§ 300hh–2. Enhancing medical surge capacity

(a) Study of enhancing medical surge capacity

As part of the joint review described in section 300hh–11(b) of this title, the Secretary shall evaluate the benefits and feasibility of improving the capacity of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide additional medical surge capacity to local communities in the event of a public health emergency. Such study shall include an assessment of the need for and feasibility of improving surge capacity through—

(1) acquisition and operation of mobile medical assets by the Secretary to be deployed, on a contingency basis, to a community in the event of a public health emergency;
(2) integrating the practice of telemedicine within the National Disaster Medical System; and
(3) other strategies to improve such capacity as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(b) Authority to acquire and operate mobile medical assets

In addition to any other authority to acquire, deploy, and operate mobile medical assets, the Secretary may acquire, deploy, and operate mobile medical assets if, taking into consideration the evaluation conducted under subsection (a), such acquisition, deployment, and operation is determined to be beneficial and feasible in improving the capacity of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide additional medical surge capacity to local communities in the event of a public health emergency.

(c) Using Federal facilities to enhance medical surge capacity

(1) Analysis

The Secretary shall conduct an analysis of whether there are Federal facilities which, in the event of a public health emergency, could practicably be used as facilities in which to provide health care.

(2) Memoranda of understanding

If, based on the analysis conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary determines that there are Federal facilities which, in the event of a public health emergency, could be used as facilities in which to provide health care, the Secretary shall, with respect to each such facility, seek to conclude a memorandum of understanding with the head of the Department or agency that operates such facility to provide health care in the event of a public health emergency.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, §2803, as added Pub. L. 109–417, title III, §302(a), Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2855.)

PART B—ALL-HAZARDS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

AMENDMENTS


§ 300hh–10. Coordination of preparedness for and response to all-hazards public health emergencies

(a) In general

There is established within the Department of Health and Human Services the position of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. The President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint an individual to serve in such position. Such Assistant Secretary shall report to the Secretary.

(b) Duties

Subject to the authority of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response shall carry out the following functions:

(1) Leadership

Serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary on all matters related to Federal public health and medical preparedness and response for public health emergencies.

(2) Personnel

Register, credential, organize, train, equip, and have the authority to deploy Federal public health and medical personnel under the authority of the Secretary, including the National Disaster Medical System, and coordinate such personnel with the Medical Reserve Corps and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals.

(3) Countermeasures

Oversee advanced research, development, and procurement of qualified countermeasures (as defined in section 247d–6a of this title) and qualified pandemic or epidemic products (as defined in section 247d–6d of this title).

(4) Coordination

(A) Federal integration

Coordinate with relevant Federal officials to ensure integration of Federal preparedness and response activities for public health emergencies.

(B) State, local, and tribal integration

Coordinate with State, local, and tribal public health officials, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, health care systems, and emergency medical service systems to ensure effective integration of Federal public health and medical assets during a public health emergency.

(C) Emergency medical services

Promote improved emergency medical services medical direction, system integration, research, and uniformity of data collection, treatment protocols, and policies with regard to public health emergencies.

(5) Logistics

In coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the General Services Administration, and other public and private entities, provide logistical support for medical and public health aspects of Federal responses to public health emergencies.
(6) Leadership

Provide leadership in international programs, initiatives, and policies that deal with public health and medical emergency preparedness and response.

(c) Functions

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response shall—

(1) have authority over and responsibility for—
   (A) the National Disaster Medical System (in accordance with section 301 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act); and
   (B) the Hospital Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Program pursuant to section 247d-7b of this title;

(2) exercise the responsibilities and authorities of the Secretary with respect to the coordination of—
   (A) the Medical Reserve Corps pursuant to section 300hh–15 of this title;
   (B) the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals pursuant to section 247d-7b of this title;
   (C) the Strategic National Stockpile; and
   (D) the Cities Readiness Initiative; and

(3) assume other duties as determined appropriate by the Secretary.


