IN AN EMERGENCY, YOU CAN’T RESPOND EFFECTIVELY IF YOU’RE NOT READY

WHY IT MATTERS

Every community in the U.S. must be ready to respond to a pandemic, natural disaster, or chemical or radiological release. Our action – or inaction – in this area directly impacts the health of the American people and is a matter of national security.

A WELL PREPARED COUNTRY:

- Can stop outbreaks before they become epidemics
- Can get help to people affected by natural disasters
- Can quickly recognize and respond to terrorist attacks
- Is fortified against the expected, and can quickly pivot to handle the unexpected

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
READY FOR EMERGENCIES
WHY CDC?

CDC’s Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response is uniquely positioned to:

PREPARE
We make sure people are trained, systems are functioning, and critical medicines and supplies are available before an emergency strikes.

RESPOND
We combine emergency management expertise and the world’s best scientists to monitor and respond to emergencies 24/7.

CONNECT
We have a track record of working effectively with state and local health departments, federal partners, and across CDC to get fast results and communicate accurate and timely information when lives are at stake.

PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS:

BIOLICAL THREATS
like viruses (flu or other infectious diseases), bacteria, parasites, fungi or their toxins that can cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants.

NATURAL DISASTERS
like heat waves, snow or ice storms, earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods

CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL MATERIALS
that if released accidentally or intentionally could create large-scale public health emergencies, especially in densely populated areas.

READY FOR EMERGENCIES

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS:
Bringing resources and experts together to respond to emergencies quickly and to scale

STRATEGIC NATIONAL STOCKPILE:
Making sure critical medicines and supplies can get to the right place at the right time

STATE AND LOCAL READINESS:
Ensuring states and local public health systems are prepared to respond to all types of health threats

LABORATORY RESPONSE:
Building capacity to quickly detect, diagnose, and treat those who are impacted by health emergencies

SAFEGUARDING RESEARCH:
Helping to ensure important scientific research in laboratories with biological agents is conducted as safely and securely as possible

GLOBAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:
Protecting the U.S. from deadly and costly public health crises, whether they begin here or elsewhere

February 2017

www.cdc.gov/phpr/whatwedo