



**Indiana**  
**Department**  
**of**  
**Health**

# Governor's Public Health Commission

Draft Emergency Preparedness  
Recommendations

Megan Lytle

Stephen Cox

May 19, 2022

# Overall Goals

---

- Ensure connectivity and facilitate information exchange in preparation for and during public health emergencies
- Enhance LHD, IDOH, and EMS readiness
- Improve the scalability of emergency response efforts beyond the local level

# Draft Recommendations

---

1. Increase utilization of IDOH's EMResource tool across all Indiana hospitals, local public health departments, first responders, and applicable government agencies
2. Require local health departments (LHDs) to participate in the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant program
3. Enhance IDOH's emergency services and supplies capacity
4. Ensure local level EMS readiness through expansion and sustainability of EMS workforce
5. Improve regional coordination efforts to ensure a seamless emergency response

# Ensure connectivity and facilitate information exchange in preparation for and during public health emergencies

---

## Draft Recommendation 1.

Increase utilization of IDOH's EMResource tool across all Indiana hospitals, local public health departments, first responders, and applicable government agencies

Possible action items:

- A. Include EMResource participation as a condition of hospital licensure
- B. Ensure awareness and training on use of EMResource and WebEOC of all relevant partners
- C. Secure funding and infrastructure for EMResource management
- D. Require local health departments to utilize EMResource

# Enhance Local Health Department (LHD) readiness

---

## Draft Recommendation 2.

Require local health departments (LHDs) to participate in the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant program

Possible action items:

- A. Require each LHD to have a PHEP coordinator (.5 FTE minimum)
- B. Provide technical assistance as needed for grant activities and reporting

# Enhance IDOH readiness

---

## Draft Recommendation 3.

### Enhance IDOH's emergency services and supplies capacity

Possible action items:

- A. Maintain IDOH vendor contracts that can be activated during a public health emergency
- B. Evaluate the need for a state strategic stockpile to ensure the availability of personal protective equipment and (PPE) and medical counter measures (MCM)
- C. Engage Health Care Coalitions, LHDs, and statewide partners to develop strategies for extending PPE and MCM supplies so that both are available when needed most
- D. Direct Dept. of Homeland Security and IDOH on coordination of public health emergencies through training exercises

# Enhance EMS readiness

---

## Draft Recommendation 4.

### Ensure local level EMS readiness through expansion and sustainability of EMS workforce

Possible action items:

- A. Conduct needs assessment of specific EMS gaps in local jurisdictions
- B. Ensure funding and prioritized recruitment to address workforce shortages in EMS, particularly in underserved and geographically remote areas of the State
- C. Establish long-term promotional and retention plans for EMS personnel
- D. Explore ongoing training and expansion of community paramedicine programs

# Improve the scalability of emergency response efforts beyond the local level

---

## Draft Recommendation 5.

### Improve regional coordination efforts to ensure a seamless emergency response

Possible action items:

- A. Evaluate stakeholder engagement process to redefine the IDOH Emergency Preparedness Districts
- B. Evaluate stakeholder engagement process to redefine roles, responsibilities, and authorities of regional partners