REFERENCES IN TEXT


PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2811 of act July 1, 1944, was renumbered section 2812 and is classified to section 300hh–11 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Pub. L. 109–417, title I, § 102(b), Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2834, provided that:

"(1) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—There shall be transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response the functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 19, 2006]."

"(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of or pertaining to the Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness as in effect the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response."

§ 300hh–11. National Disaster Medical System

(a) National Disaster Medical System

(1) In general

The Secretary shall provide for the operation in accordance with this section of a system to be known as the National Disaster Medical System. The Secretary shall designate the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response as the head of the National Disaster Medical System, subject to the authority of the Secretary.

(2) Federal and State collaborative System

(A) In general

The National Disaster Medical System shall be a coordinated effort by the Federal agencies specified in subparagraph (B), working in collaboration with the States and other appropriate public or private entities, to carry out the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(B) Participating Federal agencies

The Federal agencies referred to in subparagraph (A) are the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) Purpose of System

(A) In general

The Secretary may activate the National Disaster Medical System to—

(i) provide health services, health-related social services, other appropriate human services, and appropriate auxiliary services to respond to the needs of victims of a public health emergency (whether or not determined to be a public health emergency under section 247d of this title); or

(ii) be present at locations, and for limited periods of time, specified by the Secretary on the basis that the Secretary has determined that a location is at risk of a public health emergency during the time specified.

(B) Ongoing activities

The National Disaster Medical System shall carry out such ongoing activities as may be necessary to prepare for the provision of services described in subparagraph (A) in the event that the Secretary activates the National Disaster Medical System for such purposes.

(C) Test for mobilization of System

During the one-year period beginning on December 19, 2006, the Secretary shall conduct an exercise to test the capability and timeliness of the National Disaster Medical System to mobilize and otherwise respond effectively to a bioterrorist attack or other public health emergency that affects two or more geographic locations concurrently. Thereafter, the Secretary may periodically conduct such exercises regarding the National Disaster Medical System as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) Modifications

(1) In general

Taking into account the findings from the joint review described under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall modify the policies of the National Disaster Medical System as necessary.
§ 300hh–11

(2) Joint review and medical surge capacity strategic plan

Not later than 180 days after December 19, 2006, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall conduct a joint review of the National Disaster Medical System. Such review shall include an evaluation of medical surge capacity, as described by section 300hh–2(a) of this title. As part of the National Health Security Strategy under section 300hh–1 of this title, the Secretary shall update the findings from such review and further modify the policies of the National Disaster Medical System as necessary.

(3) Participation agreements for non-Federal entities

In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish criteria regarding the participation of States and private entities in the National Disaster Medical System, including criteria regarding agreements for such participation. The criteria shall include the following:

(A) Provisions relating to the custody and use of Federal personal property by such entities, which may in the discretion of the Secretary include authorizing the custody and use of such property to respond to emergency situations for which the National Disaster Medical System has not been activated by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (a)(3)(A) of this section. Any such custody and use of Federal personal property shall be on a reimbursable basis.

(B) Provisions relating to circumstances in which an individual or entity has agreements with both the National Disaster Medical System and another entity regarding the provision of emergency services by the individual. Such provisions shall address the issue of priorities among the agreements involved.

(c) Intermittent disaster-response personnel

(1) In general

For the purpose of assisting the National Disaster Medical System in carrying out duties under this section, the Secretary may appoint individuals to serve as intermittent personnel of such System in accordance with applicable civil service laws and regulations.

(2) Liability

For purposes of section 233(a) of this title and the remedies described in such section, an individual appointed under paragraph (1) shall, while acting within the scope of such appointment, be considered to be an employee of the Public Health Service performing medical, surgical, dental, or related functions, and an injury sustained by such an individual shall be deemed “in the performance of duty” for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5 pertaining to compensation for work injuries. With respect to the participation of individuals appointed under subsection (c) of this section in training programs authorized by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response or a comparable official of any Federal agency specified in subsection (a)(2)(B) of this section, injuries sustained by such an individual, while acting within the scope of such participation, also shall be deemed “in the performance of duty” for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5 (regardless of whether the individuals receive compensation for such participation). In the event of an injury to such an intermittent disaster-response appointee, the Secretary of Labor shall be responsible for making determinations as to whether the claimant is entitled to compensation or other benefits in accordance with chapter 81 of title 5.

