



**Public Health and Health Care Preparedness
2014-17 Strategic Plan
August 2014**

Introduction

The Public Health and Health Care Preparedness (PHHP) strategic plan for 2014-17 provides a framework for Florida's public health and health care preparedness and response programs and activities over the next three years. The plan aligns to federal guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Office for the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The plan also supports state and federal domestic security strategies: the Florida Domestic Security Strategy and the Department of Homeland Security's National Target Capabilities.

The PHHP strategic plan and programs are the result of effective public and private partnerships with health and medical professionals across the state. These collaborative efforts are crucial to Florida's public health and health care preparedness capability and help ensure Florida is prepared for and can respond to any man-made or natural disaster.

The Florida Department of Health (Department) works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. The Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Preparedness and Response (Bureau) supports this mission by ensuring public investments are wisely leveraged to build a resilient Florida population prepared for any public health and medical disaster or emergency.

The Department's vision is to be the healthiest state in the nation. A key component to this vision is the ability of health care systems and communities to respond to the needs of Floridians during a disaster. The PHHP programs focus on the Department's ICARE values through innovation, collaboration, accountability, responsibility and excellence.

Goals and Strategies

Goal 1- Cross-Functional Management and Support

Facilitate the management and support of Florida's preparedness capabilities to ensure the readiness of the public health and health care system for all hazards.

Strategy 1.1- Strategic Program Management and Administration

Implement and monitor a systematic framework to achieve fulfillment of public health and health care preparedness capabilities.

Strategy 1.2- Planning

Sustain a public health and health care planning system that includes an integrated network of operational, tactical and contingency plans, planning tools and resources.

Strategy 1.3- Training and Exercise

Sustain the infrastructure for a comprehensive and efficient training and exercise system to ensure public health and health care workforce readiness.

Goal 2- Incident Management

Sustain the systems and personnel needed to effectively manage an event or incident through all phases of the response.

Strategy 2.1- Public Health and Health Care System Emergency Operations Coordination

Execute public health and health care emergency operations coordination and support practices established in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) that are consistent with jurisdictional standards during incidents and events having public health or medical implications. The health care system will be integrated into the incident management structure to coordinate information and resource allocation for affected health care organizations.

Goal 3- Information Sharing

Effectively manage and distribute public health, health care and incident response information to multidisciplinary and multi-jurisdictional responders and stakeholders for the duration of the emergency response operation.

Strategy 3.1- Crisis and Emergency Risk Communications (Emergency Public Information and Warning)

Develop, coordinate and disseminate emergency public information warnings, alerts and notifications to media, the public, incident management responders, and internal and external stakeholders.

Strategy 3.2- Public Health and Health Care System Information Sharing

Conduct multi-jurisdictional, multidisciplinary exchange of public health and health care related information and share situational awareness data and common operating picture among partners.

Goal 4- Surge Management

Develop and sustain the ability to rapidly expand the capacity of the existing health care system to provide definitive care to affected individuals at the appropriate clinical level of care, within sufficient time to achieve recovery and minimize medical complications.

Strategy 4.1- Public Health and Health Care System Fatality Management

Coordinate with response and health care system partners to ensure proper management of fatalities, certify cause of death, and facilitate access to mental/behavioral health services for individuals directly and indirectly affected in an incident.

Strategy 4.2- Mass Care

Coordinate with partners to provide health and medical support to address public health, health care system and mental/behavioral health needs of those impacted by an incident or event.

Strategy 4.3- Public Health and Health Care System Medical Surge

Provide adequate medical evaluation and care during events that exceed the limits of normal health care system infrastructure of an affected community and to maintain or rapidly recover operations that were compromised to support public health and health care system medical surge.

Strategy 4.4- Public Health and Health Care System Responder Management (Volunteer Management)

Coordinate and manage the identification, recruitment, registration, credential qualification process, training, and engagement of public health and health care system volunteers and responders to support the public health agency and health care organization's medical response to incidents and events.

Goal 5- Countermeasures and Mitigation

Sustain the ability to ensure that appropriate and effective countermeasures are available to mitigate the health consequences of any event.

Strategy 5.1- Medical Countermeasure Dispensing

Provide medical countermeasures in support of treatment or prophylaxis (oral or vaccination) to the identified population in accordance with public health guidelines and/or recommendations.

Strategy 5.2- Medical Logistics (Medical Materiel Management and Distribution)

Acquire, maintain, transport, distribute, recover, and track all medical materiel before, during and after an incident or event.

Strategy 5.3- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Recommend, implement and rescind applicable, non-pharmaceutical interventions for disease, injury and exposure control.

Strategy 5.4- Responder Safety and Health

Provide guidance and when appropriate, protect the health and safety needs of public health and health care system responders before, during and after an incident.

Strategy 5.5- Health Care System Responder Safety and Health

Assist health care organizations in protecting the safety and health of health care workers during all-hazards incidents and events.

Goal 6- Biosurveillance

Develop and sustain the process of gathering, integrating, interpreting and communicating essential information related to all-hazards threats or disease activity affecting human, animal or plant health to achieve early detection and warning, contribute to overall situational awareness of the health aspects of an incident and to enable better decision-making at all levels.

Strategy 6.1- Public Health Laboratory Testing

Conduct rapid and conventional detection, characterization, confirmatory testing, data reporting, investigative support and laboratory networking to address actual or potential exposure to all hazards.

Strategy 6.2- Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation

Create, maintain, support and strengthen routine and surge capability of public health surveillance and detection systems and epidemiological investigation processes.

Strategy 6.3- Environmental Health

Prevent disease and injury through rapid detection, identification and characterization of environmental hazards and exposures, which include chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRNE) materials.

Goal 7- Community and Health Care System Resilience

Develop and sustain community resilience in all jurisdictions by providing communities with the ability to withstand potential public health impacts from all hazards events, and by supporting community recovery in rebuilding the community to an enhanced level of resiliency.

Strategy 7.1- Community and Health Care System Preparedness

Engage and coordinate with multidisciplinary partners to prepare communities and health care systems to prevent, when possible, respond and recover from incidents or events.

Strategy 7.2- Community and Health Care System Recovery

Collaborate with partners to develop a plan and advocate the execution of a plan for the rebuilding of public health, health care and mental/behavioral health systems to at least pre-incident functioning levels. These activities will include support and advocacy with health care system partners for the development of efficient processes.

Strategy 7.3- Critical Infrastructure Protection

To identify, assess, prioritize, evaluate and protect statewide public health and health care system infrastructure (assets, systems and networks).