



Vision

People Protected – Public Health Prepared

Mission

Prevent death, disability, disease and injury associated with urgent health threats by improving preparedness of the public health system, the healthcare delivery system and the public through excellence in science and services.

Why Was COTPER Created?

Following September 11 and the subsequent anthrax release in 2001, public health preparedness was pushed to the forefront of science, law and national security. As public health took center stage, there were many issues that the Agency's Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response effort had to address.

In August 2002, COTPER was established to help focus on public health issues including:

- **Intense focus on terrorism preparedness and response.** The threat of terrorism continues to dominate the federal government and public health agendas.
- **Increased national and global visibility.** The CDC/ATSDR role in public health policy has grown significantly and demands that the Agency assume new roles and relationships, including partnerships with law enforcement, intelligence and military.
- **New Management demands.** The current Administration has introduced a number of key initiatives through the President's Management Agenda (PMA) with specific expectations for performance and the management of resources.
- **Existing business needs.** In spite of each new demand placed upon the Agency, its other public health responsibilities remain priorities and require continued attention and dedication of resources. These priorities must not be overshadowed by terrorism.

What Does COTPER Provide?

The Agency has defined the following services that COTPER provides to the multi-CIO model for terrorism preparedness and emergency response work:

Strategic Direction

Provide strategic direction for the Agency to support terrorism preparedness and emergency response efforts.

Accountability

Ensure systems are in place to monitor performance and manage accountability.

Resource Distribution

Secure and position human and financial resources to support activities.

Public Relations

Serve as spokesperson for CDC/ATSDR Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response Activities.

Management

Oversee and manage Agency-wide preparedness and response programs.

What is COTPER's Benefit?

COTPER's collaboration and coordination with individual CIOs achieves a Terrorism Preparedness and Response system that integrates sound management principles and superior technical expertise. This integrated model yields several benefits:

- Coordinated application of scientific and technical expertise
- Coordinated, Agency-wide terrorism preparedness and response priorities
- Effective methods of program evaluation and performance management
- Direct relationship with the Financial Management Office to monitor and guide resource utilization
- Concerted emergency response operations including the Strategic National Stockpile and the Directors Emergency Operations Center
- Central point of contact for key preparedness and response partners

CDC's Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response Effort

What is the Agency's Role?

As public health's role expands to new threats, the responsibility of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) remains steadfast – to protect people's health.

The Agency must now guide public health in addressing the dangers posed by chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear and mass trauma terrorist emergencies. Only by doing so will we continue to fulfill our ultimate, agency-wide vision and mission:

Agency-Wide Vision

Health People in a Healthy World – Through Prevention

Agency-Wide Mission

To Promote Health and Quality of Life by Preventing and Controlling Disease, Injury and Disability

What Programs make up COTPER?

Division of Business Services

As a result of the Futures Initiative, the Coordination Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) has established the Division of Business Services (DBS). This new division will support resource management, planning, organizing, and day to day operations of COTPER's Divisions: Office of the Director (OD), Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL), Division of Strategic National Stockpile (DSNS), Division of Emergency Operations (DEO), Division of Select Agents and Toxins (DSAT).

Division of State and Local Readiness

In 1999, CDC/ATSDR began a program of providing technical assistance and funding to state, local and territorial public health departments to develop public health infrastructure, capacity and plans to respond to events of terrorism and related public health emergencies. In 2002, shortly after the events of September 11 and the anthrax attacks, this program grew rapidly into the Agency's State and Local Preparedness Program housed within the new formed Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response. Given national security interest in public health preparedness, the State and Local Preparedness Program's Cooperative Agreement has grown significantly in importance and now includes 62 grantees.

Division of Select Agents and Toxins

CDC's Select Agent Program regulates the possession of biological agents and toxins that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety. CDC/ATSDR maintains accordance with the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-188) to carry out regulations focused on restricting unauthorized entry to laboratory areas and preventing unauthorized removal of designated biological agents from a laboratory setting.

Division of Emergency Operations

The DEO serves as the CDC/ATSDR's central public health incident management center for coordinating and supporting the staff, information, communications, and security issues associated with CDC's response to public health disasters, emergencies, disease outbreaks, and investigations.

Division of Strategic National Stockpile

The SNS is a national repository of antibiotics, chemical antidotes, antitoxins, life-support medications, IV administration, airway maintenance supplies, and medical/surgical items. The SNS is designed to supplement and re-supply state and local public health agencies in the event of a national emergency anywhere and at anytime within the U.S. or its territories.