(3) Employment and reemployment rights

(A) In general

Service as an intermittent disaster-response appointee when the Secretary activates the National Disaster Medical System or when the individual participates in a training program authorized by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response or a comparable official of any Federal agency specified in subsection (a)(2)(B) of this section shall be deemed “service in the uniformed services” for purposes of chapter 43 of title 38 pertaining to employment and reemployment rights of individuals who have performed service in the uniformed services (regardless of whether the individual receives compensation for such participation). All rights and obligations of such persons and procedures for assistance, enforcement, and investigation shall be as provided for in chapter 43 of title 38.

(B) Notice of absence from position of employment

Preclusion of giving notice of service by necessity of Service as an intermittent disaster-response appointee when the Secretary activates the National Disaster Medical System shall be deemed preclusion by “military necessity” for purposes of section 4312(b) of
title 38 pertaining to giving notice of absence from a position of employment. A determination of such necessity shall be made by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, and shall not be subject to judicial review.

(4) Limitation

An intermittent disaster-response appointee shall not be deemed an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes other than those specifically set forth in this section.

(e) Rule of construction regarding use of commissioned corps

If the Secretary assigns commissioned officers of the Regular or Reserve Corps to serve with the National Disaster Medical System, such assignments do not affect the terms and conditions of their appointments as commissioned officers of the Regular or Reserve Corps, respectively (including with respect to pay and allowances, retirement, benefits, privileges, and immunities).

(f) Definition

For purposes of this section, the term “auxiliary services” includes mortuary services, veterinary services, and other services that are determined by the Secretary to be appropriate with respect to the needs referred to in subsection (a)(3)(A) of this section.

(g) Authorization of appropriations

For the purpose of providing for the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the operations of the National Disaster Medical System, other than purposes for which amounts in the Public Health Emergency Fund under section 247d of this title are available, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2011.


AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(1), substituted “National Disaster Medical System” for “Coordination of preparedness for and response to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(2), (3), redesignated subsec. (b) as (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which related to establishment of position and duties of Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness.


Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(5), substituted “Modifications” for “Criteria” in heading, added pars. (1) and (2), redesignated former par. (2) as (3), and struck out heading and text of former par. (1). Text read as follows: “The Secretary shall establish criteria for the operation of the National Disaster Medical System.”

Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(3), redesignated subsec. (c) as (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (a).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(4), substituted “Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response” for “Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness”.


Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(3), redesignated subsec. (d) as (c). Former subsec. (c) redesignated (b).


Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(7), substituted “subsection (c)” for “subsection (d)” in pars. (1) and (2).


Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(3), redesignated subsec. (e) as (d). Former subsec. (d) redesignated (c).

Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(4), substituted “Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response” for “Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness”.


Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(3), redesignated subsec. (g) as (f). Former subsec. (f) redesignated (e).


Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(3), redesignated subsec. (h) as (g). Former subsec. (g) redesignated (f).


Pub. L. 109–417, § 301(a)(4), substituted “Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response” for “Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness”.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS


Pub. L. 109–255, title III, Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1372, provided in part: “That the total amount appropriated and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the National Disaster Medical System established under section 2811(b) [now 2812(a)] of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b) [now 300hh–11(a)]), including any functions of the Secretary of Homeland Security relating to such System, shall be permanently transferred to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services effective January 1, 2007.”

