

Bioterrorism Committee

Purpose Statement

The mission of the Bioterrorism Committee is to provide strategic policy and support for statewide bioterrorism preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities. The committee is tasked with discussing multi-jurisdictional communication barriers, coordination issues, and planning and training needs to better prepare Illinois for an act of bioterrorism. Public health, medical, emergency management, fire service and law enforcement professionals are invited to participate in the various subcommittees to provide a multi-jurisdictional forum to address public health and medical issues associated with an act of bioterrorism.

2008 Key Activities

- The Food and Water Security Workgroup conducted a two-day functional exercise to test the response capabilities of the Illinois Department of Public Health and its partners as outlined in the Illinois Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP) to respond to a bioterrorism incident involving a dairy plant or farm.
- Members of the Food and Water Security Workgroup conducted a table-top exercise in November for Illinois Veterinary Emergency Response Team (IVERT) members that simulated an outbreak of a foreign animal disease. The exercise was held in conjunction with the annual IVERT Conference on Nov. 6 in Lombard.
- Three food emergency response investigation trainings were conducted with a total of over 150 attendees. The training included how to conduct an epidemiological investigation, sample collection and other aspects of an investigation. The training included using the Principles and Procedures for Investigating Suspected Outbreaks of Foodborne and Waterborne Illness manual and the Food Emergency Response Plan.
- Illinois Medical Emergency Response Team (IMERT) deployments or pre-deployments
 - Northern Illinois University memorial service
 - Quincy area flooding
 - election night, Chicago
 - CERFP training
 - hazmat validations
 - Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) drill





- The Illinois Nurse Volunteer Emergency Needs Team (INVENT) designed a multi-agency drill and test of the Illinois Help Line. Partnering with Illinois Poison Control, Emergency Medical Services for Children, and the Stritch School of Medicine, INVENT conducted a drill to test the capability, efficiency, and capacity of the helpline. Twenty-nine volunteer call takers from INVENT and the Loyola School of Medicine fielded 427 phone calls in three hours.

Volunteer callers were provided with a script and call time. The scenario was an anthrax attack and the inherent issues of symptom recognition, medication dosage and administration, including pediatric doses.

- IMERT/INVENT, along with staff from Carbondale Memorial Hospital, set up an alternate care site and treated 125 volunteer patient actors as part of the I-QUAKE exercise in October.



- Finalized development of the following products:
 - *Tamiflu™ instructional brochures*. This brochure outlines how to create a pediatric liquid suspension from an adult strength Tamiflu capsule if insufficient quantities of suspension are available during a pandemic flu event. Translated versions of this brochure are pending in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, Korean, Polish, Russian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Spanish, Tagalog, Ukrainian and Urdu.
 - *Regional Pediatric Resource Directory*. Resource guides have been developed for each of the 11 EMS regions containing hospital information related to PCCC/EDAP/SEDP designation, PICU, NICU, trauma center and transport team resources/contact information. In addition, burn center, poison control center and local health department information is accessible in these guides. Annual updates will be made.
 - *JumpSTART Train-the-Trainer Workshop* – JumpSTART is an objective MCI triage system that parallels the START system and addresses the developmental and physiological differences of children. This train-the-trainer program grew out of an educational presentation developed by Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago. It



reviews pediatric MCI triage concepts and use of JumpSTART. With permission from Children's Memorial Hospital, the workshop materials were adapted to be more relevant statewide and to include SMART triage system, CSHCN, state demographics and other information. The revised workshop includes instructor materials (START/JumpSTART cards, and a CD containing PowerPoint slides/lecture notes, handouts, evaluation form, pre/post test). From May–November 2008, approximately 250 healthcare professionals participated in this workshop.



- *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Evacuation Guidelines.* Evacuation of an NICU is a high risk activity and requires a carefully planned approach due to the fragile medical condition of the infants, the various medical technology/devices they depend upon for survival, and the overall surge capacity/transfer pattern in managing an increase in NICU patients. These guidelines outline a consensus-based consistent approach to this process.
- The Illinois SNS program maintained a high rating on the SNS Assessment. In past years, it was noted as a “Green” rating; during the last two years, it has been noted as a percentage score. In 2008, Illinois received a 96 SNS score out of 100.
- Nine sites were identified throughout the state as Illinois Drop (I-DROP) Sites for first responders. Such sites are designated for state critical responders to receive emergency medical supplies for themselves and their families.



- The committee used GIS software to conduct an analysis of Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) locations and strengths as well as recruitment targets for county health departments. Presentations were given in each IDPH region in the state to inform health departments about volunteer initiatives and support for their team development. There are currently 45 registered MRCs in the state with a total of 4,500 volunteers.



2009 Initiatives

- Review after-action report from Illinois Food Emergency Response Plan functional exercise and develop corrective action plan to address identified weaknesses.
- Develop and distribute a bio-security planning template for veterinary practitioners in Illinois. The purpose of the template is to provide guidance for reducing the risk of disease spread and transmission.
- Conduct regional meetings with Illinois livestock producers to increase their awareness of agro terrorism, bio-security and foreign animal disease issues.
- IMERT has targeted two new training initiatives for 2009. The first is the development of a simulator lab at Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) that will provide a hands-on, measurable method for patient assessment and treatment. The second initiative is to develop an alternate care site training module that will address logistical and medical treatment issues likely to be confronted by care providers in an austere environment.
- Develop a report utilizing data collected from the 2008 Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Hospital Survey to outline pediatric capabilities and resources within Illinois hospitals. When finalized, this report will be made available to all hospitals within Illinois and other interested parties. The report may assist in identifying potential future workgroup projects.
- Recruit three facilities, representing northern, central and southern Illinois, with Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) capabilities to serve as pilot sites utilizing the *NICU Evacuation Guidelines* developed in 2008. Evacuation drills/tabletop exercises will be conducted at these facilities to evaluate the practical implementation of these guidelines.
- The SNS Plan will be tested in June 2009 as part of the Central Prairie Full Scale Exercise. Approximately 60 local health departments and 40 hospitals are expected to participate in the exercise, in which the central receiving, staging and shipping site will be tested.
- The group will focus on integration with existing Volunteer Management Support Teams (VMST) and their task of managing spontaneous volunteers. Coordination of these VMST units and emergency management and public health is an important initiative that will be conducted in coordination with the ITTF Volunteer and Donations Committee.
- The state employee responder workforce will continue to be identified and developed. There are many medical personnel working for the state of Illinois who do not traditionally serve in emergency response roles but could be a major benefit to the operations of local and state response systems strained under the surge needs that result from large-scale public health emergencies.

