

Clark County Public Health Emergency Response Teams

The Clark County Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Team conducts rapid, coordinated epidemiologic and clinical investigations or health needs assessments while assisting response partners in the mitigation, response and recovery of public health emergencies. In addition, Clark County Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Teams have three specific missions:

1. **Incident Command Team mission** - Provide command and control for public health emergencies, including disease outbreaks and natural disasters.

Primary activities:

- Assess the complexity of the public health emergency and determine establish a command structure to support public health operations. As appropriate, serve as a Public Health representative to the Unified Command structure and carry out orders of the Health Officer.
- Consult with policy makers about the priorities, ethical issues, and other guidelines that must be followed throughout the response.
- Identify the goals, strategies, and tactics that are necessary to resolve the emergency. Ensure that all departmental, county, and mutual aid resources are used as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- Provide for a safe work environment for all response personnel assigned to the incident. Ensure that the agency obtains sufficient resources to implement the appropriate tactics.
- If incident complexity exceeds the capability of the Clark County Public Health Incident Management Team, transfer the management of the incident to a more qualified Incident Management Team such as the Southwest Washington Type III Incident Management Team.

2. **Region IV Epidemiology Response Team mission** - Provide surge capacity and assist public health programs and field staff in the investigation of public health emergencies, including disease outbreaks and natural disasters.

Primary activities

- Provide rapid response capacity for investigating suspected or confirmed cases of disease, determining sources of exposure, including defining at-risk groups.
- Assist public health programs and field staff as needed in the investigation of other public health emergencies, including disease outbreaks and natural disasters.
- Provide technical or operational assistance to emergency response personnel. Identify at-risk populations for the effective deployment and delivery of public health resources (needs assessments, contact tracing, etc.).
- Provide critical public health information to those affected by the event and interface with other local responders on the potential health risks of a disaster.

- Provide evaluation and analysis of the post-disaster impact, resource utilization, and community health through rapid needs assessments and impact surveys. Review medical charts, emergency department logs, hospital admissions data, coroner's records, and other data sources and conduct interviews with cases, their surrogates, and other potential contacts.
 - Collect, manage, analyze, and summarize epidemiologic data and communicate findings. Conduct environmental inspections and testing.
3. **Point of Dispensing Team mission:** To provide surge capacity and assist Public Health programs and field staff in the investigation of other public health emergencies, including disease outbreaks and natural disasters

Primary activities:

- Respond in real time in the context of a possible terrorist event with other response agencies to establish temporary emergency health clinics to provide medication to all people believed to be exposed to a disease.
- Collect and communicate information from the field to a public health command post or other central Public Health authority. Identify locations for temporary emergency health clinics.
- Supervise staff and volunteers assigned to mass dispensing operations. Maximize speed at which people can receive medication or vaccine at temporary emergency health clinics.
- Manage resources needed for mass dispensing operations.