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the National Disaster Medical System of the Department of Health and Human Services, including the functions of the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (now Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response) relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former sections 313(5) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 300hh–12. Transferred

CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 107–188, title I, § 121, June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 611, as amended, which related to Strategic Na-
§ 300hh–13. Evaluation of new and emerging technologies regarding bioterrorist attack and other public health emergencies

(a) In general

The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall promptly carry out a program to periodically evaluate new and emerging technologies that, in the determination of the Secretary, are designed to improve or enhance the ability of public health or safety officials to conduct public health surveillance activities relating to a bioterrorist attack or other public health emergency.

(b) Certain activities

In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable—

(1) survey existing technology programs funded by the Federal Government for potentially useful technologies;

(2) promptly issue a request, as necessary, for information from non-Federal public and private entities for ongoing activities in this area; and

(3) evaluate technologies identified under paragraphs (1) and (2) pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Consultation and evaluation

In carrying out subsection (b)(3) of this section, the Secretary shall consult with the working group under section 247d–6(a) of this title, as well as other appropriate public, nonprofit, and private entities, to develop criteria for the evaluation of such technologies and to conduct such evaluations.

(d) Report

Not later than 180 days after June 12, 2002, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report on the activities under this section.

§ 300hh–14. Protection of health and safety during disasters

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Certified monitoring program

The term “certified monitoring program” means a medical monitoring program—

(A) in which a participating responder is a participant as a condition of the employment of such participating responder; and

(B) that the Secretary of Health and Human Services certifies includes an adequate baseline medical screening.

(2) Disaster area

The term “disaster area” means an area in which the President has declared a major disaster (as that term is defined in section 5122 of this title), during the period of such declaration.

(3) High exposure level

The term “high exposure level” means a level of exposure to a substance of concern that is for such a duration, or of such a magnitude, that adverse effects on human health can be reasonably expected to occur, as determined by the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in accordance with human monitoring or environmental or other appropriate indicators.

(4) Individual

The term “individual” includes—

(A) a worker or volunteer who responds to a disaster, either natural or manmade, involving any mode of transportation in the United States or disrupting the transportation system of the United States, including—

(i) a police officer;

(ii) a firefighter;

(iii) an emergency medical technician;

(iv) any participating member of an urban search and rescue team; and

(v) any other relief or rescue worker or volunteer that the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, determines to be appropriate;

(B) a worker who responds to a disaster, either natural or manmade, involving any mode of transportation in the United States or disrupting the transportation system of the United States, by assisting in the cleanup or restoration of critical infrastructure in and around a disaster area;

(C) a person whose place of residence is in a disaster area, caused by either a natural or manmade disaster involving any mode of transportation in the United States or disrupting the transportation system of the United States;

(D) a person who is employed in or attends school, child care, or adult day care in a building located in a disaster area, caused by either a natural or manmade disaster involving any mode of transportation in the United States or disrupting the transportation system of the United States; and

(E) any other person that the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, determines to be appropriate.
§ 300hh–1

(5) Participating responder

The term “participating responder” means an individual described in paragraph (4)(A).

(6) Program

The term “program” means a program described in subsection (b) that is carried out for a disaster area.

(7) Substance of concern

The term “substance of concern” means a chemical or other substance that is associated with potential acute or chronic human health effects, the risk of exposure to which could potentially be increased as the result of a disaster, as determined by the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and in coordination with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, and other agencies.

(b) Program

(1) In general

If the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, determines that 1 or more substances of concern are being, or have been, released in an area declared to be a disaster area and disrupts the transportation system of the United States, the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may carry out a program for the coordination, protection, assessment, monitoring, and study of the health and safety of individuals with high exposure levels to ensure that—

(A) the individuals are adequately informed about and protected against potential health impacts of any substance of concern in a timely manner;

(B) the individuals are monitored and studied over time, including through baseline and followup clinical health examinations, for—

(i) any short- and long-term health impacts of any substance of concern; and

(ii) any mental health impacts;

(C) the individuals receive health care referrals as needed and appropriate; and

(D) information from any such monitoring and studies is used to prevent or protect against similar health impacts from future disasters.

