I. PURPOSE

This Annex discusses the provision of Public Health services during emergency situations. Factors such as disease control, water quality, and sanitation are considered.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situation

1. Complications affecting the health of the community including diseases, sanitation problems, contamination of food and water may occur as a result of emergencies.

2. Summit County Public Health is located at 1867 West Market Street, Akron, Ohio and is a County Public Health Agency serving all communities in Summit County.

3. This annex discusses the provision of Public Health services during emergency situations, including large scale disasters impacting the health of the citizens in Summit County. Factors such as disease control, water quality, and sanitation are considered.

B. Assumptions

1. During declared emergencies, Summit County Public Health may obtain crisis augmentation of health personnel from other Health Departments, from near-by counties, the State Department of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other federal agencies, Citizen Corp programs, and/or the American Red Cross.

2. Although public health problems are associated with disasters, there is an adequate local capability to meet the demands of most situations.

3. Summit County Public Health will cooperate in all county-wide emergencies.
4. Summit County Public Health will provide public health services for all residents, including those with functional needs, during an emergency and assist with medical support.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

1. Summit County Public Health is regulated by local, state, and federal laws. Summit County Public Board of Health appoints the Health Commissioner and advises and assigns additional responsibilities.

2. Summit County Public Health Commissioner or their designee is primarily responsible for assessing the hazard relating to any existing or anticipated public health threats and the environmental impact within his/her jurisdiction.

3. Summit County Public Health works closely with many agencies and organizations:

   a. Local

      (1) Public safety
      (2) Healthcare institutions, associations and agencies
      (3) All county level departments/agencies
      (4) Emergency Management Agency/Emergency Operation Center
      (5) American Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corps-Citizen Corps, and other volunteer organizations

   b. State

      (1) Ohio Department of Health
      (2) Ohio Department of Agriculture
      (3) Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
      (4) Other state departments as required

   c. Federal

      (1) Federal health agencies as situations require (Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Health and Human Services)
      (2) Federal Emergency Management Agency

4. Response in any emergency will follow established guides.
B. Summit County Public Health has the following areas of responsibility:

1. Assure the safety of potable drinking water supplies.

2. Assure the safety of available food supplies; provide education and inspection of food facilities to ensure that food supplies remain safe.

3. Assure proper methods are utilized for the disposal of liquid wastes (sewage, slop water, etc.). Provide public education, consultation and enforcement of environmental standards as legally mandated.

4. Inform the public regarding potential health problems; water and food supply locations, temporary shelter locations, and clean-up guides to be used around the home. This can be accomplished by use of the media or by visits to the area.

5. Survey the food service operations and food establishments in the affected area and close operations when necessary. Have damaged stock or unsafe perishable foods embargoed. Notify the Ohio Department of Health and/or Ohio Department of Agriculture if additional personnel are needed to accomplish this.

6. Inspect temporary shelters and mass feeding sites, and advise operators of ways to improve safety, sanitation and to decrease disease transmission.

7. Control vectors of disease such as flies, rats, mosquitoes, and lice.

8. Support the work of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and local service departments to provide an effective method for removal of animal carcasses.

9. Aid in the analysis of air and runoff problems from Hazardous Materials incidents or Radiological incidents. (See Annex M; Radiological and Appendix A)

10. Provide for mass dispensing and/or vaccination in appropriate situations.

11. Conduct communicable disease investigation and surveillance operations.

12. Assist the Medical Examiner’s Office with mass fatality incidents.

13. Conduct population monitoring for a radiological or hazards material incident.
C. Notification

1. When an incident occurs, requiring response by Public Health personnel, the Summit County Public Health Commissioner or their designee is notified by telephone or pager. Required personnel are contacted by telephone or other methods of redundant communication. The Summit County Public Health maintains back-up notification systems. Call-down rosters are maintained for all personnel and are included as part of Summit County Public Health’s internal Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).

When the County Emergency Operations Center is activated, the Summit County Public Health Commissioner or their designee reports to the Emergency Operations Center.

