

Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center - Overview

The Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (UMPERLC) is a training center focused on providing preparedness and response training for the public health workforce. The UMPERLC mission aims to prepare the state and local public health workforce with the necessary skills to prepare for, promptly identify, and respond to any other public health emergencies. Since its initiation, the Center has established itself as a partner in contributing to the capacity for development of the preparedness workforce in the Upper Midwest. It has facilitated strong partnerships with public health organizations with state and local health departments, homeland security, and emergency management, which has been defined by the state health department as a critical partner. These public safety organizations, including state and county-based emergency management agencies, are critical partners in forming an effective, collective response to current and emerging public health threats.

Partners

The Center and its program partners in Iowa and Nebraska develop, deliver, and evaluate training programs for public health professionals. UMPERLC primarily serves the states of Iowa and Nebraska. Because the majority of UMPERLC's trainings and resources are available via the internet, they are accessible anywhere, anytime.

National Network of Learning Centers

UMPERLC is part of a network of training centers, called Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Centers (PERLC), which is funded by the CDC. The PERLC serve in a national capacity to meet the preparedness and response training and education needs of the US public health workforce. The PERLC provide competency-based training to state, local, and tribal public health authorities within defined service areas. In doing so, PERLC provide specialized training, education, and resources, in addition to exercising consultations for partners on request. PERLC are acknowledged for their unique capacity to adapt and tailor preparedness training to meet stakeholder requirements. The PERLC are established within CEPH-accredited schools of public health and serve as an important national resource to meet the requirements of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), Sec. 304 (d).

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror07/PAHPAPublicLaw.pdf>



Key Activities

UMPERLC offers a range of services including training and course development; media production and graphic design; and web development:

- **Online Trainings and Toolkits**
Online trainings and toolkits for audiences of all levels of expertise and backgrounds are available.
- **Media Production and Graphic Design**
The Media Production and Graphics department offers video recording, video editing, live event webcasting, motion graphics, DVD/CD production, and graphic design.
- **Web Development**
UMPERLC provides technical assistance in web development, content management, data-driven applications, and online media production to state and local public agencies and partners.



Key Accomplishments

The UMPERLC partners with several state agencies and non-profit organizations within Iowa and Nebraska to address the states' preparedness training needs. Examples of these partnerships include:

- **State Health Department** – UMPERLC jointly sponsors the Prepare Iowa Learning Management System with the Iowa Department of Public Health. This joint effort has led to a more unified preparedness training effort in the state.
- **Primary Care Association of Iowa**-UMPERLC provided training and resources to the Primary Care Association of Iowa, and its affiliated Community Health Centers (CHC), to strengthen capacity for preparedness and emergency response. CHCs serve as an important resource for local and state health departments in a disaster.
- **Laboratorians**-Partnered with the State Hygienic Laboratory at The University of Iowa to provide interactive, virtual Just-In-Time trainings (e.g., Anatomy of a Foodborne Outbreak, Electronic Bioterrorism Workshop for Sentinel Labs).
- **Veterinarians**-Partnered with Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, and Center for Food Security and Public Health to develop a "Public Health Emergency Preparedness" course for practicing veterinarians completing their MPH at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.
- **Local Public Health and Healthcare** – UMPERLC worked with the Iowa Department of Public Health to develop electronic Risk Assessments Tools for local public health and healthcare. These will be released in late July.

Partnership Produces Time-Saving Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training

Discussions with partners at Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management revealed that the organization attempted to balance the necessity of HSEEP training with the heavy demands on workers' schedules. By streamlining the material, UMPERLC was able to condense the class into a model that can be offered in 2½- or 3-day formats.

Iowa Homeland Security has begun using the condensed course for training county emergency managers as well as other partners in local public health agencies. According to David Hempen, Preparedness Bureau Chief, the revised course is available to other states, and will be used to develop a national course. For more information, visit Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management's training site at:

<http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training/>.



Post-Disaster Psychological Recovery: Public Health and Beyond

The UMPERLC developed scenario-based training to help clergy and other responders implement the Post-Disaster Psychological Recovery (PFA) model. Using real-life situations, users navigate the process of responding to the psychological needs of flood victims. Beginning with reflective listening practices, learners complete an Immediate Needs assessment and prioritize intervention and disposition resources. Furthermore, they learn how to properly triage, refer, and act as an advocate for the affected person. The online scenario will be available to the public when UMPERLC launches its new Learning Management System in the summer of 2012: <http://www.prepareiowa.com>.

Contact Information

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CDC Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Centers (PERLC)

For more information about the PERLC program please email us at perlcprogram@cdc.gov or visit our website at <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/perlc.htm>.