Emergency Response Plan

PRIMARY AGENCY: Gallia County Health Department

SUPPORT AGENCIES:  AEP
Gallia County Coroner
Gallia County Elected Officials
Gallia County Emergency Management Agency
Gallia County Emergency Medical Services
Gallia County Local School District
Gallia County Red Cross
Gallia County Sheriff's Office
Gallia Rural Water Association
Gallipolis City Police Department
Gallipolis City School District
Gallipolis Water Department
Holzer Health System
Local Fire Departments
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio State Highway Patrol-Gallia County Post
Ohio Valley Christian School
Southeast & South Central Regions Local Health Departments
Woodland Centers

NON-GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AGENCIES:
Local Pharmacies
Local Funeral Directors

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

The Gallia County Health Department (GCHD) has the overall responsibility for protecting the public health of the residents of Gallia County and is identified as the lead agency for response to public health emergencies. The Gallia County Emergency Response Plan (ERP)/Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF-8), Public Health and Medical Services, provides a mechanism for coordinated local assistance to supplement resources and implement protective actions in response to the public health needs resulting from emergency/disaster situations.

B. Scope

The framework of this plan was developed using a modified functional approach which consists of a combined base ERP and ESF-8, functional annexes, and general appendices. These are supplemented by implementing instructions which will be utilized to execute all or portions of the ERP in conjunction with the roles and responsibilities identified in the Gallia County All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The GCHD ERP utilizes an All-Hazards approach in planning, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.
C. Policies

1. National Incident Management System (NIMS) Adoption and Compliance Statement

Plans, exercises, & trainings are developed and structured to be consistent with local, regional, state, & federal regulations, standards, and policies and to comply with the National Response Plan (NRP), NIMS – Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5 (HSPD-5), and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) contributing to the National Preparedness Goal - HSPD-8.

2. ESF-8 Integration into the Gallia County EOP

The GCHD ERP is integrated as part of the Gallia County All-Hazards EOP. The Gallia County All-Hazards EOP is the single legal document that describes responsibilities of agencies and individuals for carrying out specific actions in or in preparation for an emergency or disaster in Gallia County. The GCHD ERP functions, as a part of the Gallia County All-Hazards EOP, to provide specific information for the preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery responsibilities of the GCHD for public health-related disaster situations in Gallia County.

3. ESF-8 Agencies and Resources Coordination

ESF-8 is coordinated by the GCHD at the local level, by the Southeast Ohio Public Health/Regional Medical Response Systems (RMRS) at the regional-level, and by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) at the state-level. Local Public Health Resources have been identified in advance of an emergency/disaster. Local ESF-8 resource requests will be coordinated with the local EMA. State-level ESF-8 resources can be activated upon request from the local EMA when local resources have been exhausted. (See ANNEX 6: Resource Management and Resource Management Implementing Instructions.)

D. Phases of Emergency Management for Public Health

1. Mitigation

Mitigation activities are either those designed to prevent the occurrence of an emergency or are long-term activities designed to minimize the potentially adverse effects of an emergency.

2. Preparedness

Preparedness activities, programs, and systems are those that exist prior to an emergency and are used to support and enhance response to an emergency or disaster. Planning, training, and exercising are among the activities conducted in this phase.

3. Response

Response activities and programs are designed to address the immediate and short-term effects of the onset of an emergency or disaster. Response helps reduce casualties, reduce damage, and speed recovery. Response activities include direction and control, emergency information and warning, mass dispensing, and other similar operations.
4. Recovery

Recovery is the phase that involves restoring systems to normal. Short-term recovery actions are taken to assess the damage and return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards; long term recovery actions may continue for months or maybe even for years.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. Situations

Gallia County is exposed to many hazards, all of which have the potential to disrupt the community, cause damage and result in casualties. Possible hazards for Gallia County include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, terrorist activity, or other potential hazards that could affect the health of county residents by contaminating food and water, causing sanitation problems, or causing disease outbreaks. During declared emergencies, the GCHD may obtain additional assistance from near-by counties, the ODH, the American Red Cross, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

B. Assumptions

1. Disasters:
   a. May occur at any time with little or no warning.
   b. Require significant information-sharing at the unclassified and classified levels across multiple jurisdictions and between public and private sectors.
   c. Involve single or multiple geographic areas.
   d. May have significant county and state impact and/or require significant county and state information sharing, resource coordination, and/or assistance.
   e. The GCHD is capable of handling the day-to-day public health situations in Gallia County.
   f. Public health problems that overwhelm the GCHD during disasters will be supported by the ODH when requested. Widespread outbreak that affects major areas of the state or nation, such as pandemic influenza, may reduce the available assistance to Gallia County.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (COOP)

A. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Activation Authority

The GCHD ERP may only be activated under the authorization of the Health Commissioner, Health Department Administrator, or by the identified Primary or Secondary Backup personnel to the Health Commissioner or Health Department Administrator in the COOP (Appendix III).
The ERP may be activated, as deemed necessary by the Health Commissioner, Health Department Administrator, or identified backups, during a bioterrorism event, disaster, or public health emergency that is impacting or has the potential to impact the health of the residents of Gallia County.

