

Public Health

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Planning and preparing our County for potential large-scale public health emergencies requires everyone's attention and collaboration. The JCDHE Emergency Preparedness and Response Program with 4 staff members has worked to improve partnerships, build relationships and integrate essential public health response measures, roles and responsibilities into the existing emergency response structure in the County.

While public health has always aimed at preventing and responding to health threats in our communities, it was not until 2002 that local public health emergency preparedness became mandated and funded in varying degrees across the nation. "The more we educate and work together with the public and our partners, the better off we will be when faced with a public health emergency" said Jody Erwin, JCDHE and Regional Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

Here are some of the program's most notable accomplishments in the past year:

- The JCDHE Emergency Preparedness and Response Program is now located in the same building with the County's Office of Emergency Management greatly enhancing opportunities to work and train together. In addition, in July 2007, the health department and the Sheriff's office worked together to effectively minimize and control an E. Coli disease outbreak at the jail.
- Established agreements with local partners and businesses to push medications to their staff, families or students during a mass prophylaxis of

the entire population.

- Performed Whoop It Up II, an exercise to test operations and logistics for running a mass prophylaxis clinic.
- Revised our agency all hazards plan and many of the supporting, incident specific annexes.
- Participated in a hazardous materials exercise with County Emergency Management.
- Trained nurse volunteers on the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), and included them in exercise.
- Participated in Clear Creek, Gilpin

County, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) mass prophylaxis exercises.

- Assisted JCDHE Epidemiology staff with Norovirus outbreak at local high school.
- Performed numerous trainings for JCDHE Incident Management Team staff.
- Actively involved in planning meetings for the Democratic National Convention (DNC).
- Developed an agency mass fatality plan and a county coroner mass fatality plan.
- Updated our Health Alert Network (HAN) to include all county physicians and dozens of nursing homes.

Emergency Medical Services



Law Enforcement



Fire



Federal, State, Local & Tribal Governments



PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES... WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES

Public Health



Schools



Hospitals



Media, Private Industry & the Public



Everyone has a role in planning and preparing for public health emergencies. Are you prepared?



**Jefferson County Department of Health & Environment
Emergency Preparedness & Response Program**

<http://health.jeffco.us>

Public Health Ready Project



EMERGENCY

Throughout 2008, JCDHE will continue efforts toward becoming a Public Health Ready local health department. Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a collaborative program between the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Center for Health Policy, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Project Public Health Ready aims to prepare local governmental public health agencies to respond to emergencies and to protect the public's health through a competency-based training process. The program requires JCDHE to fulfill certain criteria in order to be recognized as Public Health Ready. The criteria focus on three key areas: emergency preparedness planning, workforce competency development, and demonstration of all-hazards readiness through exercise simulations. The project will help JCDHE staff continue to become more prepared for emergencies; integrate emergency preparedness into daily public health; and better understand our unique roles and responsibilities in a public health emergency.

For more information on what it means to become Project Public Health Ready please visit the website at:

www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr.cfm



**JCDHE trains
with community
partners and
nurse
volunteers.**

Plan

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes. Learn how you can plan to protect your loved ones.

Learn More

www.hhs.gov/disasters/discussion/planrespond/plan/index.html

Prepare

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival.

Learn More

www.hhs.gov/disasters/discussion/planrespond/preparedness/index.html

Respond

When disaster strikes, the most important action you can take is to respond. Learn how you can respond more effectively to specific types of emergencies.

Learn More

www.hhs.gov/disasters/discussion/planrespond/respond/index.html



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