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.

Public Health Threats

- Biological 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 cause large-scale public health emergencies, especially in densely populated areas

A Well Prepared Country

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

Why CDC?

Through the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, CDC can:

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.

Ready for Emergencies

- When every minute counts
- Every response is local
- A wise investment in protecting America’s health
- Keeping lifesaving research safe and secure
- On the front lines of America’s health
- Disease detectives no borders

During Emergencies, CDC:

- Rapidly deploys scientific experts
- Coordinates the delivery of supplies and equipment to the incident site
- Monitors response activities
- Provides resources to state and local public health departments
- Disseminates timely and accurate information

CDC can:

- Stop outbreaks before they become epidemics
- Get help to people affected by natural disasters
- Be fortified against the unexpected
- Work 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