

# Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Update

## June 2009

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### MEETING

The June meeting of the Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council was held on June 1, 2009 at the Pizza Ranch in Mason City. Representatives in attendance included: Carl Vogeler (Healthcare Planner), William “BJ” Hoffman (Exercise and Education Coordinator), Merrill Meese (EMS Coordinator), Kip Ladage (Homeland Security Board), Matt Hobson (Public Health Epidemiologist), Heather Johnston (Public Safety LEIN representative) and Elizabeth Faber (Public Health Planner). Individual discipline updates were given and compiled on this update sheet.

#### NEXT MEETING:

The Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council will meet again on July 10, 2009.

### TRAINING

#### All Disciplines

*Training activities in planning for Region 2*

August, 2009 - IS-300 classes, Mason City and Waukon

Late summer, 2009 Basic PIO class

TBD, Psychological First Aid

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – A symposium is being planned for the near future. Several counties are joining the CERT program.

Contact your Emergency Manager or Education/Exercise Coordinator, as appropriate, if there are needs for specific training.

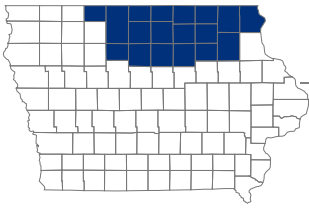
#### Emergency Medical Services

##### *EMS Service Director Workshops*

The purpose of these workshops is to give new and current service program directors and interested EMS providers an overview of their roles and responsibilities as an EMS service program director. Participants receive 4 formal CEHs. Topics covered during the workshops include the following:

- Role of the Bureau of EMS
- Medical Director duties
- Service Director duties
- Resources available to service program directors
- Frequently asked questions

2009 EMS Service Director Workshops	
June 17, 2009	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Iowa Central Comm. College	<b>Fort Dodge</b>
<b>To Register, call 515-574-1320 (or 1322)</b>	
October 8, 2009	6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Fire Station	<b>Coralville</b>
November 12, 2009	8:00 am – 11:50 am
IEMSA Conference	<b>Des Moines</b>



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### DRILLS/ EXERCISES

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#### Public Health/Healthcare

##### *Vigilant Guard*

The Vigilant Guard Exercise is in the final stages of development by IDPH and a number of sub committee members. Finalization of the public health and healthcare Exercise Evaluation Guides (EEG) are complete. The final documents are due out to each of the participating hospitals and agencies shortly. June 22<sup>nd</sup> is the exercise date for those hospitals and public health agencies participating in Region 2. Controllers and evaluators are still needed. Please have interested persons contact BJ Hoffman, Region 2 Exercise and Education Coordinator (EEC).

Those hospitals and public health agencies not participating in the Vigilant Guard exercise have been contacted by the EEC and will either be conducting their own exercise or be using their agency's response to the recent H1N1 outbreak as an actual event Exercise. The EEC and Healthcare Planner developed a functional exercise for hospitals needing to address areas required exercise topics that were not covered in their actual event response.

The EEC and both hospital and public health planners are also seeking the approval of the Region 2 public health agencies and hospitals to support a regional exercise for the upcoming 09-10 grant year, similar to those run in two of the other Iowa regions.

#### Emergency Management

##### *Vigilant Guard*

Despite the fact that Iowa Homeland Security is not deeply involved in the June Vigilant Guard exercise, many county emergency managers are involved in local Vigilant Guard exercise efforts. Please contact

your local emergency manager for questions on Vigilant Guard involvement.

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### GRANT FUNDING

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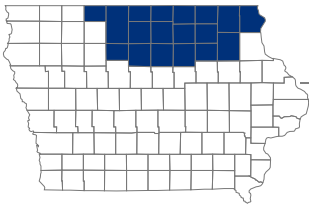
#### Healthcare

##### *Carryover funds*

The Region 2 Carry-Over Funds were divided equally between the 18 Hospitals and each must choose 2 Activities from the following 3 categories: The Joint Commission (JC) Standards on Infection Prevention and Control, the JC Standards for Emergency Management or the Hospital's response to the recent H1N1 Outbreak. Each Hospital will complete a work plan describing the activities chosen and what their expected outcomes will be, their plan for completing the activity and the estimated cost. At the end of the grant year each hospital will note what was actually achieved in its final progress report.

##### *09-10 Preparedness Grant*

The Healthcare Preparedness Program FY09-10 grant guidance has been received and the first review team conference call is set for June 5<sup>th</sup>. There appear to be many similarities between the current and the upcoming 09-10 grants. It will be the responsibility of the IDPH to attempt to tailor the 09-10 grant to meet the needs of the hospitals while at the same time addressing the federal requirements. Joan Lore (Floyd County Medical Center – Charles City) and Rhonda Bemis (Palmer Lutheran Health Center – West Union) will be representing the Region 2 hospitals. Of significance, the end of the FY09-10 grant year will be in June rather than August as in previous years.



