



**School of
Public Health**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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 UC Berkeley Center for Infectious Disease Preparedness (CIDP) prepares frontline public health staff to detect, investigate, and respond to microbial threats through education, training, technical assistance, and research. An advisory committee to CIDP, made up of representatives from local/state health departments who provide ongoing input and feedback, assures that the center's expertise in infectious disease emergencies, epidemiology and surveillance, and designing and evaluating emergency operations exercises is targeted to the extensive documented need of local health departments.

CIDP's programmatic areas include Core Infectious Disease Emergency Readiness (CIDER), Readiness Operations Planning and Exercises (ROPE), Epidemiologic Preparedness and Informatics (EPI), and Special Projects/Technical Assistance. The center's primary target audiences are public health professionals and staff including health officers, deputy health officers, medical epidemiolo-

gists, epidemiologists, disease control investigators, public health nurses, communicable disease controllers, bioterrorism coordinators, health educators, and laboratorians.

Accomplishments

- *Field Epidemiology Training and Evaluation* – Over 1,500 public health professionals have participated in CIDP workshops, regional conferences, and a train-the-trainer disease outbreak curriculum. Based on local demand, CIDP trains on disaster epidemiology, including rapid health assessments, sampling methodology, and partnering with community preparedness groups. CIDP has developed relationships with local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) as a second target audience for rapid assessment trainings. In addition, CIDP's Field Epidemiology Quick Reference Guide is being adopted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as the standard to evaluate epidemiology surveillance and investigation exercises.
- *Vaccination Planning* – In collaboration with the California Department of Health Services, CIDP developed a comprehensive vaccination plan to prioritize target populations (i.e., Medical Care and Emergency Response Professionals) for immunization during the early stages of pandemic influenza in California. The vaccination plan is included as a technical annex in the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan and CIDP's larger Pandemic Influenza Vaccine Prioritization Project is becoming a model for the nation.
- Also, an interagency working group coordinated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security, been tasked with providing guidance to state, local, and tribal planners on pandemic vaccine prioritization as an important part of the National Implementation Plan for pandemic influenza has sought assistance from CIDP and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS), Immunization Branch to determine which target groups in the US will be designated for initial vaccination. CIDP adapted California's prioritization methodology in accordance with national goals and objectives with the results serving as a guide for final prioritization recommendations within the National Pandemic Influenza Implementation Plan.

- *Exercise Design and Evaluation of Regional Trainings* – The CIDP ROPE Program provides direct, interactive training in the design, development, execution, and evaluation of emergency management exercises as defined by the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP). The program prepares the public health workforce for “real-time events” by enabling participants to test their individual skills, operationalize the Incident Command System, and work together in decision-making scenarios. To date, the ROPE Program has trained over 300 individuals in 38 counties and three tribal areas, representing five states. The demand for conferences supported by CDC funding outstretches the dollars provided to move the information out to the critical people tasked with preparedness activities.
- *Cross-Sector Pandemic Preparedness* – In coordination and collaboration with the California Department of Health Services, CIDP is on the planning committee for a Cross-Sector Pandemic Preparedness Conference scheduled for April 20, 2007. The purpose of the conference is to bring together multiple top level participants for a multi-faceted and dynamic opportunity in the identification of gaps and vulnerabilities in current pandemic planning activities. This conference includes the following sectors: Government, Community/Faith-Based Organizations, Education (K-12, community colleges/university), Healthcare, Essential Services, Business, and Public Health. CIDP’s Emergency Operations Specialist is the Lead Sector Coordinator for the Education arm.
 - *University Planning* – Dr. Tomás Aragón is a member of the Chancellor’s Emergency Policy Group and assisting in shaping policy for the University’s response to Pandemic Influenza. Additionally, CIDP’s Emergency Operations Specialist, Cindy Lambdin, RN, MS is in a lead role on the Pandemic Influenza Work Group.
 - *K-12 Planning* – In collaboration and coordination with the California Department of Health Services, CIDP is providing technical expertise and information sharing in the development of a statewide broadcast and tabletop exercise that is intended to enhance collaboration and coordination of schools and public health in response to pandemic influenza.
- *Laboratory Response Network Emergency Response Planning* – In coordination and collaboration with the California Department of Health Services, CIDP is integrated into the development of the Laboratory Response Network Emergency Response Plan. This response plan is a complex and in-depth plan which will be utilized for all state and local laboratories, including private sector laboratories.
- *Local Health Department Technical Support* – Local health departments lack the internal infrastructure and personnel to efficiently and effectively design, develop, execute, and evaluate mandated exercise activities. The CIDP ROPE Program supplies the content and technical experts to assist public health with moving the emergency response planning forward. ROPE Team members sit as content experts on design teams, supply evaluation teams in support of exercise activities, and facilitate workshop and tabletop exercises.
- *Border Health* – In June 2006, CIDP partnered with the California Office of Binational Border Health - Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (COBBH-EWIDS) to provide exercise design training for two border counties and Mexico counterparts. The tabletop exercise was executed in July 2006 with forty-seven (47) participants from the US and Mexico, including simultaneous translation.
- *Webcasts* – Providing our courses/trainings via webcast has provided CIDP the ability to reach out to audiences throughout the country. In 2005-2006, a total of 1,281 individuals viewed either a live or archived webcast of a current course/lecture/training. In addition, individuals continue to access archived webcast of previous courses/lectures/trainings offered from previous years (e.g. Epidemiology and Control of Zoonotic Infections which was offered in Spring 2004, but is still available via webcast).

Contact

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