

Public Health Emergencies



A public health emergency includes disease outbreaks, biological or chemical emergencies, and natural disasters.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourage you to prepare an all-hazards emergency kit that could be used during any disaster.



A bioterrorism attack is the deliberate release of viruses, bacteria or other germs (called “agents”) used to cause illness or death in people, animal or plants.



Biological agents can be spread through the air, through water or in food.

Terrorists may use biological agents because they can be extremely difficult to detect and may not cause illness for several hours to several days.



Some bioterrorism agents, like the smallpox virus, can be spread from person to person and some, like anthrax, cannot.

Your local public health department has probably been working hard on making plans to distribute medications and give vaccinations to the general public during a public health emergency.



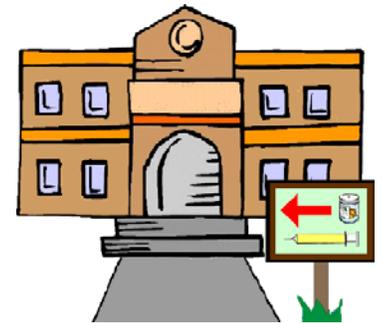
Pandemic influenza planning



You’ve probably heard about the potential for a “bird flu” outbreak around the world. Many communities have developed

teams to develop response plans for a possible influenza pandemic such as this. These groups are often made up of representatives from local government, public health agencies, hospitals, nursing homes, university/college health agencies, mass care facilities and clinics.

In a public health emergency, clinics may be set up to provide vaccinations or medications to the public.



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