The GCHD has the following areas of concern:

1. Record deaths and reportable disease incidents.
2. Provide preventive/control measures through ongoing immunizations, limitation of movement and in some circumstances, mass vaccination/prophylaxis distribution.
3. Provide disease surveillance and epidemiology investigation.
4. Maintain sanitary conditions for emergency personnel and general protection.
5. Provide public health information to the public, response partners and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), including risk/threat and protective actions that should be taken.

B. Typical Sequence of Emergency Activities

1. Identify the threat
2. Notification
3. Assessment
4. Identify public health resources
5. Creation of public health objectives
6. Identify response roles
7. Implement/execute the response to address the objectives
8. Monitor/assess the response
9. Demobilization
10. Recovery Operations
11. After Action Review
12. Review and Revise Plans

C. Resource Requests

In the event that the GCHD becomes overwhelmed or runs out of material resources, the Health Commissioner or Incident Commander will contact the Gallia County EMA at the EOC to request resources. The Gallia County EMA will then approach the Ohio EMA with this request. The Ohio EMA will then contact the appropriate agency, i.e., the ODH at the ESF-8 desk at the Ohio EOC, to make the official request. In addition to making the formal request, it is appropriate for the GCHD to contact the ODH or the ESF-8 desk at the Ohio EOC for a consultation.

IV. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

1. The Health Commissioner/Administrator will be responsible for assessing circumstances relating to any existing or anticipated public health threats.
   a. The Health Commissioner or designee will be the Departmental Incident Commander.
   b. The Environmental Health Director will act as the alternate Departmental Incident Commander.

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B. Assignment of Responsibilities

1. Health Commissioner/Administrator
   a. Establish communications, place of assembly, staff assignments and method of identification.
   b. Communicate directly with EMA Director.
   c. Communicate with County Department heads.
   d. Communicate closely with County EOC, State EOC and ODH.
   e. Sanction the release of public health information and authorize a representative from the GCHD to participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC), as needed.
   f. Direct the actions of the GCHD personnel.
   g. Authorize emergency purchase of supplies and equipment for public health.
   h. Submit necessary samples for testing quality and/or contaminants of specimens.
   i. Orders quarantine, isolation and community measures to curtail the spread of infectious disease (Health Commissioner or Medical Director only).
   j. Orders implementation of mass distribution centers for medication, as needed, in coordination with ODH and following SNS guidelines.

2. Environmental Health Director
   a. Serve as GCHD representative in the County EOC.
   b. Communicate with and advise Health Commissioner/Administrator and Nursing Director.
   c. Coordinate all nursing and sanitary staffing needs in the field, emergency stations, shelters, and headquarters.
   d. Arrange full time coverage by professional staff at field headquarters.
   e. Arrange for professional staff to insure that potable water is in all stations.
   f. Submit necessary samples for testing quality and/or contaminants of specimens. Refer to Tab 1 for list of qualified health laboratories.
   g. Arrange for professional staff to assist in epidemiology investigations, to assist the Director of Nursing and Regional Epidemiologist.