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### *NIMS Compliance*

Each Hospital is responsible to maintain its compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). A signed compliance statement is required from each hospital by the end of the grant year (August 8th) – the FY09-10 grant contract will not be issued until the compliance statement is received by IDPH.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

#### *EMS Training Grant*

The county EMS association training grant Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted April 1<sup>st</sup> and is due by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Ten counties missed the deadline. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has decided to reissue the RFP so that those counties will not be ineligible for the 3-year cycle. The funding amount to those ten counties will be cut by 1/12<sup>th</sup>. Funding is offered based on county square miles, rural population and previous utilization of funding. Competitive grants of \$10,000 each will be offered to the nineteen EMS training programs to further EMS training in Iowa's rural EMS environment.

Anticipated reposting of the RFP will be in May. Approximately July 1, IDPH will issue a Request for Assistance (RFA) for individual training grants of up to a possible \$4500 each to prospective EMS providers on a first-come-first-served basis for initial certification with the intent to affiliate with a rural service program.

### **Public Health**

#### *FY 07-08 Carryover Funds*

Each public health agency will receive additional funds from FY 07-08 Carryover dollars. The Region voted to split the carryover amount equally amongst the 18 counties in the Region. These dollars must be

spent within this grant year (by August 8, 2009) and the activities approved are in relation the Public Health Modernization Standards. Dollars can also be utilized to reimburse for certain costs related to H1N1 response.

#### *FY 09-10 Grant*

The FY 09-10 Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant has been released and grant writing is underway. The grant deadline is June 22, 2009. A Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2009 to approve the final grant before submission.

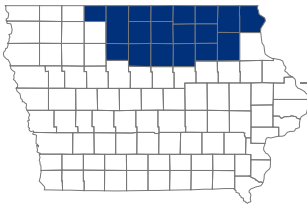
### *NIMS Compliance*

Each public health agency is responsible to maintain its compliance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). A signed compliance statement is required from each hospital by the end of the grant year (August 8th) stating that they are in compliance with the standards set forth in the NIMSCAST tool. The FY09-10 grant contract will not be issued until the compliance statement is received by IDPH.

### **Emergency Management**

#### *Homeland Security Grants*

The FY06 Homeland Security Grant has received an extension, but Emergency Managers are still attempting to close this grant by the original end date. Investments from the FY07 and FY08 Homeland Security Grants will begin shortly. Special emphasis has been placed on animal response, including sheltering and foreign animal diseases.



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### RECENT NEWS

#### Emergency Medical Services

##### *Iowa Scope of Practice*

It was reported to the Iowa Emergency Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) at the April meeting that the Dubuque Fire Dept. Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) study has been successful and determined that it is safe and effective for Iowa paramedics with additional training to use the CPAP for congestive heart failure patients. EMSAC recommended that the Bureau of EMS add CPAP as a skill to the Iowa paramedic scope of practice.

##### *EMS patient care protocols*

The EMSAC subcommittee for Quality Assurance and Standards Protocol has been working on several improvements to the protocols that they plan to present to EMSAC at the July 8, 2009 meeting. If the EMSAC protocol recommendations are accepted by

IDPH they will be posted on the EMS Bureau website on or about August 1, 2009.

#### Public Health/Healthcare

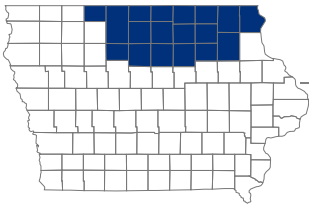
##### *H1N1 Influenza event*

H1N1 – The recent H1N1 event is worthy of discussion on a variety of levels. Concerning Epidemiology, the following are points that IDPH epidemiologists have noted:

- Contrary to public perception, the event is not “over”. Rather, the media has tired of it as a front page story. Cases continue to be identified in high numbers, especially in certain parts of the country (e.g. New York

City), and has spread internationally at considerable speed.

- This was a landmark event in the infectious disease world. A novel virus, recombined with several other influenza viruses, causing influenza at a time when influenza outbreaks are not common in the U.S.
- Some antivirals were effective in preventing severe disease in most, but not all, people
- The fatality rate for H1N1 was not as horrific as it could have been. It could just have easily been a more serious cause of death...we had luck in that regard. Still, deaths are still occurring, especially in those with previous chronic health problems.
- The attack rate of H1N1 favors younger people, indicating that some protection from H1N1 may be present in older people. This may be due to past similar H1N1 pandemics or the swine flu vaccine program in the 1970s.
- It was noticed by many of us that our efforts to plan for mass vaccination/treatment of populations via Point of Dispensing (POD) sites was helpful, but not complete. Efforts in the past emphasized treatment of entire populations within 48 hours. The H1N1 event highlighted the need for a much more balanced approach to using PODs, for example, the ability to target specific groups rather than entire populations.
- Other issues became apparent, including the effectiveness of established planned methods for distributing Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) medicines and supplies, and improving community containment measures.
- Many lessons will be learned from the event; it is too early to list them now in any form of priority. Most epidemiologists believe we will likely face this virus again in the fall, so we have a few months to address some of the problems identified.



