

Division of State and Local Readiness

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

PHEP Supplemental Funding for Ebola and Other Infectious Diseases CDC-RFA-TP12-12010302SUPP15 Interim Guidelines for Use of Supplemental Funds for Zika Preparedness and Response

February 5, 2016

Following are suggested activities that are within the scope of the supplemental guidance and may assist awardees in overall preparedness and response to Ebola and other infectious diseases such as Zika virus. Funding cannot be used for activities already covered by other federal grants or cooperative agreements. Specifically, PHEP awardees must ensure that PHEP activities do not duplicate activities funded by CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases cooperative agreement or ASPR's Hospital Preparedness Program cooperative agreement.

1. Community Preparedness

- Develop jurisdictional continuity of operations (CONOPS) plans describing Zika virus disease preparedness and response activities using the framework established by CDC's overarching response plan.
- Review recent Ebola and other incident after-action reports and in-progress reviews and associated improvement plans and develop appropriate corrective action plans; develop exercises and other activities that test corrective actions.
- Update operational plans for responding to Ebola and other infectious diseases and ensure procedures are in place that support public health's ability to collaborate with other necessary response partners including but not limited to emergency medical services (EMS), emergency management, environmental health, waste management, and the healthcare system.
- Improve or remediate any gaps in operational readiness identified during the Ebola response and develop plans and strategies to improve operational readiness for any infectious disease including infectious diseases that require the dispensing and distribution of medical countermeasures and other medical materiel.
- Develop and test plans that address waste management and environmental remediation associated with Ebola and other infectious diseases.
- Assess the jurisdiction's public health and healthcare system training needs; provide materials and facilitate training designed to improve the integration of the public health and healthcare response to Ebola and other infectious diseases including infection control and surveillance activities.



- Participate in the design and approval of the jurisdiction's plan for healthcare response including the selection of hospitals to serve as specialized treatment centers (if applicable), assessment hospitals, and frontline hospitals for highly infectious diseases. This planning should integrate with the ASPR HPP program guidance for interdisciplinary consistency. Surveillance, monitoring, patient referral, and infection control activities should clearly and consistently connect with the jurisdiction's healthcare response plan.
- Partner with the state's HAI multidisciplinary advisory group (or similar infection control groups within the state) to develop a statewide plan for improving infection control within the healthcare system.
- Conduct a multiagency exercise (tabletop or functional) that tests coordination with the healthcare sector, EMS providers, and emergency management, such as information sharing, patient referral, and laboratory specimen collection and submission or exercises that test other potential operational gaps. Jurisdictions that have participated in responses to Ebola or other infectious diseases may use this experience to satisfy this requirement provided the jurisdiction develops an after-action report and improvement plan.

2. Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation

- Establish a framework for handling, tracking, and following Zika-positive cases to ensure collection of relevant demographic, epidemiologic, and clinical data. Ensure confirmed Zika virus disease cases are reported by state health departments to CDC through [ArboNET](#) or the [National Electronic Disease Surveillance System](#) (NEDSS)
- Work with jurisdictional partners to establish surveillance for Guillain Barré syndrome (GBS) and reporting of additional neurologic illnesses that may be associated with Zika virus.

Maternal and Child Health Surveillance and Response

- Collaborate with partners to coordinate the training and support for obstetric providers to increase screening for symptoms of Zika virus infection and adherence to the CDC guidelines for monitoring pregnant women.
- Work with partners to develop and disseminate training and educational tools specifically for health care providers of women of reproductive age in counseling patients on (1) preconception care practices to reduce unintended pregnancies through linkage to and provision of effective contraception if desired, and also to reduce risk of sexual transmission of Zika virus and (2) reducing mosquito exposure in women trying to get pregnant and in pregnant women.
- Ensure surveillance systems have an active pregnancy surveillance system component, including database, reporting requirements, reporting infrastructure, and medical record abstraction methods, to actively monitor pregnant women with confirmed Zika virus infection.
- Work with jurisdictional partners to distribute toolkits and other critical supplies to women of reproductive age to help minimize mosquito exposure.



Rapid Birth Defects Monitoring and Follow-up

- Work with vital records departments to update birth certificate requirements so that microcephaly is added to the list of congenital anomalies collected on birth certificates and ensure the information is reported to the National Center for Health Statistics.
- Coordinate efforts with partners to provide clinical training and outreach to pediatric providers ensuring that they are familiar with CDC guidelines and can evaluate infants with possible congenital Zika virus infection in accordance with these guidelines.
- Ensure hospitals are trained on appropriate specimen collection and pathology recommended for infants or fetal deaths with possible congenital Zika virus infection.
- Support healthcare partners to ensure infants with possible congenital Zika virus infection are evaluated in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Work with partners to establish Zika registries and provide support for data analyses to evaluate the birth defects data collected and set up programs for ongoing monitoring of data.