D. Phases of Emergency Management

1. Mitigation
   a. Identify potential or actual concerns with communicable disease.
   b. Immunize county residents against vaccine preventable diseases.
   c. Provide continuous health inspections.
   d. Research and address the prevention and detection of routine communicable diseases.
   e. Maintain communicable disease surveillance.
   f. Provide routine vector control.
   g. Provide public health awareness programs.

2. Preparedness
   b. Develop, regularly update, and assure that all appropriate staff are familiar with the Summit County Public Health Emergency Operation Plan (EOP), SOG’s, Continuity of Operations (COOP) and other emergency preparedness material.
c. Assist local, state, federal and/or private agencies that have responsibility for supplemental water supplies, back-up sanitation measures, water and food safety testing, and garbage disposal and sewage treatment.

d. Participate in emergency preparedness trainings and exercises.

e. Participate in the local and regional Healthcare Coalitions.

3. Response

a. Provide public information programs.

b. Initiate specific disease surveillance and control operations.

c. Assure the provision of prophylaxis/immunizations to county residents to protect against disease as appropriate.

d. Augment public health staff as necessary.

e. Request material support from other health departments and related organizations through Emergency Operation Center (EOC) representative or previously established MOUs/MOAs.

f. Conducts health inspections as necessary.

g. Coordinate environmental health activities such as waste and refuse disposal, food and water quality, shelter, and vector control where needed.

h. Provide quarantine and isolation recommendations.

i. Maintain communications with other emergency personnel pursuant to communications plans.

j. Assist local and county agencies to identify children and families who will need additional assistance, as well as individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, with their specific health-related needs in advance of, during, and following an emergency.

4. Recovery

a. Compilation of health reports as required by local, state, and federal officials.
b. Continuation of response activities as needed.

c. Recommend home clean-up, water distribution system and private water system sanitation, and septic system assessment guidance.

d. Distribute public health recovery information.

e. Assure all necessary inspections are completed to allow business to return to pre-incident level of operations.

f. Monitor long-term health effects of incident.

IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. Summit County Public Health Commissioner or their designee is responsible for the planning and coordination of all public health services on a daily basis and is responsible for directing operational response of departmental personnel during a major emergency.

2. Summit County Public Board of Health oversees the operations of the County Health Department and may assign additional program responsibility.

B. Assignment of Responsibilities

1. Health Commissioner/Administrator/Director

   a. Provide direction and control for public health activities routinely and during emergencies.

   b. Maintain liaison with all emergency response groups and volunteer organizations during emergencies.

   c. Implement the Public Health Annex when necessary.

   d. Develop resource plans for public health services.

   e. Assure dissemination of appropriate information on protective measures to be taken by the public.

   f. Provide support for other response agencies as necessary.
g. Implementing isolation and quarantine measures as appropriate.

2. Health Department
   a. Will evaluate the potential health risks associated with the hazard and recommend appropriate correctional measures.
   b. Inspect for safety of foodstuffs and potable water.
   c. Coordinate with the water, public works, sanitation departments, and other agencies; as appropriate, to assess the availability of potable water, an effective sewage system, and appropriate garbage disposal.
   d. Establish preventive health services, including the control of communicable diseases which may include community containment measures.
   e. Provide epidemiological surveillance, case investigation, and follow-up.
   f. Monitor food safety, mass feeding, and sanitation service in emergency facilities; including increased attention to sanitation in commercial feeding facilities.
   g. Assess the adequacy of sanitary facilities provided in emergency shelters.
   h. Implement activities to prevent or control vectors such as flies, mosquitoes, and rodents and work with veterinarians to prevent the spread of disease through animals.
   i. Coordinate with neighboring areas and the State Health Department on matters requiring assistance from other jurisdictions.
   j. Coordinate health-related activities among other local public and private response agencies or groups (to include veterinarians).
   k. Coordinate operations for emergency immunizations/prophylaxis.

