



Infectious Disease Annex

Section 1. Introduction

The Infectious Disease Annex describes policies and procedures for supporting the management of an infectious disease incident in La Plata County (LPC). This annex addresses the roles and responsibilities of LPC Office of Emergency Management (OEM) during an infectious disease event. It is not intended to address procedures of any specific facility or agency, such as a hospital, clinic, or assisted living center; rather it provides coordination and support for these operations. Such facilities and agencies are required to have their own standard operating procedures (SOPs).

1.1 Authority & Decision-Making

In Colorado, state and local health departments have statutory authority to “investigate and control the causes of epidemic and communicable disease affecting the public health.” Local public health response is coordinated by the local public health agency (LPHA) in a county. In LPC, the LPHA is San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH).

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Section 2. Infectious Disease Considerations

Public health governance structures vary from state to state. These structural differences have important implications for the delivery of essential public health services including response to infectious diseases. Colorado is essentially a decentralized or largely decentralized structure. In this capacity local health units are primarily led by employees of local governments. This consideration is integral to understanding the roles, responsibilities, and authorities across levels of government for services provided within LPC for an infectious disease outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

As the leading federal agency in infectious disease response, the CDC is the nation’s health protection agency and protects people from health threats. To accomplish this mission, CDC conducts critical science and provides health information that protects the nation against expensive and dangerous health threats and responds when these arise. Information about infectious diseases and response measures will most likely be initiated from CDC and roll down through Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), OEM, and local hospitals. The CDC also provides multiple resources for [preparedness & planning](#) regarding

public health incidents. Depending upon the situation, public health orders may be necessary to provide guidance to best protect the community.

Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Elder Care Facilities, Psychiatric Institutions

Hospitals and other health care agencies will coordinate needs with San Juan Basin Public Health. SJBPH will involve the Southwest Health Care Coalition (SWHCC) if necessary. LPC OEM may support resource management, communication, or Emergency Operation Center (EOC) requests.

Access & Functional Needs (AFN)

When providing support during an emergency or a public health event, LPC OEM and partner agencies will adhere to requirements set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regarding AFN. In the event of an emergency, SJBPH may work with the following organizations to ensure the requirements of populations with AFN are met:

- **Community Connections, Inc.** will assist in the planning details associated with evacuation and re-location of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Compañeros** will aid and provide guidance with planning efforts that address evacuation and re-location of Spanish-speaking community members.
- **Southwest Center for Independence** will assist with planning for physical and medical needs associated with evacuation and re-location of elderly and people with disabilities.
- **Manna Soup Kitchen** will assist with unhoused people.

Homeless & Tourists

When providing support during an emergency or a public health event, LPC OEM and partner agencies will not discriminate due to housing status or proof of residency. Durango Area Tourism Office will assist with planning details associated with providing situational awareness to our community's tourists.

Section 3. Concept of Operations

3.1 Pre-Response/Initial Actions

The county OEM Director will work with county agencies and non-governmental partners and stakeholders to determine the support required for infectious disease incidents. Activation of the LPC EOC may be required during an incident and activation level will be determined based upon the size of the incident and impact to the community.

Local

The extent of the initial response will depend upon warning lead-time, severity, and location of the impacted areas; the number of people impacted; and the ability of the local jurisdiction to aid. Unlike some other types of incidents, other governmental resources may be involved in response to an infectious disease incident within their own jurisdictions. Provided the nature of infectious disease incidents, multiple annexes may be necessary to formulate a proper response.

Public Health Orders

Depending upon the incident, public health orders may be necessary to best protect the community and residents. In effort to establish protection measures, SJBPH may enact public health orders such as, but not limited to:

General guidance

- Hand washing and hand hygiene.
- Social distancing of the appropriate distance as determined by health officials.
- Mask or face covering orders.
- Closure of businesses to limit or eliminate public gatherings with large numbers of individuals.

Isolation and Quarantine:

- CDPHE has statutory authority to “establish, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine...and to exercise such physical control over property and the persons of the people within this state...” Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) 25-1.5-102(1)(c)
- Local public health agencies have the authority “to establish, maintain, and enforce isolation and quarantine...” C.R.S. 25-1-506(VI).

Quarantine Enforcement Sequence:

- Verbal order requesting voluntary compliance.
- Written administrative order given to specific individuals to stay in a specific place for a period.
- If a person does not comply with written order, then health officials may seek a court order requiring compliance. C.R.S. 25-1-112.
Disobeying a health department order is a misdemeanor criminal offense. C.R.S. 25-1-114(4) and 51.

State

The state supports local governments by providing necessary, incident-dependent support. The state provides access and guidance to resources. The LPC OEM director can coordinate with their Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) regional field manager who will work to determine the state's role in the situation and additional need for federal support. SJBPH will also collaborate with CDPHE to request additional guidance and support.