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### DIRECTIVES

#### Public Health/Healthcare

##### *IDPH Preparedness Grant administration*

The “2009-2010 Grant Administration of the Public Health and Hospital Preparedness Programs” document has been reviewed at recent HPP and PHEP Steering Committee meetings and the region is moving ahead to meet the new criteria. Contract documents for HPP region staff are being reviewed for approval by IDPH. IDPH will no longer contract with a local agency for management of local fiscal grant money and will keep local fiscal responsibilities at IDPH. Hospital and public health steering committees must have a regional fiscal agent, however, to handle regional dollars for activities and expenditures at the regional level.

### RESOURCES

#### Emergency Medical Services

##### *Health Alert Network (HAN) licenses*

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has purchased Iowa HAN licenses for all 400 authorized ambulance services so that EMS services will receive emergent health alert information rapidly and securely.

Recently the IDPH Bureau of EMS sent out H1N1

health information to the service programs that had HAN licenses. It was discovered that many services did not set up their account on the HAN so they did not receive the important information concerning the H1N1 virus.

In order to set up the account on the HAN, services

will need the EMS agency on the HAN-First Users Guide. This document will have the services user name and password and give step by step instructions on setting up their account. To request a copy of the document, service programs should contact their regional EMS coordinator.

### MEETINGS

#### Public Health/Healthcare

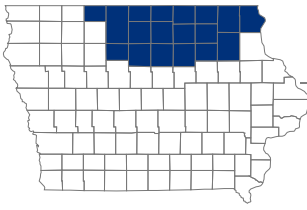
Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Region 2 Hospital and Public Health Steering Committee meetings  
Holiday Inn, Mason City

Hospital Meeting 9:00 AM  
Public Health Meeting 11:30 AM

The educational session will be a presentation regarding public health’s response to the June flooding in Cedar Rapids.

Lunch will be provided. Public Health and Hospital representatives should RSVP to Liz Waddingham at 8 or Adam Hoffman at [ahoffman@waverlyhealthcenter.org](mailto:ahoffman@waverlyhealthcenter.org) as well as [www.prepareiowa.com](http://www.prepareiowa.com) by June 11, 2009.



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### Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council

*The Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council was formed in April 2005 in response to a need for increased collaboration and communication among the different agencies focusing on preparedness in the Region. The regional model of collaboration was adopted to model such planning at the local level.*

*Representatives are expected to share pertinent information with local partners, resources, emergency plan details, funding sources, other meeting information, upcoming trainings, educational events, and exercises.*

### 18 Counties We Serve:

- Allamakee
- Bremer
- Butler
- Cerro Gordo
- Chickasaw
- Emmett
- Fayette
- Floyd
- Franklin
- Hancock
- Howard
- Humboldt
- Kossuth
- Mitchell
- Winnebago
- Winneshiek
- Worth
- Wright

This update is published by R2EPC in an effort to coordinate the efforts of emergency preparedness organizations in this region, with the goal of sharing the following: resources, emergency plan details, funding sources, other meeting information, upcoming trainings, educational events, and exercises. For further information contact one of the R2EPC Representatives listed below.

### Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Council Representatives

- ◆ **Healthcare (Hospitals) Regional Planner:** Carl Vogeler, [btp2cv@imonmail.com](mailto:btp2cv@imonmail.com)
- ◆ **Public Health- Regional Planner:** Elizabeth Faber, [efaber@hancockpublichealth.org](mailto:efaber@hancockpublichealth.org)
- ◆ **Education and Exercise Coordinator:** William "BJ" Hoffman, [regeec@vnaverloo.org](mailto:regeec@vnaverloo.org)
- ◆ **Region 2 Epidemiologist:** Matt Hobson, [mhobson@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:mhobson@idph.state.ia.us)
- ◆ **EMA - District 2 Representative:** Darrell Knecht,

- ◆ **Howard County,** [dknecht@co.howard.ia.us](mailto:dknecht@co.howard.ia.us)
- ◆ **EMS - Merrill Meese,** [mmeese@idph.state.ia.us](mailto:mmeese@idph.state.ia.us)
- ◆ **Region 2 Homeland Security Board:** Kip Ladage, Bremer County, [kladage@co.bremer.ia.us](mailto:kladage@co.bremer.ia.us)
- ◆ **Public Safety/LEIN- Heather Johnston,** [hrichard@dps.state.ia.us](mailto:hrichard@dps.state.ia.us)
- ◆ **HazMat - Region V Administrative Coordinator Peg Stickrod,** [regionvlepc@yahoo.com](mailto:regionvlepc@yahoo.com)