

I. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to identify responsibilities and guidelines in the event that there is an infectious disease outbreak due to a natural cause or due to an act of bioterrorism within the city of Jordan.

Infectious diseases are defined as any disease caused by invasion by a pathogen which subsequently grows and multiplies in the body and are contagious or communicable and can be spread by contact between people or through food and / or water contamination.

West Nile Virus, Avian Bird Flu, Influenza, Salmonella, Plague, and Anthrax are just a few of the many diseases that can be identified in an outbreak.

II. Identification

Personnel should be alert to illness patterns and diagnostic clues that might signal a disease outbreak or an act of bioterrorism (BT). The following clinical and epidemiological clues are suggestive of an outbreak.

- A rapidly increasing incidence of disease in the community.
- Unusual increases in the number of people seeking medical care, calling for an ambulance, especially with fever, respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms.
- An unusual number of people with flu-like symptoms, particularly during the non-traditional flu season.
- Any suspected or confirmed communicable disease that is NOT COMMON in Minnesota, (e.g. plague, anthrax, smallpox, or viral hemorrhagic fever). Note: As smallpox has been eradicated in its natural state one case of smallpox must be viewed as caused intentionally.
- Any unusual age distribution or clusters of disease (e.g. chickenpox or measles in adults).
- Simultaneous outbreaks in human and animal populations.
- Any unusual clustering of illness (e.g. persons who attended the same public event).

Careful observations and understanding of historic disease patterns in the community can help identify a biological incident or epidemic outbreak. It is the early detection of any epidemic that can prevent or contain the spread of disease in a community. This rule applies to intentionally spread disease or naturally occurring disease. Responding personnel should advise hospital triage staff of any concerns or patterns in patient

presentation as hospital staff may have received similar patients from other ambulance services.

III. Responsibilities:

A. Scott County Public Health is the lead coordinating agency in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. Scott County Public Health maintains the following action plans which will be implemented in the event of an infectious disease outbreak in the city of Jordan:

Public Health All Hazards Plan
DRAT Procedures
Pandemic Influenza Plan
Isolation and Quarantine Plan
Mass Dispensing Plan

Scott County Public Health shall be responsible for the implementation of the appropriate action plan. The Jordan Emergency Management Director shall be familiar with these plans and shall maintain copies in a secure area at City Hall.

B. The city of Jordan Emergency Management Director is responsible to assure that the supporting annexes of the City of Jordan Emergency Management plan are implemented.

C. During the initial stages of an outbreak of infectious disease it is assumed that patients will be transported to area hospitals. Once a determination has been made by medical staff that a patient or patients have been diagnosed with an infectious disease that represents a threat of an outbreak within the city, it shall be the duty of the Emergency Management Director and the Incident Commander to assure that Scott County Public Health is contacted and notified of the status of events.

D. Scott County Public Health shall be responsible for making the appropriate state and national notifications and shall implement one or more of their emergency action plans.

E. If appropriate and the need exists, the Emergency Management Director, the Incident Commander, the Chief of Police and Fire Chief shall coordinate in choosing the best available location for an initial quarantine location. Probable locations are listed in Annex I – Chart A.

F. The Police Department shall be responsible for maintaining security at the quarantine location(s).

G. Public information release concerning the incident shall be in accordance with Annex C of this plan.

H. Additional information on biological outbreaks due to terrorist activity are covered in Annex N of this plan.

IV. Procedures

A. Annex Support

A number of annexes in this plan will be utilized in response to an infectious disease outbreak. NIMS protocols must be adhered to during an event. Identification, notification, and quarantine are vital initial steps in containing an outbreak.

B. Standard Precautions

Standard infection control practices are necessary to prevent the spread of an infectious disease:

- **Standard Precautions** apply to blood, all body fluids, secretions, non-intact skin, mucous membranes and excretions (except sweat) for all patients. Gloves and gowns (if soiling of clothing is likely) should be used to prevent exposure to blood and other potentially infectious fluids. Mask and eye protection or face shields should be used during procedures or activities that may likely generate splashes of blood or body fluids. Appropriate hand hygiene is always necessary.
- **Contact Precautions** include the use of gloves and a gown if clothing is likely to have contact with patient, environmental surfaces or patient care equipment.
- **Airborne Precautions** include a properly ventilated ambulance and appropriate respiratory protection such as the N95 respirator and placing a mask on the patient.
- **Droplet Precautions** include the use of a disposable gown, gloves and mask when working on or within 6.5 feet of a patient. For patients who are coughing; if possible and not contraindicated by respiratory difficulties, place a surgical mask on the patient to prevent droplet spread. When transferring or moving a patient inside the quarantine area, place a mask on the patient to prevent contamination of other patients.

- **Reminder: Even though you are wearing gloves, vigorous hand washing with soap and water or waterless hand cleaners must be done after each patient contact. This will help reduce the potential for contamination.**

V. Authentication

Emergency Management Director

Date

Mayor

Date