 2009, the SNS was deployed to states to assist with H1N1 response efforts.

Communication, Education and Outreach.

- **Risk Communication.** OPHP has two public information goals: Provide public education to build a culture of safety and resilience, and get accurate information to people quickly during an emergency. This is accomplished through strong collaborative partnerships with key community organizations, and established clear channels for disseminating public information. Through these partnerships, OPHP provides easily understandable information on disaster health risks and protection options, particularly to citizens at higher risk.
- The **Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN)** is a secure web-based notification system used to alert key personnel of conditions that could adversely impact the health and safety of Michigan's citizens. The system also provides situational awareness on important but non-emergency health-related information. Participants include key points of contact from the State of Michigan, local public health, hospitals, EMS agencies, Federally Qualified and Rural Health Clinics, Long Term Care facilities, and emergency management. There is no cost to participate. If your agency is involved in EMS activities and you are interested in participating on the MIHAN, please contact Craig Henry at henryc1@michigan.gov.
- Michigan's learning management system, **MI-TRAIN**, contains a centralized, searchable database of free courses relevant to public health, healthcare and emergency preparedness. Through MI-TRAIN, users, have access to over 10,000 courses from over 2,600 nationally recognized course providers. MI-TRAIN courses are available at <http://mi.train.org>.
- The **Emergency Preparedness Curriculum for K-12 Schools** was released in 2011 to teach children in first through twelfth grade about common hazards and disasters, and to help them develop emergency preparedness skills and safety habits. The Emergency Preparedness Curriculum is designed to build resiliency within our communities by empowering children with the knowledge and skills to make smart decisions before, during and after an emergency.

RESPONSE ROLE IN EMERGENCIES

During an emergency that impacts the health of the public, The Michigan Department of Community Health becomes the lead agency in the response under Essential Services Function #8 (Health & Medical) of the National Response Framework. OPHP maintains the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center (CHECC), which (when activated) serves as the coordination center for the Department, working in direct collaboration with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The CHECC provides real-time public health information relative to the incident, subject matter expertise, and coordinates the public health and healthcare response with local, regional and other state agency partners.

For more information on these and other OPHP programs visit us on the web:

OPHP Programs: www.michigan.gov/ophp

Public Health Preparedness Information: www.michigan.gov/prepare

OPHP invites partners who are interested in staying up-to-date with preparedness news, research, tools and training/conference opportunities to sign up to receive *The Guardian of Public Health* e-newsletter. For more information or to sign up, contact Katie Dunkle-Reynolds at dunklek@michigan.gov.