



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

Public health threats facing Michigan and the nation include the spread of communicable diseases such as avian influenza, at a time when 26% of the state public health workforce in Michigan is eligible to retire in the next few years. Training of the current and future public health workforce is an essential piece in ensuring proper preparation for and response to public health emergencies.

The Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness (MI-CPHP) offers a variety of training resources for local and national audiences geared to better prepare our partners working in governmental public health to respond to public health emergencies. MI-CPHP training products are competency-based, performance driven, targeted to the public health workforce, and designed to enhance individual competency and agency capacity.

Accomplishments

- *Developing surge capacity teams for CDC Quarantine Stations to respond to public health emergencies.* The MI-CPHP has trained the response team for the Detroit Quarantine Station and will provide training this year for U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officers as well as develop an online version of the course.
- *Creating annual tabletop exercises for the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative Conference,* attended by federal, state and local health officials in the US and Canada. The exercises focus on testing communication plans among leaders in Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Wisconsin, and Ontario. Topics have included pandemic influenza, viral hemorrhagic fever, and foodborne illnesses.
- *Assisting Berrien County Health Department, which has two nuclear reactors in its jurisdiction, with needs assessment and training required for the Project Public Health Ready program.* Berrien County was successfully certified as Public Health Ready by the National Association of County and City Health Officials in late 2006.
- *Responding to a request from the National Association of Local Boards of Health to develop competency-based trainings in public health preparedness for Board of Health members nationwide.* Preliminary discussions related to the content of these trainings are underway.
- *Designing a pandemic influenza preparedness exercise to test the functionality of the University of Michigan Executive Officers' Emergency Operations Center.*
- *Coordinating the Public Health Action Support Team (PHAST),* a group of students who actively assist health departments in meeting the demands of public health events, disasters and investigations. Forty PHAST students were deployed to Louisiana and Mississippi in 2006 to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief efforts; an additional thirty students will return to the Gulf Coast in 2007.

Contact

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