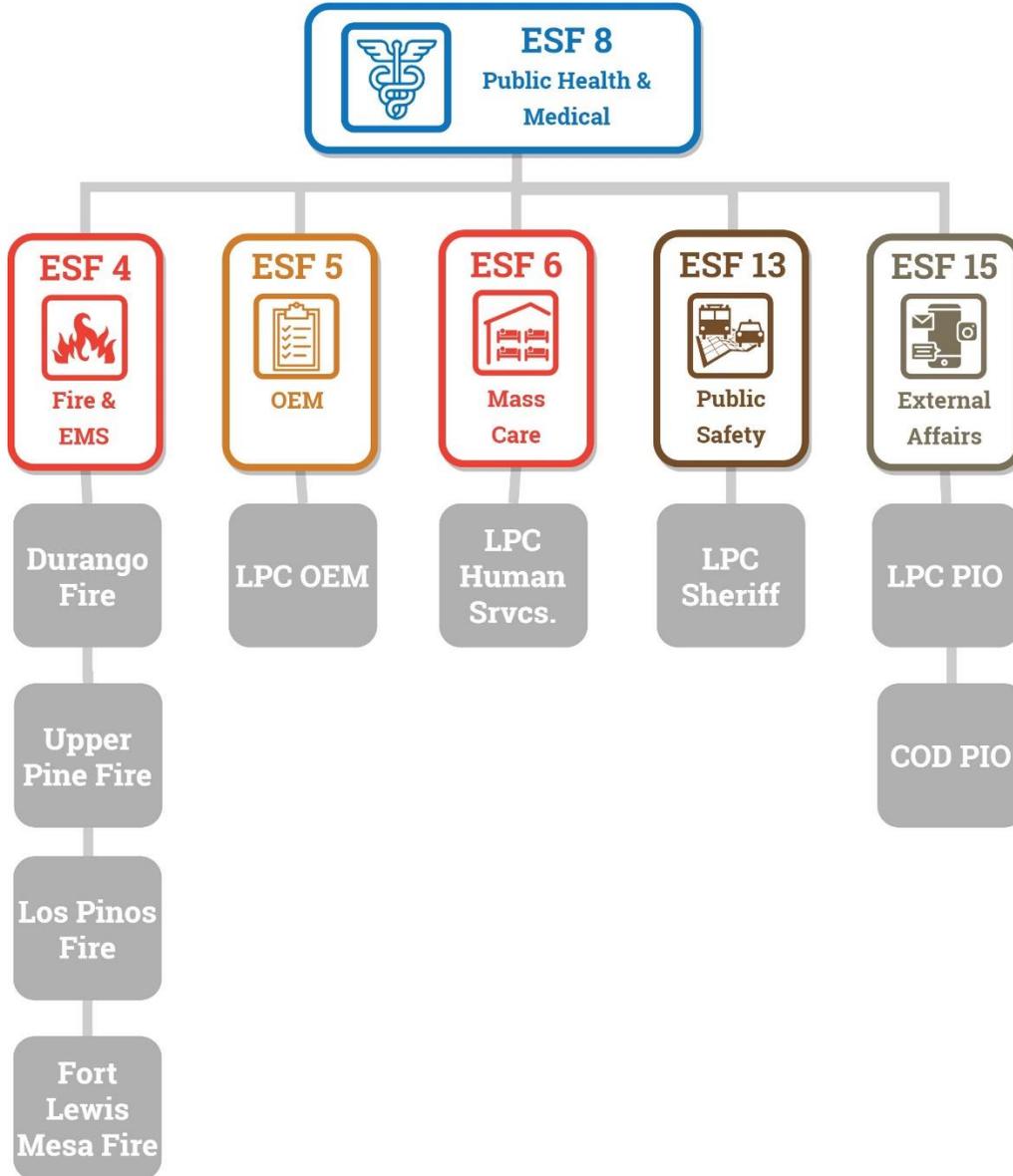
Federal Response

Requesting federal support should be coordinated through the DHSEM regional field manager and documented through the EOC. Provided the nature of the incident, infectious disease, SJBPH will also coordinate with CDPHE who will incorporate the CDC and their emergency response efforts, all of which will be documented through the EOC accordingly. For more information on current CDC operations please visit CDCs current websites.

Section 4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The following shows the primary and support ESFs that will be involved with incidents involving infectious disease; the information below is not inclusive of all the possible entities that could be involved.



Acronyms:

- La Plata County (LPC)
- Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
- Public Information Officer (PIO)
- City of Durango (COD)

4.2 Local Government Entities

4.2.1 Primary ESF

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical



SJBPH will aid in identifying and meeting the health, medical, and environmental needs of any local area threatened or impacted by an infectious disease incident. SJBPH maintains and implements the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) at the local level for the southwest Colorado region. SJBPH is the lead for SNS requests and other medical supplies during an infectious disease outbreak.