(2) Activities

A program under paragraph (1) may include such activities as—

(A) collecting and analyzing environmental exposure data;

(B) developing and disseminating information and educational materials;

(C) performing baseline and followup clinical health and mental health examinations and taking biological samples;

(D) establishing and maintaining an exposure registry;

(E) studying the short- and long-term human health impacts of any exposures through epidemiological and other health studies; and

(F) providing assistance to individuals in determining eligibility for health coverage and identifying appropriate health services.

(3) Timing

To the maximum extent practicable, activities under any program carried out under paragraph (1) (including baseline health examinations) shall be commenced in a timely manner that will ensure the highest level of public health protection and effective monitoring.

(4) Participation in registries and studies

(A) In general

Participation in any registry or study that is part of a program carried out under paragraph (1) shall be voluntary.

(B) Protection of privacy

The President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall take appropriate measures to protect the privacy of any participant in a registry or study described in subparagraph (A).

(C) Priority

(i) In general

Except as provided in clause (ii), the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall give priority in any registry or study described in subparagraph (A) to the protection, monitoring and study of the health and safety of individuals with the highest level of exposure to a substance of concern.

(ii) Modifications

Notwithstanding clause (i), the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may modify the priority of a registry or study described in subparagraph (A), if the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, determines such modification to be appropriate.

(5) Cooperative agreements

(A) In general

The President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may carry out a program under paragraph (1) through a cooperative agreement with a medical institution, including a local health department, or a consortium of medical institutions.

(B) Selection criteria

To the maximum extent practicable, the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall select to carry out a program under paragraph (1), a medical institution or a consortium of medical institutions that—

(i) is located near—

(I) the disaster area with respect to which the program is carried out; and

(II) any other area in which there reside groups of individuals that worked or volunteered in response to the disaster; and
§ 300hh–14
TITLE 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
Page 1332

(ii) has appropriate experience in the areas of environmental or occupational health, toxicology, and safety, including experience in—
(I) developing clinical protocols and conducting clinical health examinations, including mental health assessments;
(II) conducting long-term health monitoring and epidemiological studies;
(III) conducting long-term mental health studies; and
(IV) establishing and maintaining medical surveillance programs and environmental exposure or disease registries.

(6) Involvement

(A) In general

In carrying out a program under paragraph (1), the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall involve interested and affected parties, as appropriate, including representatives of—
(1) Federal, State, and local government agencies;
(2) groups of individuals that worked or volunteered in response to the disaster in the disaster area;
(3) local residents, businesses, and schools (including parents and teachers);
(4) health care providers;
(v) faith based organizations; and
(vi) other organizations and persons.

(B) Committees

Involvement under subparagraph (A) may be provided through the establishment of an advisory or oversight committee or board.

(7) Privacy

The President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out each program under paragraph (1) in accordance with regulations relating to privacy promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 1320d–2 note; Public Law 104–191).

(8) Existing programs

In carrying out a program under paragraph (1), the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, may—
(A) include the baseline clinical health examination of a participating responder under a certified monitoring programs;\(^1\) and
(B) substitute the baseline clinical health examination of a participating responder under a certified monitoring program for a baseline clinical health examination under paragraph (1).

(c) Reports

Not later than 1 year after the establishment of a program under subsection (b)(1), and every 5 years thereafter, the President, acting through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the medical institution or consortium of such institutions having entered into a cooperative agreement under subsection (b)(5), may submit a report to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Labor, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate committees of Congress describing the programs and studies carried out under the program.

(d) National Academy of Sciences report on disaster area health and environmental protection and monitoring

(1) In general

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study and prepare a report on disaster area health and environmental protection and monitoring.

(2) Participation of experts

The report under paragraph (1) shall be prepared with the participation of individuals who have expertise in—
(A) environmental health, safety, and medicine;
(B) occupational health, safety, and medicine;
(C) clinical medicine, including pediatrics;
(D) environmental toxicology;
(E) epidemiology;
(F) mental health;
(G) medical monitoring and surveillance;
(H) environmental monitoring and surveillance;
(I) environmental and industrial hygiene;
(J) emergency planning and preparedness;
(K) public outreach and education;
(L) State and local health departments;
(M) State and local environmental protection departments;
(N) functions of workers that respond to disasters, including first responders;
(O) public health; and
(P) family services, such as counseling and other disaster-related services provided to families.

