

CCLHO (Public Health) Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee (PHEPR)

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee does not have a regularly scheduled meeting, and communicates via e-mail as necessary.

Membership includes Health Officers or designees from about 20 counties, plus representatives from the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Emergency Management Services Authority (EMSA), the Health Officers Association of California (HOAC), and Emergency Manager Services (EMS) Administrators. Any interested Health Officer may join.

The CCLHO Policy Platform states that “The local Health Officer has the ultimate authority and responsibility for preparing for, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from all medical and/or health emergencies and disasters impacting the local jurisdiction, including man-made and intentional acts (such as bioterrorism); non-intentional events (such as toxic spills); environmental/natural catastrophes (such as earthquakes, floods, or fire); or infectious outbreaks (such as pandemic influenza).”

CCLHO and the PHEPR Committee will continue to:

- Work with CDPH and EMSA on the roll-out of the newly created, approved, and released California Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual (EOM)
- Encourage a strong CDPH and EMSA, working together with other key pre-hospital and hospital partners in an integrated response to emergencies and disasters at the local, regional, and state level
- Strongly support the local Health Officer as physician, with legal authorities in statute based on that assumption
- Identify the need for legislation or proposed legislation that supports CCLHO goals and objectives. Advise CDPH and other appropriate organizations.
- Work with the EMS Commission and be represented

Examples of committees, projects and issues we are continuing to work on include:

- The EOM and its roll-out to the regions and local jurisdictions
- The Joint Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergency Preparedness
- The further development of Emergency Function 8: Public Health and Medical Medical Sheltering
- The further development of the CDC PHEP grant capabilities
- Performance measures
- The annual Statewide Medical and Health Exercise
- Identification of the need for legislation