



Topic: Public Health Preparedness

The Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP) within the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) was formally established in 2002 to coordinate development and implementation of public health and medical management services preparedness and response to acts of bioterrorism (BT), infectious disease outbreak and other public health emergencies. The mission of the office has expanded to encompass “all hazards” preparedness and response. This is accomplished by working within the department as well as with local and private partners. Funding for the preparedness program is provided exclusively through two federal cooperative agreements; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). Additional information can be found at: www.michigan.gov/ophp and www.michigan.gov/prepare.

Listing of Major Accomplishments:

COMMUNICATIONS

MIHAN – The Michigan Health Alert Network is an internet web-based system for immediate alerting and notification. The MIHAN has over 4,000 users from public health, hospitals, life support agencies, health clinics, emergency management, state departments, federal partners and other. The MIHAN is able to send alerts through landline phones, cell phones, text pagers, 800 MHz radio systems and email. Users may identify three levels of alerting preferences in high, medium and low alerts. This extensive network containing a document library accessible to members is the primary method for communications on a health related event.

MI-TRAIN - Michigan’s Learning Management System which contains a centralized, searchable database of courses relevant to public health, healthcare, and emergency preparedness. Through TRAIN, users have access to courses from nationally recognized course providers. There are over 10,000 course listings from over, 2600 providers of training. The courses on TRAIN are offered in the form of web-based learning, on-site learning, satellite broadcasts and more. A user can browse the course listing or perform a search by keyword, subject area, course provider, and competency, among others. Recently MSP became partners and will use this excellent system as well.

EMSystem / EMResource – Internet system adopted within healthcare statewide. This allows real time status of hospital bed capacity including the ability to meet the requirements of the DHHS SOC to provide hospital bed capacity within 2 hours of a request. Ventilator availability within hospitals is also collected via this system. Users on the system are tested at least monthly in all regions and the system has been successfully used in real Michigan events. This is an important tool used by each Regions Medical Coordination Center (MCC).

Patient Tracking – Michigan has adopted a statewide triage tag which is compatible with electronic patient tracking initiatives. Each region continues to implement, train and exercise patient tracking systems to be used during a mass casualty event.

Risk Communication Strategies – The office has worked extensively to develop risk communication plans and resources to support any health emergency. This includes pre-scripted materials at the ready. Extensive work has established a network of Public Information Officers within the health arena for coordinated messaging.



MEDICAL SURGE PLANNING

20% Above Average Daily Census, Michigan hospitals continue to identify mechanisms to surge their current capacity above 20%. An important planning strategy is to implement all strategies to care for injured persons within traditional hospital setting. This is the first step in surging the current capacity of the healthcare system. Additional strategies move outside of hospital settings.

Modular Emergency Medical System (MEMS) – In 2004, Michigan adopted the MEMS concept (developed by the Department of Defense, Biological Weapons Improved Response Program, in response to the Nunn-Lugar Domenici Domestic Preparedness Program of 2003). Currently each region has identified, equipped and implemented a Regional Medical Coordination Center (MCC) and has the ability to standup a Neighborhood Emergency Help Center(s) (NEHC) and an Alternate Care Center (s) (ACC). The Regional Medical Coordination Center (MCC) is designed to be a NIMS-consistent Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) that emphasizes coordination among local/regional medical health agencies and local emergency management. The Regional MCC assists with the provision of a flexible, coordinated, uninterrupted health response and serves to support the healthcare system within Michigan.

Michigan Transportable Emergency Surge Assistance (MITESA) Medical Unit – In 2007 Michigan purchased two interoperable mobile medical facilities from Western Shelter Systems that have the capability to join as a statewide 140-bed mobile facility. A 100-bed mobile facility is housed in Southeast Michigan, where a large majority of the state’s population resides. In Southwest Michigan, a 40 bed mobile facility is stored in rapidly deployable trailers. A concept of operations is in final draft and the resource continues to be equipped as funding is available.

Mobile Field Medical Teams – 2009 is targeted for the identification of at least one mobile field medical team (consistent with FEMA resources typed definition) within each of the preparedness regions. These teams will be trained to support medical surge initiatives as noted above.

Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT) – Established to provide the State of Michigan a mass fatality resource that could be readily deployed to any location in the State in response to an incident in which the number of fatalities had exceeded local or regional resources. The MI-MORT team consists of various professions including; forensic pathologists, forensic dentists, forensic anthropologists, funeral directors, x-ray technicians and many others. This team works to support the local Medical Examiner and ultimately the local, regional and state response by providing technical assistance and personnel to recover, identify and process deceased victims in a dignified manner.

Disaster Portable Morgue Unit (DPMU) – Contains the equipment and supplies for a fully functional morgue, necessary to initiate operations. All materials are segregated into kits by section of use and are palletized in four trailers for truck transport. The DPMU is designed to be erected as needed inside of usable facilities.

MI-Volunteer Registry - Since 2003, Michigan has followed an aggressive implementation plan to develop an all hazards registry for any citizen that wishes to volunteer in an emergency consistent with the national Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). The MI Volunteer Registry (www.MIVolunteerRegistry.org) currently has over 4000 volunteers, 50% of which are health professionals. Efforts continue to develop the capability of registering all types of volunteers, verify their credentials and qualifications, and utilize them in local, regional, and state exercises in anticipation of potential real events.

Volunteer groups on the registry include Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Fire Corps, General Support Volunteers, Licensed Health Professions, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Michigan



Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT), Michigan's State Animal Response Team (MI-SART), Neighborhood Watch, Unlicensed Health Volunteers and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).

PHARMACEUTICAL CACHE DEVELOPMENT

Michigan Emergency Preparedness Pharmaceutical Plan (MEPPP) - Is a statewide plan that contains information on current local, regional, state and federal pharmaceutical caches established. This plan is updated quarterly and available to the SEOC and CHECC. It provides critical information on the type of cache, target audience, content, deployment and availability to ensure prompt identification and distribution of resources during an event

Michigan Emergency Drug Delivery Resource Network (MEDDRUN) – This program provides standardized caches of medications and supplies to treat approximately 100 casualties. These caches are located between Michigan's rotary air, and select ground, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies to minimize deployment time when needed during an event. MEDDRUN rapidly deliver these medications and supplies to hospitals and on scene, ideally within one hour of request. This is critical as the need to provide nerve agent antidotes is extremely time sensitive. These resources can be deployed to 90% of the State of Michigan in less than one hour or request.

CHEMPACK – A CDC supplied, state managed, supplemental source of pre-positioned nerve agent (NA)/organophosphate antidotes and associated pharmaceuticals that will be readily available for use when local supplies become depleted. This large quantity resource is intended to have them rapidly available to state and/or local emergency responders. This would be a second resource to the above noted MEDDRUN which is more quickly mobilized.

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Plan – Michigan has consistently received the highest marks by the CDC for its state and local SNS plan(s). Partnerships with private entities have proven extremely valuable in identifying resources to serve the citizens in Michigan. This includes each hospital developing and exercising their SNS request process at the completion of 2009.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Long Term Care Outreach - A multi-disciplinary committee with representatives throughout the state of Michigan developed a toolkit and DVD to assist this special population. This toolkit contains sample policies, procedures and template such as hazard vulnerability assessments, mutual aid agreements, and emergency checklist that a facility may utilize when putting together an emergency plan. Also included is contact information for representatives in their geographical area who are willing to help prepare emergency plans such as local health department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Local Emergency Manager, or Regional Medical Biodefense Network Coordinator.

Michigan School Preparedness and Response Curriculum - In 2006, OPHP met with representatives from the Michigan Department of Education and Michigan Department of State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, to develop a comprehensive Preparedness and Response Curriculum for all public and private/non-profit schools in Michigan. The curriculum will be integrated and aligned with the Michigan Model for Health®, a school health education program implemented in over 90% of Michigan's public schools and in more than 200 private and charter schools. The purpose of this curriculum is to empower children with the knowledge, skills and judgment to make smart decisions before, during and after an incident.