

# **Public Health and Terrorism: Cross-Border Issues Roundtable University of Minnesota Center for Public Health Preparedness**

## **Appendix D Identified Needs**

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### **Public Health and Terrorism Preparedness: Cross-Border Issues Roundtable December 15, 2003**

#### **Identified Needs** (derived from scenario responses)

#### **Information Exchange**

A system for rapid and secure exchange of information with decision makers at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), other states and Canada in order to have a consistent approach to response activities.

System and plan (including triggers) for notification of and communication between all players (epidemiology, lab, local public health, law enforcement, etc.) within the region including bordering states and provinces.

A specific mechanism for the sharing of surveillance and epidemiological findings early on in order to coordinate plans that may include a declaration of emergency.

Guidelines for declaring a state-of-emergency when a public health situation occurs on tribal lands.

#### **Resource Sharing**

Specific protocol for sharing of human resources across borders.

Specific protocol for sharing of written materials, equipment, supplies and facilities across borders.

Shared plan for dealing with traffic/mass exodus on highways and roads.

Clear information about how tribes and responding agencies will be reimbursed for responding to an emergency public health situation on tribal lands (whether it be state or federal).

#### **Consistency of Messages**

Specific methods to ensure consistency and accuracy of communication to health care providers (including emergency responders), the media and the public across jurisdictions.

#### **Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and Mass Distribution Sites**

Plans for establishing mass distribution sites in bordering states in order to serve border residents.

A specific mechanism to coordinate SNS mechanisms between states, working across border communities.

### **Regional Planning/Pre-Event Decision Making**

We need to exchange our plans and protocols and may need to develop some of them together.

Development of exchange agreements for state assets; pre-negotiated mutual aid agreements.

Policies and guidelines for closure of borders

Pre-existing clearance procedures so public information can be disseminated quickly.

Specific isolation and quarantine protocols for multi state responses.

### **Notification Protocols and Key Contact Database**

Data base of key state and county contacts, policy of use of data base, policy for maintenance of current data.

Protocols to determine who gets contacted in a border state in the event of a public health emergency—is it at the State level? Local level? Include information in individual preparedness plans.

### **Coordination Among Epidemiologists and With Law Enforcement**

A plan to coordinate investigations and share results with bordering states/provinces.

Plan to approach the investigation from not only a public health stance but also as a criminal investigation.

### **Command and Control**

Multi-state/province command and control of public health response (volunteer coordination, assistance, closing of borders, etc).

### **Responder Credentialing**

Emergency credentials for physicians and health care workers that allows practice across jurisdictions.