3. The Nursing Department
   a. Communicate with nursing staff informing them of the needs.
   b. Identify all medical and nursing personnel properly.
   c. Assign nurses to emergency stations and shelters.
   d. Ascertain and ensure that medical and nursing care is available in all shelters for preventive measures.
   e. Aid sanitarians as requested.
   f. Ensure that all nursing personnel report to emergency response representative.
C. Support Agency Roles and Responsibilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Public Health Emergency Roles/Responsibilities</th>
<th>Memorandum of Understanding/Agreements Established</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multi-County Mutual Aid Agreement (Gallia; Meigs; Jackson, WV; Mason, WV Counties)</td>
<td>Provide material and/or staff to assist the requesting local health department to respond to an event that exceeds or has the potential to exceed the capabilities of the requesting local health department.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southeastern Ohio Regional Health Departments – 10 counties</td>
<td>Provide “reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of any hazard too great to be dealt with unassisted.”</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio Department of Health</td>
<td>Provide subject matter experts for consultation and guidance on emergency situations, provide laboratories for testing of samples, and provide available equipment/pharmaceuticals to local health departments for emergency response activities.</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallia County Emergency Management Agency</td>
<td>Resources acquisition and coordination</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Red Cross</td>
<td>Provide volunteer assistance or possibly food/refreshments for response personnel</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallia County Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>Provide security for GCHD response activities/equipment/pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>No. EMA will make request.</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Rio Grande</td>
<td>Provide school facilities for the use of POD (Point of Dispensing) operations</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Gallia County EMS</td>
<td>Have staff on standby at POD sites for transport to medical facilities. Provide assistance to nursing staff for triage operations and possibly provision of vaccines or medications.</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holzer Health System</td>
<td>Develop the capacity to respond to public health threats and emergencies.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)</td>
<td>Provide communication in the event of disasters or during public service events.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodland Centers</td>
<td>Help coordinate mental health service activities in the county.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallia County Coroner</td>
<td>Provide information/assistance to the health department on the handling of the deceased during mass casualty events.</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio Environmental Protection Agency</td>
<td>Provide information/assistance to the GCHD on the clean-up or decontamination of environments that pose risk to public health.</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</tbody>
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V. TRAINING AND EXERCISE

A Multi-year Training and Exercise Plan (MTEP) has been developed and is updated annually to provide a timeline of training and exercising activities to take place throughout each Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PER) Grant Fiscal Year cycle. The MTEP incorporates NIMS training requirements and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines.

A. Training

The PHER Coordinator is responsible for all GCHD Staff emergency response training and training documentation. The PHER Coordinator ensures all new and current staff complete and maintain the appropriate level of NIMS and other emergency preparedness training for their identified emergency response roles.

Review of the GCHD emergency response plan is part of the orientation training for new core emergency response staff including the Administrator, Director of Nursing, Director of Environmental, and the PHER Coordinator. Core emergency response staff must, additionally, review the emergency plans on an annual basis.

B. Exercising

The GCHD conducts and participates in exercises, both locally and regionally, to test and validate plans, checklists, and response procedures and to evaluate the training and skills of response personnel. Corrective actions identified through the after action/improvement plan reporting process are addressed in future plan revisions and training & exercise programs.

VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. Development

The Gallia County ESF-8 Plan design and content is coordinated with other public health jurisdictional plans within the Southeast Region, the Southeast Ohio Public Health, Regional Medical Response System, and Hospital All Hazards Plan, and the ODH ESF-8 Plan.

The Gallia County ESF-8 Plan is to be kept current through an ongoing revision system. The PHER Coordinator, in collaboration with the core emergency response staff and the Gallia County Board of Health, are responsible for ensuring that all necessary revisions to the plans are made and distributed to the necessary plan holders. Plan revisions may also be coordinated with the input from support agencies identified within this plan.

Plan holders are prohibited from making changes, revisions, or additions to individual copies of the plan. Revisions are to be made on one master copy maintained by the PHER Coordinator and distributed to the proper plan holders.

Plan Holders include:
- GCHD Core Emergency Response Staff (Health Department Administrator, Director of Nursing, Director of Environmental Health).
- Gallia County EMA
- Gallia County Sheriff's Office

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• Gallipolis City Police Department

B. Maintenance

The GCHD ESF-8 and accompanying Annexes, Appendices, and Implementing instructions will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis for content changes based on information gathered from exercises, trainings, and Federal/State guidelines. Updates to notifications and contact lists will be made as changes occur.

C. Availability of Emergency Response Plans to the Public

Copies of the GCHD ERP and its accompanying Annexes, Appendices, and Implementing Instructions may be requested by the public. Requests for copies of the plans must be made to the Gallia County PHER Coordinator or the GCHD Administrator. Plan content will be released in accordance with Ohio Sunshine Laws and GCHD Records Release Policy. Exempt plans or plan content will be reviewed by the Gallia County PHER Coordinator and GCHD Administrator before release. Any ESF-8/Emergency Response Plan information provided to the public must be approved by the GCHD Administrator.

VII. AUTHORITY & REFERENCES

A. Authority

Ohio Revised Code, Section 3707

B. References

Ohio State Emergency Support Function-8

VIII. PROMULGATION DOCUMENT/SIGNATURE PAGE

The Gallia County Board of Health approves this document as the official All-Hazards Plan for the Gallia County General Health District.

[Signature]

Gerald E. Vallee, M.D.
Health Commissioner

12/14/12
Date