

Infectious Disease Emergency Response (IDER) Toolkit

Infectious disease emergencies may include naturally occurring outbreaks, emerging infectious diseases, and bioterrorism. Most resources available for training or planning within the Incident Command System (ICS) structure do not address public health functions in detail and omit operational guidance for a public health response.

Drawing on extensive public health preparedness activities, experiences from the current H1N1 outbreak, as well as survey findings and discussions with various health departments throughout the country, the San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Practice Center is developing an Infectious Disease Emergency Response (IDER) Toolkit to address these gaps. The IDER Toolkit will provide local health departments with guidance and functional forms and templates that can be used to develop and operationalize a NIMS-compliant response plan for infectious disease emergencies (IDE) at the local level.

The plan integrates key elements of communicable disease control and prevention with emergency management concepts, and outlines key functions and roles during an infectious disease emergency response. The plan is modular, providing flexibility to allow for different sections to be activated depending on the nature of the emergency and epidemiology of the disease; scalable, to account for a response timeline that may range from a few days to a few months; and public health-specific in its adaption of ICS structure to meet the needs of a public health response.

The IDER Toolkit will contain:

- **A core plan** that addresses the functions that may be activated to address an IDE event
- **Situation-specific annexes** that address respiratory aerosol transmissible diseases, bioterrorism, biological detection in the environment, and other scenarios
- **Modifiable templates and forms** including public health-specific ICS forms, job action sheets, and organizational charts
- **Training materials** that offer specific guidance on how local health departments may use toolkit materials to supplement their current emergency response plans

The San Francisco Bay Area APC represents a partnership between the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the UC Berkeley Center for Infectious Disease & Emergency Readiness. Funded by NACCHO in collaboration with the CDC, the San Francisco Bay Area APC serves as a resource to the public health community by developing and sharing tools and materials that will advance public health preparedness.

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