Communicable Disease Events and Exercises - After Action Reviews 2019

97% of the 58 Local Health Jurisdictions Submitted an After Action Review (AAR) of an Exercise or Event

Communicable disease events vary in severity, and may quickly become a public health emergency. Public health works to identify communicable disease cases and outbreaks, and works to mitigate the threat to the public. Exercises allow public health staff to practice these measures before a real event occurs.

How Prepared are We for Communicable Disease Events?

Local health jurisdictions were asked to rank themselves on their ability to perform essential functions of public health infectious disease control measures. They were scored on having a written plan, and if they were able to perform the function in the exercise or event. Scores for each function were averaged across the state and are displayed below.

- Implement Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI): 2.32
- Monitor Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions: 2.23
- Conduct Public Health Surveillance and Detection: 2.89
- Conduct Public Health and Epidemiological Investigations: 2.77
- Recommend, Monitor, and Analyze Mitigation Actions: 2.37
- Improve Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation Systems: 2.56

Of the 58 local health jurisdictions, 93% have a plan to institute non-pharmaceutical interventions such as isolation and quarantine. Of the 58 local health jurisdictions, 97% have communicable disease response plans in place to perform disease surveillance, confirmation, reporting, and enacting control measures.

Estimated cost to the state of Minnesota to respond to the 2017 measles outbreak: $1,000,000

Estimated cost to the states and healthcare facilities to respond to the 2011 measles outbreaks: $2.7-$5.3 million

Prevention of transmission of cases and outbreaks can reduce the financial burden of disease.

Requirements of the Disease Exercises or Events

- Write a press release related to the exercise or event.
- Practice enforcement of public health law.
- Test the communicable disease response plan.
- Engage with community response partners.
- Write an AAR to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Test the emergency laboratory sample transport plan.