Vector Surveillance and Control

- Organize jurisdictional teams to conduct mosquito surveillance and control around homes of infected patients and ensure laboratory capacity for testing of mosquitoes collected during surveillance.
- Develop plans to increase public announcements, guidance for personal protection and mosquito source reduction. Identify risk communications liaisons to assist with messaging for vector control.
- Build and sustain effective state and local public health systems to detect and monitor infectious diseases, including novel diseases, highly infectious avian influenza A viruses, etc. Activities may include improving surveillance systems and partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to monitor poultry workers exposed to avian influenza to reduce morbidity and mortality, dispense antiviral medications, vaccinate etc.
- Develop and implement electronic information systems that aid in the investigation of Ebola and other highly infectious diseases.
- Support One Health initiatives that prevent the transmission of zoonotic diseases in humans.
- States that border Canada or Mexico should assess and update as needed plans that foster collaboration with their neighboring Mexican states and Canadian provinces to:
 - ensure the provision of rapid and effective laboratory confirmation of urgent infectious disease case reports.
 - improve surveillance capabilities at the state, local, and tribal levels to determine the need to launch epidemiologic investigations,
 - improve cross-border information sharing
 - share surveillance (including laboratory) data, and
 - appropriately train public health personnel for these activities.



- Sustain effective state and local monitoring programs for travelers from Ebola-impacted countries with a goal of consistently monitoring 100% of travelers. Programs should include activities that assure that persons who develop symptoms consistent with Ebola are rapidly referred to the appropriate level of care for possible testing and treatment. Refer to [Interim U.S. Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure](#) for additional information.
- Develop and implement jurisdictional programs to mitigate and prevent transmission of Ebola and other infectious diseases through effective management of all persons under investigation (PUI) for and those with confirmed cases of Ebola and other infectious diseases. This includes including collaborating with healthcare system partners and coalitions to establish a tiered approach for patient care.

3. Public Health Laboratory Testing

- Support and advance Laboratory Response Network (LRN) activities including:
 - Implementing molecular (PCR) and serological (IgM ELISA) testing for Zika at state laboratories
 - Determining maximum capacity and establishing prioritization criteria and contingency plans for testing if maximum capacity is reached.
- Support training and proficiency in diagnostic testing for Zika at state public health laboratories
- Public health agencies must ensure their jurisdictions have the ability to quickly, safely, and accurately perform laboratory testing on suspected Ebola virus and other infectious disease specimens as well as manage any surges of specimen testing and analysis. Laboratory testing must be conducted according to CDC's [Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport, Testing, and Submission for Persons under Investigation for Ebola Virus Disease in the United States](#) or other updated guidance from CDC on highly infectious diseases. Awardees should support and advance Laboratory Response Network (LRN) activities including:
 - 24/7/365 availability of reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing for Ebola and other infectious diseases in designated LRN facilities, according to the methods and reporting requirements promulgated by CDC or LRN.
 - Appropriate collection and handling of hospital and other clinical laboratory specimens that require testing and shipping to LRN or CDC laboratories designated for testing.
 - Acquiring and maintaining at least two (2) LRN-approved RT-PCR instruments that will replace the existing standard LRN instrument (ABI 7500 DX), as needed.
 - Adherence to required infection control precautions and practices, specifically for handling blood-borne pathogens, when collecting and handling specimens. Support provision of specialized training, including but not limited to laboratory safety and diagnostic methods.
 - Rapidly reporting test results between the laboratory, the public health department, and healthcare facilities to support public health investigations.



4. Emergency Public Information and Warning/Information Sharing

- Ensure jurisdictional vector control personnel have the most up to date information on affected regions. In addition, provide educational materials and up-to-date messaging to physicians regarding the Zika virus infection, particularly for pregnant women for the timely identification of symptomatic patients.
- Coordinate information sharing among public health agency staff, healthcare providers, maternal/child providers and key partners, and the public, particular pregnant women and other at-risk populations.
- Prepare to conduct rapid assessments (e.g., focus groups) of existing messaging and communications activities (e.g., web-based, social media) related to prevention of mosquito-borne diseases (e.g., Zika, chikungunya, dengue), identify gaps, and develop a culturally appropriate risk communications work plan targeting pregnant woman and other at-risk populations.
- Begin to coordinate communication messages, products, and programs with key partners and stakeholders to harmonize response in your jurisdiction.

5. Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

- Develop plans to disseminate Zika preparedness kits to at-risk populations.
- Develop and implement protocols for rapid and appropriate public health actions, such as controlled movement, isolation, quarantine, or public health orders.
- Review and update as needed state quarantine and isolation laws, regulations, and procedures to ensure current processes account for 21st century practices. Funds may also be used to develop training and educational materials for local health departments and judicial officials.
- Develop plans that address procedures for designating and funding safe housing of persons subject to restricted movement and other public health orders.
- Ensure plans are in place that support coordination among the public health department, CDC quarantine stations, and hospitals in the jurisdiction during responses to infectious disease outbreaks and assure appropriate information sharing and jurisdictional response to a communicable disease.
- Coordinate appropriate environmental cleaning and waste management in community settings (other than healthcare settings) where those persons with probable or confirmed Ebola or other infectious diseases have been located.
- Develop and implement protocols for rapid and appropriate public health actions, such as controlled movement, isolation, quarantine, or public health orders. Plans should include:



- Alternate travel plans for individuals subject to controlled movement who are not allowed to travel by long-distance commercial conveyances, such as aircraft, ship, bus, or train; how jurisdictions will ensure permitted travel is conducted by noncommercial conveyances.
 - Whether federal public health travel restrictions (Do Not Board) will be used to enforce controlled movement.
 - Whether specific community locations will be designated for safe housing of persons subject to restricted movement and the role of public health orders and corresponding compensation and support to be provided to individuals under a public health order.
 - The role of public health in coordinating with healthcare facilities and jurisdictional authorities to ensure the separation (through isolation or quarantine) of an individual or group who is reasonably believed to be infected with Ebola from those who are not infected to prevent the possible spread to others who have not been exposed.
- Work with CDC’s Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) to screen travelers in their states who have entered the United States via cleared flights, broken itineraries, or land and other border crossings and have not undergone enhanced screening at one of the five airports conducting enhanced entry screening of travelers from Ebola-affected countries. Awardees will be required to conduct an initial screenings with such travelers over the telephone, in person, or to designate appropriate public health outreach workers in local jurisdictions.
 - Support ongoing communication between the jurisdiction and its CDC quarantine station as applicable regarding coordination with identified hospitals that would support jurisdictional response to a communicable disease.

For further information, see [Interim U.S. Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure](#), including the application of movement restrictions when indicated.

6. Responder (Worker) Safety and Health

- Collaborate with healthcare coalitions and healthcare systems to assure the development of a strategy to assure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, laboratory personnel, EMS, and environmental services staff; work with suppliers and coalitions to develop statewide plans for caching or redistribution/sharing. This strategy should be integrated with healthcare coalitions’ system plans for purchasing, caching, and distributing PPE in conjunction with HPP guidance.
- Purchase PPE for public health workers. Other federal funds will support PPE purchases for healthcare staff and health care coalition members.
- Assist and assure that healthcare workers, laboratory personnel, and environmental services staff are trained in the proper use of PPE including safe removal to prevent self-contamination or contamination of others, and that contaminated equipment is disposed of appropriately.



- Collaborate with the healthcare sector to assure that clinicians are adequately trained on appropriate cleaning and disinfecting procedures to avoid cross contamination.
- Assure compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations to transport contaminated items for off-site disposal. Establishing on-site disposal, such as autoclave capability, is also acceptable.
- Collaborate with the healthcare sector to assure compliance on the safe handling of human remains that may contain Ebola virus or other highly infectious diseases by following decontamination measures according to CDC [Guidance for Safe Handling of Human Remains of Ebola Patients in U.S. Hospitals and Mortuaries](#).
- Coordinate information sharing among public health agency staff, healthcare personnel, airport entry screening personnel, EMS providers, and the public.
- Develop risk communication messages, plans, and notification systems targeting the public and the healthcare sector regarding risks to the public, risk of transmission, and protective measures regarding Ebola and other infectious diseases.

7. Medical Surge

- Collaborate with healthcare system partners to design, develop, and implement a tiered network of hospitals within the state (or jurisdiction) capable of providing patient care for those with Ebola and other infectious diseases and a plan to refer and transport PUIs to the appropriate location. This will include state selection of hospitals to serve as specialized treatment centers (if applicable), assessment hospitals, and frontline hospitals. Refer to [Interim Guidance for U.S. Hospital Preparedness for Patients under Investigation or with Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease: A Framework for a Tiered Approach](#) for more information.

8. Emergency Operations Coordination

- Build the operational readiness capacity of core public health personnel in state, local, and territorial jurisdictions through development and implementation of staff training and exercise programs to support integrated response teams.