ESF 8 – Coordination List

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated <input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	SJBPH may request EOC support when coordinating the following during an incident: health surveillance, biological hazards consultation, requesting and distributing pharmaceutical supplies, assessment of health & medical needs, obtaining health & medical equipment & supplies, food safety, potable water & wastewater, vector control, public health information & risk communications, isolation & quarantine, and laboratory services. SJBPH will coordinate with Mercy Regional Medical Center (MRMC) and Animas Surgical Hospital (ASH) during incidents involving infectious disease.
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated <input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	If casualties occur, the County Coroner is responsible for the collection, identification and disposition of deceased persons and human tissue. The coroner's storage facility at 742 Turner Dr. has room for ten (10) deceased people. Hood Mortuary (970-247-2312) may accommodate as many as seven (7) deceased people.

ESF 8 – Mental Health

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated <input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Axis Health System and several private practitioners provide mental health services (970) 259-2162 (business hours) or (970) 247-5245 (after hours).

4.2.2 Support ESF

ESF 4 - Fire & Emergency Medical Services (EMS)



Durango Fire Protection District, Los Pinos Fire Protection District, and Upper Pine Fire Protection District provide Emergency Medical Services (EMS), including ambulance transport, to LPC communities. Fort Lewis Mesa Fire Protection District provides emergency medical service response, but not ambulance transport. Mutual Aid Agreements exist among the fire departments to ensure adequate resources are available for a major or multi-jurisdictional

disaster.

ESF 4 – Coordination List

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	Initiate triage system, initial care in field, secondary care at Mercy Regional Medical Center (MRMC) and Animas Surgical Hospital (ASH). Hospitals coordinate patient transfer following their disaster response plans with support from the Incident Management Team (IMT).
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

ESF 5 - Emergency Management



OEM will coordinate the county government’s role in response to and recovery from the incident. OEM will work in partnership with the emergency manager of the municipalities within the county to provide overall coordination at the EOC.

ESF 5 - Coordination List

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	Activate an information coordination conference call with Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MACG) for increased situational awareness of the incident and determine the need to activate the EOC. Activate the EOC, in coordination with the county administrator, to the appropriate emergency level. Communicate plans and support needs to DHSEM. Request assistance from support agencies, and communication resources, as appropriate. Coordinate emergency notifications as needed.
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

ESF 5 – EOC Activation

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	Notify staff of pending EOC activation and of current activation level, coordinate staffing of all needed positions. Use the MACG for coordination and decision-making purposes. Maintain coordination and communication between the EOC and support agencies, including direct communication with the Incident Command Post (ICP). Communicate with DHSEM keeping the state apprised of the local situation.
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	Coordinate with SJBPH on situational and support needs. In coordination with ESF 6 & ESF 8 , identify and provide assistance to people with AFN, if needed.
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

ESF 6 – Mass Care & Human Services



The Department of Human Services (DHS) is responsible for coordination support of the movement of people with AFN during an emergency. DHS also coordinates mass care and sheltering needs as requested.

ESF 6 - Coordination List

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	Coordinate transportation of non-ambulatory persons and people with disabilities. Coordinate with Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers, if activated. Provide specialized staff to shelters if requested. Support disaster victims and/or shelter inhabitants in understanding what recovery programs may be available to them. DHS to coordinate with ESF 15 to develop messaging and notify the public of updates regarding the infectious disease incident.
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

ESF 13 – Public Safety & Security



Law enforcement supports the EOC when activated as the lead of the law enforcement branch of the operations sections and is responsible for evacuation and movement of citizens throughout the operational area when needed.

ESF 13 Coordination List

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	Facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles with local police and the Colorado State Patrol (CSP). Appoint a coroner unit leader and enforce lawful public health orders as requested by ESF 8 .
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	Control and monitor primary evacuation routes if needed. Control and monitor area access surrounding Points of Distribution (PODs), testing sites, vaccine clinics, etc. Support mass transit pick-up and movement of those needing assistance. Close roads that will not be used as the primary egress or ingress routes to the evacuated area.
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	

ESF 15 – External Affairs



External Affairs/public information officers/public affairs officer provide accurate, coordinated, timely, and accessible information to affected populations. Audiences may include governments, media, the private sector, and the public, including children, people with disabilities and/or AFN, and individuals with limited English proficiency.

ESF 15 Coordination List

STATUS	ACTION
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiated	Provide emergency public information. Provide continuous and accessible public incident info. Ensure that information is authentic and valid and informs individuals with sensory, intellectual, or cognitive disabilities; individuals with limited English proficiency; and people with AFN. Coordinate the actions for public information releases. Inform responding stakeholders how to, or when not to interact with the media during an emergency.
<input type="checkbox"/> In-Progress	
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	