(3) Contents

The report under paragraph (1) shall provide advice and recommendations regarding protecting and monitoring the health and safety of individuals potentially exposed to any chemical or other substance associated with potential acute or chronic human health effects as the result of a disaster, including advice and recommendations regarding—
(A) the establishment of protocols for monitoring and responding to chemical or substance releases in a disaster area to protect public health and safety, including—
(i) chemicals or other substances for which samples should be collected in the event of a disaster, including a terrorist attack;
(ii) chemical- or substance-specific methods of sample collection, including sampling methodologies and locations;
(iii) chemical- or substance-specific methods of sample analysis;
(iv) health-based threshold levels to be used and response actions to be taken in the event that thresholds are exceeded for individual chemicals or other substances;
(v) procedures for providing monitoring results to—
   (I) appropriate Federal, State, and local government agencies;
   (II) appropriate response personnel; and
   (III) the public;
   (vi) responsibilities of Federal, State, and local agencies for—
      (I) collecting and analyzing samples;
      (II) reporting results; and
      (III) taking appropriate response actions; and
   (vii) capabilities and capacity within the Federal Government to conduct appropriate environmental monitoring and response in the event of a disaster, including a terrorist attack; and
   (B) other issues specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(4) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.


REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, referred to in subsec. (b)(7), is section 264(c) of Pub. L. 104–191, which is set out as a note under section 1320d–2 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006, also known as the SAFE Port Act, and not as part of the Public Health Service Act which comprises this chapter.

§ 300hh–15. Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps

(a) In general

Not later than 180 days after December 19, 2006, the Secretary, in collaboration with State, local, and tribal officials, shall build on State, local, and tribal programs in existence on December 19, 2006, to establish and maintain a Medical Reserve Corps (referred to in this section as the “Corps”) to provide for an adequate supply of volunteers in the case of a Federal, State, local, or tribal public health emergency. The Corps shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary and shall oversee the activities of the Corps chapters that exist at the State, local, and tribal levels.

(b) State, local, and tribal coordination

The Corps shall be established using existing State, local, and tribal teams and shall not alter such teams.

(c) Composition

The Corps shall be composed of individuals who—

(1)(A) are health professionals who have appropriate professional training and expertise as determined appropriate by the Director of the Corps; or

(B) are non-health professionals who have an interest in serving in an auxiliary or support capacity to facilitate access to health care services in a public health emergency;

(2) are certified in accordance with the certification program developed under subsection (d);

(3) are geographically diverse in residence;

(4) have registered and carry out training exercises with a local chapter of the Medical Reserve Corps; and

(5) indicate whether they are willing to be deployed outside the area in which they reside in the event of a public health emergency.

(d) Certification; drills

(1) Certification

The Director, in collaboration with State, local, and tribal officials, shall establish a process for the periodic certification of individuals who volunteer for the Corps, as determined by the Secretary, which shall include the completion by each individual of the core training programs developed under section 247d–6 of this title, as required by the Director. Such certification shall not supersede State licensing or credentialing requirements.

(2) Drills

In conjunction with the core training programs referred to in paragraph (1), and in order to facilitate the integration of trained volunteers into the health care system at the local level, Corps members shall engage in periodic training exercises to be carried out at the local level.

(e) Deployment

During a public health emergency, the Secretary shall have the authority to activate and deploy willing members of the Corps to areas of need, taking into consideration the public health and medical expertise required, with the concurrence of the State, local, or tribal officials from the area where the members reside.

