

Montana Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

Coordinating Response to Public Health Emergencies

PHEP oversees MT DPHHS Emergency Management Program, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the agency's preparedness for, response to, and recovery from public health emergencies, including operating the DPHHS Department Operations Center.

Response to Public Health Threats

Before



Training: MT DPHHS prepares their responders by improving technical skills and getting them ready to respond to a Public Health emergency.



Exercise: Practice responding to different public health threats ranging from natural disasters to pandemic emergencies.

During



Logistics: MT DPHHS coordinates with response partners by purchasing and shipping needed supplies and equipment; receiving and shipping specimens; and potentially deploying personnel to the site of the incident.



Communication: During a response MT DPHHS ensures coordination of timely, consistent, targeted, and actionable information reaches the public during emergencies.

After



After Action Report: An evaluation is conducted after every emergency response to identify what was done well and what can be improved.

DPHHS Department Operation Center (DOC)

Potential Activation Triggers

The DOC operates at Level 4 –Readiness until situational assessment warrants an elevated response



Actual or potential outbreak that will likely spread across local, tribal, or state boundaries



Request for assistance from another state, tribal nation, or one or more jurisdictions



Health threat that strains the capacity of local/tribal jurisdictions ability to respond



Activation of the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) that has public health implications

Identification of potential or actual **exposure** to a **Category "A" agent** as defined by the CDC 



The Incident Command Advisory Group (ICAG) provides expert technical, scientific, and administrative advice in support of the mission and objectives of an emergency response



Public Health Activations



Lead in Water



H1N1



Ebola



Flooding



Full Scale Exercises

Emergency Response Levels

4 Readiness

Normal daily operations

- DOC maintained in a state of readiness, but no emergency operations underway

3 Minimal

Elevated awareness and planning

- Operation hours will be 0800 to 1700
- Typical operational periods are a week at a time
- DOC ICS positions are activated as necessary
- Formal Incident Action Plans are developed

2 Partial

Increased Focused Activity

- Daily operation hours could extend and operational periods become shorter for more responsive planning
- Operation activities could envelope weekends
- Most DOC ICS positions might be activated

1 Full

All operations are emergency focused

- Operation periods become 24 hours
- Operations will continue daily
- All ICS position will be activated; additional positions are added as needed

The Incident Commander (IC), in consultation with ICAG or DPHHS administration, determines the level of activation for emergency operations after assessment of public health situations.