

PUBLIC HEALTH RECOVERY CHECKLIST

Hurricanes and Flooding

Overview

Recovery is a whole-community process that begins with preparedness and planning before a disaster occurs and becomes the focus for impacted communities after immediate lifesaving and life-sustaining response efforts have taken place. Successful public health outcomes depend on effective partnerships, coordination, planning, and management. The Public Health Recovery Checklists focus on specific types of hazards and provide practical steps and resources that communities and public health agencies can use to guide recovery planning and operations.

Purpose

This checklist helps state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) public health departments and communities plan for and implement recovery activities across all phases in the emergency management cycle. This includes prevention, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. The checklist is adaptable to local needs, resources, and operational contexts.

Checklist Features

- Provides action steps, resources, and tools to address public health functional areas.
- Aligns with the public health emergency preparedness and response Capabilities and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Disaster Recovery Framework.
- Emphasizes whole-community coordination and restoration of public health and healthcare services to strengthen community resilience and mitigation.

Beyond the Storm: Public Health Impacts

Hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones and flooding create complex and interconnected public health impacts, including infrastructure damage, environmental health hazards, increased risk of disease and injury, behavioral health challenges, and disruption of public health and healthcare services.

Checklist Highlights: Functional Areas

- Emergency Preparedness & Operations
- Partnerships
- Communication
- Recovery Priorities and Risk Assessment
- Administrative and Budget Preparedness
- Workforce
- Training and Education
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Disease Control and Epidemiology
- Public Health & Health Care Services

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Public Health Recovery Phase

Short-term	Intermediate	Long-term
✓ Conduct health needs assessment and affirm priorities	✓ Re-evaluate needs and adjust priorities	✓ Evaluate service levels and outcomes
✓ Develop and disseminate risk communication	✓ Update recovery progress	✓ Identify unmet recovery needs and gaps
✓ Coordinate transition from Emergency Support Function (ESF) to Recovery Support Functions (RSF) roles	✓ Continue to disseminate risk communication	✓ Engage partners and the community to evaluate effectiveness of risk communication
✓ Identify and coordinate recovery training needs	✓ Strengthen partner and community coordination	✓ Transition to routine staffing, engagement and operations
✓ Public messaging and risk communications	✓ Deliver recovery trainings (e.g., mold, behavioral health)	✓ Return to baseline surveillance
✓ Continue to mobilize recovery workforce and volunteers	✓ Continue inspections	✓ Improve resiliency of programs and services
✓ Environmental health assessments	✓ Monitor worker health	✓ Integrate lessons learned into AAR/IP
✓ Ongoing surveillance	✓ Enhance surveillance for risk related health impacts	✓ Update plans
✓ Restore essential services	✓ Restore routine services	✓ Grant close-out and fiscal reconciliation
✓ Initiate behavioral health support	✓ Improve services for access and functional needs populations	
✓ Track costs and authorities	✓ Manage fiscal processes	
	✓ Begin after-action report	

For questions, or more information, please contact preparedness@cdc.gov.

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