

ANNEX E

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 PURPOSE:

This annex defines public health emergencies and list plans that are the auspices of the County Public Health Officer. As “public health” is a County function, all measures taken in response to public health emergencies are coordinated by the Operational Area (OA) as authorized in the California Emergency Services Act.

A “public health emergency” is an occurrence of or imminent threat of an illness or health condition that is believed to be caused by:

- bioterrorism
- the appearance of a novel (new) or previously controlled or eradicated infectious agent or biological toxin
- a natural disaster (including extreme weather conditions)
- a chemical attack or accidental release/exposure to air, water, land or food
- a nuclear attack or accident

and the emergency poses:

- a high probability of a large number of deaths in the affected population
- a large number of serious or long-term disabilities in the affected population
- a significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of people in the affected population

Other emergencies or hazards such as fire, flood, earthquake, etc could become public health emergencies should such events affect enough of the population that the typical level of services are unable to support those affected by the occurrence.

1.2 PLANS:

The following plans are considered part of this Annex to the County Emergency Operations Plan.

A copy of each plan will be filed in the Nevada County Emergency Operations Center.

The following plans are maintained by the Nevada County Public Health Department:

- **Crisis Risk Communications Plan**
 - Outlines all aspects of communications to the Media outlets and community as a whole during a Public Health Emergency.
- **Fatality Management Plan for Nevada County**
 - Guidelines for conducting Fatalities Management Operations within Nevada County.

- **Nevada County Healthcare Surge and Alternate Care Site.**
 - Provide a framework for the management of medical surge need resulting from an incident that overwhelms the capacity of hospitals in Nevada County and nearby counties in order to meet the overall goal of minimizing mortality and morbidity.

- **Nevada County Public Health Department All Hazards Response Plan**
 - Overall guidance for public health department staff in a public health emergency.

- **Nevada County Surveillance Plan**
 - Guide used for the detection and response to a biological or chemical terrorist attack. Outlines the ability to react to other types of outbreaks necessitating an epidemiological response.

- **Pandemic Influenza Response Plan**
 - Defense tactics for the unique challenges that a pandemic influenza could initiate in the County of Nevada.

- **Strategic National Stockpile**
 - Provides framework for requesting and dispensing prophylaxis to the residents of Nevada County via Points of Dispensing and healthcare community to minimize the spread of disease in a Public Health Emergency.

- **Surge Capacity and Alternate Care Site Plan**
 - Strategy for managing patients in the healthcare community when hospitals have become overwhelmed and have reached maximum capacity.