(f) Expenses and transportation

While engaged in performing duties as a member of the Corps pursuant to an assignment by the Secretary (including periods of travel to facilitate such assignment), members of the Corps who are not otherwise employed by the Federal Government shall be allowed travel or transportation expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

(g) Identification

The Secretary, in cooperation and consultation with the States, shall develop a Medical Reserve Corps Identification Card that describes the licensure and certification information of Corps members, as well as other identifying information determined necessary by the Secretary.

(h) Intermittent disaster-response personnel

(1) In general

For the purpose of assisting the Corps in carrying out duties under this section, during a public health emergency, the Secretary may appoint selected individuals to serve as intermittent personnel of such Corps in accordance
with applicable civil service laws and regulations. In all other cases, members of the Corps are subject to the laws of the State in which the activities of the Corps are undertaken.

(2) Applicable protections

Subsections (c)(2), (d), and (e) of section 300hh–11 of this title shall apply to an individual appointed under paragraph (1) in the same manner as such subsections apply to an individual appointed under section 300hh–11(c) of this title.

(3) Limitation

State, local, and tribal officials shall have no authority to designate a member of the Corps as Federal intermittent disaster-response personnel, but may request the services of such members.

(i) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $22,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, § 2813, as added Pub. L. 109–417, title III, § 303(a), Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2936.)

§ 300hh–16. At-risk individuals

The Secretary, acting through such employee of the Department of Health and Human Services as determined by the Secretary and designated publicly (which may, at the discretion of the Secretary, involve the appointment or designation of an individual as the Director of At-Risk Individuals), shall—

(1) oversee the implementation of the National Preparedness goal of taking into account the public health and medical needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency, as described in section 300hh–1(b)(4) of this title;

(2) assist other Federal agencies responsible for planning for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies in addressing the needs of at-risk individuals;

(3) provide guidance to and ensure that recipients of State and local public health grants include preparedness and response strategies and capabilities that take into account the medical and public health needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency, as described in section 247d–3a(b)(2)(A)(iii) of this title;

(4) ensure that the contents of the strategic national stockpile take into account at-risk populations as described in section 300hh–10(b)(3)(B) of this title;

(5) oversee the progress of the Advisory Committee on At-Risk Individuals and Public Health Emergencies established under section 247d–6(b)(2) of this title and make recommendations with a focus on opportunities for action based on the work of the Committee;

(6) oversee curriculum development for the public health and medical response training program on medical management of casualties, as it concerns at-risk individuals as described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 247d–6(a)(2) of this title;

(7) disseminate novel and best practices of outreach to and care of at-risk individuals before, during, and following public health emergencies; and

(8) not later than one year after December 19, 2006, prepare and submit to Congress a report describing the progress made on implementing the duties described in this section.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, § 2814, as added Pub. L. 109–417, title I, § 102(d), Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2934.)

§ 300hh–17. Emergency response coordination of primary care providers

The Secretary, acting through Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, shall—

(1) provide guidance and technical assistance to health centers funded under section 254b of this title and to State and local health departments and emergency managers to integrate health centers into State and local emergency response plans and to better meet the primary care needs of populations served by health centers during public health emergencies; and

(2) encourage employees at health centers funded under section 254b of this title to participate in emergency medical response programs including the National Disaster Medical System authorized in section 300hh–11 of this title, the Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps authorized in section 300hh–15 of this title, and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Health Professions Volunteers authorized in section 247d–7b of this title.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, § 2815, as added Pub. L. 110–355, § 6(a), Oct. 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 3994.)

PART C—STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

§ 300hh–31. Epidemiology-laboratory capacity grants

(a) In general

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish an Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant Program to award grants to State health departments as well as local health departments and tribal jurisdictions that meet such criteria as the Director determines appropriate. Academic centers that assist State and eligible local and tribal health departments may also be eligible for funding under this section as the Director determines appropriate. Grants shall be awarded under this section to assist public health agencies in improving surveillance for, and response to, infectious diseases and other conditions of public health importance by—

(1) strengthening epidemiologic capacity to identify and monitor the occurrence of infec-