3. Hospitals
   a. Maintain liaison with health officials.
   b. Provide additional nursing care, hospitalization, and communications as needed and available.
c. Provide information on communicable disease and incident related health events.

4. Red Cross

a. Provide nursing staff, if available, upon request.

b. Based on information received will handle inquiries and inform families on the status of individuals injured or missing due to the disaster.

c. Manage emergency shelters and notify public health for any sanitation, vector control or communicable disease related concerns.

5. School Systems

a. Provide school facilities and resources for public health emergency response as needed and available.

6. State Health Department

a. Provide support to Summit County Public Health as requested.

b. Provide supplies and resources as requested.

7. Ohio EPA

a. Assess the monitoring of contamination and pollution of public water supplies by public water system operators.

b. Responsible to oversee the assessment of public waterways for use as potable water supply.

8. Medical Examiner’s Office

a. Provide direction and control for responses to gravesites/cemeteries that are impacted by a disaster. Coordinate recovery efforts to identify and replace unearthed/floating/missing coffins and manage closed/historical gravesites.

9. Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board

a. Assess and provide behavioral health services for the general public who are impacted by an emergency or disaster.
10. Summit Developmental Disabilities Board
   a. Assess and provide behavioral health services for individuals with disabilities and functional needs who are impacted by an emergency or disaster.

11. Other agencies, departments, and organizations
   a. Provide support services as available (transportation, resources, supplies, and personnel).

V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL

A. EOC Activation
   1. Summit County Public Health Commissioner will report to the Summit County EOC upon its activation to coordinate response efforts for health-related activities, advise decision makers, and maintain contact with other emergency response groups.
   2. Guides and polices for management of internal resources during emergencies will be developed.
   3. Public Health liaison will report all appropriate information regarding their operations to the EOC.

VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

A. The line of succession for the Health Commissioner is as follows:
   1. Director of Environmental Health
   2. Director of Nursing


VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

A. During an emergency the Health Department will utilize all available local and regional resources. If additional assistance is required, the State Health Department will be contacted.

B. Summit County Public Health will maintain their usual facilities; if a public health facility is not functioning, an alternate facility may be designated.
C. Summit County Public Health will maintain a list of laboratories that can provide testing for water, food, environmental contaminants and diseases and sources for equipment, chemicals, and medications related to health services activities. Refer to Summit County Emergency Resources Guide. (See Anti-Terrorism Appendix C)

D. Summit County Public Health maintains resource manual listing water haulers, sewage contractors, and other contractors (heavy equipment).

E. Data related to disease outbreaks will be collected and forwarded to appropriate state and federal officials.

F. All testing of materials will be accomplished under normal guides used by Summit County Public Health.

G. Inspections of critical facilities will be conducted in a normal fashion but with increased frequency during emergencies.

H. Summit County Public Health maintains current notification/recall rosters, Memorandums of Understanding/Agreements (MOU/MOA’s) along with maps and charts of Summit County.

I. Protect all essential records, such as medical records, immunizations, etc.

J. Logistical support for food, water, power, and fuel will be provided to the dispatch center and response personnel by the Health Department in cooperation with the EOC.

K. Assigned response personnel receive training annually regarding emergency responsibilities.

VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Summit County Public Health Commissioner is responsible for reviewing this annex, ensuring that changes to this annex are prepared and coordinated based upon deficiencies identified by exercises, emergencies, and changes in governmental structure. The Summit County Emergency Management Agency will publish and forward all revisions to all applicable organizations.

B. Additional Standard Operating Guides, mutual-aid agreements, and equipment inventories will be developed as directed by the Summit County Health Commissioner.
IX. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

A. Authorities

1. ORC including but not limited to 3701, 3704, 3705, 3707, 3709, 3745, 4732, 4757;

   Ohio Administrative Codes including but limited to title 3701, 3745-25-01, through 3745-25-05, Chapter 901 section 3, 4, 3717-1-01 through 3711-1-20 and local ordinances;

2. Federal and local ordinances as applicable to the incident.

B. References


X. ADDENDUMS

XI. AUTHENTICATION