



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 Loma Linda University School of Public Health Center for Public Health Preparedness (LLU-SPH CPHP or Center) was created in 2005 to meet the preparedness needs of two of the largest geographic counties in the United States -- Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The Center's aim is to become part of the overall preparedness fabric by developing and implementing management systems that will result in the Loma Linda Health Science University's ability to provide surge capacity for the two-county region.

The LLU-SPH CPHP is currently partnering with each LLU health science school (i.e., medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, allied health, and public health) and the school of science and technology and the school of religion, to identify and/or develop discipline-specific curricula with the overall goal of integrating preparedness modules into 4,000 students' course of study. Deans from each school have unanimously agreed to support this initiative.

Accomplishments

- The LLU-CPHP will *train approximately 200 school nurses, child welfare and attendance personnel, and school administrators* from San Bernardino County on March 13 and 15, 2007 on pandemic influenza planning and preparedness. The workshops will include a table top exercise as well as hands-on assistance with pan flu planning tool kits. Our partner, San Bernardino County Health Department will provide training on surveillance and reporting for epidemiological tracking in the event of an influenza pandemic.
- In addition to partnering with San Bernardino and Riverside county health departments, the Center also partners with other county health departments in the region. In December 2006, the Center *prepared and delivered pandemic influenza educational modules for grades K-12* to Inyo and Nevada county health departments.
- The Center is partnering with the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) to provide training to local health departments throughout the state on *non-pharmaceutical intervention for businesses during an infectious pandemic*. In addition, the Center plays a supportive role in trainings by CDHS to local health departments on the identification and management of special populations during an infectious pandemic.
- The Center *will host a three-day conference on March 6-8, 2007 entitled Pandemic Disease: Prevention and Preparedness*. Health care workers, public health professionals and students, mental health providers, emergency responders, community and faith based representatives are among the anticipated 250 attendees. Continuing education units and credits will be available for the relevant professions.
- The Center is *partnering with Native Americans in California, Arizona, and New Mexico to build GIS capacity in public health assessment and surveillance*. In the summer of 2006, the Center provided 10 weeks of public health GIS courses at the Dine College (Navajo serving) in New Mexico. In February 2007, the Center provided training for the California Tribal Nations, which is comprised of local and regional tribes, on pandemic influenza preparedness.

- The Center is *partnering with faith-based organizations, primarily the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino and Riverside counties*, and hosted a July 2006 workshop in which 20 participants, including parish safety representatives, attended the first emergency preparedness training workshop hosted by the Diocese. The Center in collaboration with the health departments of Riverside and San Bernardino counties provided training on preparedness for all hazards. The Center also: disseminated materials on pandemic influenza to approximately 80 attendees at the Diocese employee's wellness fair in October 2006; participated in pandemic influenza planning and preparedness training of approximately 40 school principals from the Catholic schools in December 2006; and, provided training on the new Interim Pre-pandemic Mitigation Guidelines issued by the CDC in February of 2007 to approximately 200 attendees of the Diocese Disaster Preparedness Symposium in February 2007.
- The LLU-CPHP possesses *expertise in spatial analysis through its state of the art geographic information system (GIS) laboratory*. The GIS lab provides technical assistance to LLU's "Emergency Room of the Future" (i.e., the Discoveries Project) to help establish the standard for integrated health care delivery and management during a crisis situation. The entire southern California region benefits from this emerging technical approach to crisis management. In December 2006, the Center provided GIS training to approximately 45 attendees at the Long Beach Health Department on the use of GIS in public health emergencies.

Testimonials

"Dr. Dyjack and [Loma Linda University's Office of Public Health Practice] provided an incredibly informative presentation to the constituents of the California State University system. He addressed a group of professionals that represented Risk Management, Emergency Response, Human Resources, Workers Compensation, Environmental, Health and Safety. In my opinion, the subject of Risk Communication was by far the most needed information at our conference and it was presented articulately, comprehensively, and with a sense of humor. We are very appreciative of LLU's efforts at outreach and education." (Regina M. Frasca, Director of Risk Management & Safety, Cal State University San Marcos)

"This letter is to express our sincere thanks to you and Loma Linda University for participating in, and helping us make our Employees Wellness Fair on October 26, 2006 a successful event. We hope you will be available to join us at our next Wellness Fair." (Virginia Turner, Human Resources Event Coordinator, Diocese of San Bernardino)

"Once again I wanted to thank you both for the excellent job you two did today during our Principals Meeting. It was a great success. The information you presented was well prepared, concise and informative. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial working relationship between your organization and our Schools, Churches and our Pastoral Center." (Paul Espinosa, Safety Manager, Diocese of San Bernardino)

"Chris, Seth and Rod: Thank you very much for providing the Long Beach Health Department with the GIS training. It was a pleasure meeting you in person Chris and Seth, and it was nice seeing you again Rod. Seth, everyone I spoke to was very impressed with your presentation and I believe this is only the beginning of a long relationship with LLU and the LBDHHS, and ESRI of course. I look forward to working with all of you again very soon. Thank you once again." (Hanan Obeidi, Public Health Emergency Management Coordinator/Public Information Officer, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services)

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