



Mission

Centers for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) train front-line workers in state and local health departments, preparing them to protect American citizens in the event of a public health emergency – inclusive of infectious, environmental, occupational, and terrorist threats. Created in 2000 with CDC funding, the network of 27 centers located in graduate, accredited schools of public health has already reached hundreds of thousands of public health workers through applied training and targeted technical expertise aimed at protecting communities in real-world crises. The CPHP network of world-renowned preparedness experts, convened and coordinated by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), ensures a strong public health response is available across the nation when and where it is needed.

Importance

The Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health Preparedness (JHCPHP or the Center) works directly with partners in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, as well as with other partners throughout the nation, to address a variety of public health workforce needs to prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters, terrorism attacks, and infectious diseases. The Center responds to the identified training and educational requirements of state, regional, and national partners. To meet these needs in the most efficient and effective manner possible, the Center develops and delivers online training modules and resources, face-to-face conferences and workshops, customized training programs, and academic coursework.

Accomplishments

The JHCPHP developed and delivers:

- *The Johns Hopkins - Roadmap to Preparedness*, an interactive, game-board format, training curriculum based on the core preparedness competencies for all public health workers. This training is designed to build a common foundation of knowledge and skills for all agency employees, from clerical and support staff to administrators and clinical staff. The curriculum is divided into three phases (General Preparedness, Agency-Specific Knowledge, and Application and Applied Exercises) and is sequenced based on skills and knowledge acquisition. To date, over 4,500 local employees in the State of Maryland and Delaware have received this training. In addition, the Center has delivered the curriculum in a train-the-trainer format to over 1,300 employees at public health agencies in California, Ohio, and Utah.
- Over 50 free, online, competency-based training modules that can be accessed as just-in-time (or just-in-case) preparedness training for all public health workers. In order to successfully complete training modules and demonstrate competency, participants are required to pass a knowledge assessment with a minimum score of 80%. To date, there have been over 5,500 enrollments for the online modules.
- *Psychological First Aid* training to over 270 public health and public safety professionals. This training for non-mental health professionals, invented by the JHCPHP, is intended to expand disaster mental health response capabilities. A new online version will soon be available.
- A National Incident Management System (NIMS) training program designed for the public health workforce to meet the requirements for completion of the IS-700 and IS-100 curricula and exams. This program has been delivered over 1,000 public health workers across the state of Maryland, District of Columbia, and Virginia bringing them up-to-date with NIMS structures and functions in the context of all-hazards public health emergency response. Additional trainings have been scheduled in Utah for Spring 2007.
- *The Johns Hopkins – Public Health Infrastructure Response Survey Tool (PHIRST)* assessment of health department readiness, with a focus on willingness (rather

than ability) to respond to disasters of various types. This anonymous survey helps to identify training needs (e.g., knowledge of professional roles during a disaster, personal and family preparedness) to ensure workforce readiness and reporting compliance.

The JHCPHP has expertise across all hazards, with particular focus on:

- General professional preparedness and NIMS awareness-level training
- Mental health issues in disasters, psychological first aid, and communication
- Radiological terrorism
- Issues of workforce willingness to respond

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