

WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

*Assure safe and healthy people by monitoring progress on the state health plan
and on the readiness for public health emergencies.*



April 12, 2024

Resolution Requesting the Implementation of Corrective Public Health Emergency Preparedness Actions as Identified from the COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Whereas, the Wisconsin Public Health Council is a statutorily created body of Wisconsin residents charged with advising the Department of Health Services, the Governor, the Legislature and the public on progress in implementing the state's health plan as well as response to public health emergencies; and

Whereas, the Public Health Council is comprised of representatives from health care consumers, community serving organizations, health care providers, health profession educators, health departments and boards, American Indian Tribes and public safety agencies; and

Whereas, Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program compliant after action reports and improvement plans are essential and indicated in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement for ensuring a capabilities- and performance-based exercise program that provides a standardized policy, methodology, and language for designing, developing, conducting, and evaluating all exercises; and

Whereas, the Public Health Council has reviewed an analysis of COVID-19 pandemic response local and Tribal health department after action reports and improvement plans; and

Whereas, there was not a publicly available after action report and improvement plan from the Department of Health Services to identify improvements; and

Whereas, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate preparedness takes a whole community approach, such that emergency preparedness, response and recovery are shared responsibilities; and

Whereas, the Public Health Council recognizes that actions are needed to strength collaborative future response; therefore

Be it resolved, the Public Health Council acting in its statutorily defined role as an advisory body to the Department of Health Services, the Governor and the Legislature encourages state law and policy makers and administrators to work towards addressing areas of improvement to assure that Wisconsin is prepared to effectively and efficiently prevent, detect and report, investigate, control, and recover from future public health emergencies by:

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- Requiring that the State complete an after action report for all future public health emergencies.
- The Department of Health Services establishing and implementing across all areas standardized templates for after action reports that meet the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program requirements.
- Increasing collaboration between the Department of Health Services and Wisconsin Emergency Management to promote more coordinated planning, response and roles between emergency management and local and tribal public health.
- The Department of Health Services leading a strategic planning effort to align the planning and response efforts of local and tribal public health agencies, Healthcare Emergency Response Coalitions, hospitals, health systems, Emergency Medical Services, Regional Trauma Advisory Committees, and local Emergency Management .
- The Department of Health Services working collaboratively with local and tribal public health, Healthcare Emergency Response Coalitions, hospitals, health systems, Emergency Medical Services, Regional Trauma Advisory Committees, and local Emergency Management to establish a methodology for the equitable distribution of resources during public health emergencies.
- The Department of Health Services leading efforts to establish a system between the state and local and tribal health agencies for public communication that respects the roles and responsibilities and both levels during a public health emergency.
- Building capacity to advance health equity in preparedness and responses at all levels.

Lastly, be it resolved, that copies of this resolution be shared with multiple partners, including the State Health Officer, the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, the Governor, the Legislature and at minimum representatives of:

- Wisconsin Emergency Management
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
- Wisconsin Public Health Association
- Wisconsin's Federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Bands
- Wisconsin Counties Association
- League of Wisconsin Municipalities
- Wisconsin County Human Services Association
- United Way of Wisconsin