

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 – Public Health

Coordinating Department

Wellness Center – Health Services

Supporting Departments

Beth-El College of Nursing, Disabilities Services, Wellness Center - Counseling Services

Supporting Outside Agencies

El Paso County Public Health, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Rocky Mountain College Health Association

Section I: Function Activation

Scope

The scope of this annex is to describe the general preparedness and response roles and capabilities of UCCS assets and external support organizations in the event of a public health emergency or similar crisis on or involving the campus.

Concept of Operations

A. General

1. In an incident, a request for advice or assistance concerning public health may be originated by the Incident Commander (IC) or, if activated, the UCCS Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Campus assets may be supplemented or overseen by additional support requested by either UCCS or a governmental agency.
2. All public health assets will coordinate response activities with the EOC or Incident Command Post (ICP) as directed, and the EOC or ICP will have authority of final decision in all matters pertaining to the incident. A public health representative may be requested to respond to the EOC or ICP.
3. Quarantines or other public health orders may only be issued or rescinded by the El Paso County Public Health, or Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, as appropriate.

B. Specific

1. Response

- a)The Wellness Center - Health Services currently (2016) has a staff of one part-time physician, one full-time nurse practitioner, and three part-time nurse practitioners; they are supported by an office staff of five non-practitioners. As

such, the ability to handle multiple patients is limited unless they are augmented or supplemented by county, state, or regional assets.

b) In the event of a public health emergency, Wellness Center - Health Services has the following capabilities, limited to on-hand supplies and staffing:

- i. Vaccination/immunization;
- ii. Prescription of pharmaceuticals;
- iii. Laboratory services (outsourced);
- iv. Counseling on palliative care;
- v. Infection or outbreak trend monitoring; and
- vi. Occasional treatment of minor non-systemic traumatic injuries.

c) The Wellness Center – Health Services does not have adequate staff or capabilities to significantly address a mass-casualty incident. However, Wellness Center – Health Services staff can assist with initial triage and mass care, and can supplement outside resources as they arrive.

d) The Wellness Center – Health Services does not have a stockpile of vaccinations/immunizations, pharmaceuticals, or wound treatment supplies other than what is needed on-hand for daily business. The Wellness Center – Health Services has a very limited response capability away from their offices.

e) It is anticipated that in an emergency the Wellness Center – Health Services will be authorized to work on all members of the campus community in addition to students.

2. Recovery

a) The Wellness Center – Health Services role in post-incident recovery is envisioned to primarily entail follow-up monitoring and minor procedures for the student population. These actions could include:

- i. Recovery monitoring including vital signs, follow-on laboratory services, etc.
- ii. Initial vaccinations/immunizations or follow-up doses in multiple-series administrations; and
- iii. Counseling and treatment on recovery and rehabilitation following injury or illness if appropriate.

b) Actions taken by the Wellness Center – Health Services would include collaboration with any outside agencies that may have participated in the

response to the incident itself. As such, the El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) and/or the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) may specify the Wellness Center – Health Services as the follow-up point of contact for UCCS associated persons treated or initially monitored by these agencies.

Section II: Pre-Event Coordination and Planning Responsibilities

Coordinating Department

Wellness Center – Health Services

A. Mitigation

1. Monitor the status of infectious diseases, outbreaks, and other public health risks locally through the Health Alert Network (HAN), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) alerts, and other sources.
2. Provide immunizations/vaccinations for known disease and pathogenic risks.
3. Provide public education to the campus community regarding preventing the spread of infectious diseases, trends in public health, etc.

B. Preparedness

1. Conduct Wellness Center – Health Services staff training in emergency response procedures.
2. Participate in campus and community emergency preparedness initiatives, such as the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (EPAC), etc.

Supporting Departments

Beth-El College of Nursing

- A. Provide additional trained medical staff if requested and able.
- B. Release nursing students to provide palliative care within the limits of their training.

Disability Services

- A. Advise on special population needs in the event of a public health emergency or mass casualty incident.
- B. Assist with public health information dissemination to those with communications disabilities.

Wellness Center – Counseling Services

- A. Provide mental health services to the campus in the event of a public health emergency or disaster.

- B. Advise the Wellness Center – Health Services, ICP, and/or EOC on possible mental health concerns arising from widespread illness or injury.

Supporting Outside Agencies and Facilities

El Paso County Public Health

- A. Oversee community public health planning and response, through internal planning, education, and committees.
- B. Provide input to the HAN and monitor information on infectious diseases and outbreaks.
- C. Provide monitoring of campus food and water sources for contamination and quality.

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

- A. Provide input to the HAN and monitor information on infectious diseases and outbreaks.
- B. Oversee regional infectious disease and outbreak planning, including implementation of relevant Governor’s Executive Orders.

Rocky Mountain College Health Association

- A. Act as a resource for Wellness Center – Health Services emergency response planning and preparations.
- B. Provide adjunct or supplemental medical staff if possible upon request of the Wellness Center – Health Services for a localized emergency.