



Commonly Used Public Health Acronyms & Terms

Acronyms

ACC	Acute Care Center
AHHR	All Health Hazard Region
ARC	American Red Cross
CAP	Civil Air Patrol
CBRNE	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CO	Community Outreach
COOP	Continuity of Operations
CRI	Cities Readiness Initiative
CST	Civil Support Team
CTS	Casualty Transportation System
DBHRT	Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DMAT	Disaster Medical Assistance Team
DMORT	Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team
DOS	Department of Safety
DOT	Department of Transportation
DPHS	Division of Public Health Services
EAS	Emergency Alert System
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMD	Emergency Management Director
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
ESAR-VHP	Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals
ESF	Emergency Support Function
ESF-8	Emergency Support Function 8 (Health and Medical Services)
ESF-13	Emergency Support Function 13 (Law Enforcement & Security)
FE	Functional Exercise
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOUO	For Official Use Only
HAN	Health Alert Network
HazMat	Hazardous Material
HHS	Health and Human Services
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
HOC	Health Operation Center
HSEEP	Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program
HSPD	Homeland Security Presidential Directive

IAP	Incident Action Plan
ICC	NH DHHS Incident Command Center
ICS	Incident Command System
JIC	Joint Information Center
ILI	Influenza-like Illness
IND	Investigational New Drug
JIC	Joint Information Center
JOC	Joint Operations Center
JTF	Joint Task Force
LEOP	Local Emergency Operations Plan
LO	Liaison Officer
MACE	Multi Agency Coordinating Entity
MCC	Medical Control Center
MI	Managed Inventory
MMRS	Metropolitan Medical Response System
MRC	Medical Reserve Corps
MOA/MOU	Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding
NAWAS	National Alert and Warning System
NECEP	New England Center for Emergency Preparedness
NEHC	Neighborhood Emergency Help Center
NESPAC	New England State Police Administrator Conference
NHDHHS	New Hampshire Department Health and Human Services
NHHA	NH Hospital Association
NHNG	NH National Guard
NIMS	National Incident Management System
OPS	Operations
PHL	Public Health Laboratory
PHN	Public Health Network
PHS	US Public Health Service
PIO	Public Information Officer
POC	Point of Contact
POD	Point of Dispensing
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RCC	Regional Coordinating Council
RRAM	Resource Requirements and Allocation Model
RSS	Receive, Stage, and Store Warehouse
SITMAN	Situational Manual
SITREP	Situation Report
SME	Subject Matter Expert
SNS	Strategic National Stockpile
SOG	Standard Operating Guideline
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TAR	Technical Assistance Review
TCL	Target Capabilities List
TTX	Tabletop Exercise
UTL	Universal Task List
VC	Vaccine Clinic
WHO	World Health Organization

Glossary

ACC

Acute Care Center – an in-patient facility established to provide medical care in a community based location

Active Immunization

The act of artificially stimulating the body to develop antibodies against infectious disease by the administration of vaccines or toxoids.

Acute Samples

Samples (e.g., blood, sputum, urine) taken from a patient who is experiencing the full symptoms of a disease

Aerosol

A suspension of very small solid liquid particles in gas (such as air)

Airborne Precautions

Includes the placement of the case in an airborne isolation room with negative air pressure and the use of N-95 fit-tested respirator by individuals entering the room.

Airborne Transmission

Occurs when disease particles <5um in size are released in the air by an infectious person and then persist in the environment long enough to transmit to others in that environment

All-Health Hazard Regions (AHHR)

The NH DHHS and the Pandemic Planning Coordinating Committee (PPCC) divided the State of New Hampshire into 19 geographical regions for the purpose of all-health hazards emergency planning. The regions are largely consistent with hospital service areas but may deviate based on healthcare delivery systems, economic ties, school systems, and daily living patterns of residents.

Alpha-Interferon

A heat-stable and soluble basic antiviral glycoprotein that is produced by cells exposed to the action of a virus, bacterium, or toxin; used medically as an antiviral compound

Amantadine

An antiviral used in the prophylaxis and management of influenza A

Amino Acid

An organic compound having both an amino group (NH₂) and a carboxylic acid (COOH) group

Antibiotic

A substance produced by or derived from a microorganism that inhibits or kills another Microorganism (such as bacteria)

Antibody

A protein substance produced in the blood or tissues in response to a specific antigen, such as bacterium or a toxin; antibodies destroy or weaken bacteria and neutralize organic poisons, thus forming the basis of immunity

Antigen

A molecule capable of eliciting a specific antibody or T-cell response

Antigenic Drift

Antigenic drift occurs through small changes in the virus that happen continually over time. It produces new virus strains that may not be recognized by antibodies to earlier influenza strains. This is one of the main reasons why people can get the flu more than one time. For this reason, people who want to be immunized against influenza need to receive a flu vaccination every year.

Antigenic Shift

Antigenic shift is an abrupt, major change in the influenza A viruses, resulting in a new influenza virus that can infect humans and has not been seen in human for many years. Antigenic shift results in a new influenza A subtype. If a new subtype of influenza A virus is introduced into the human population, if most people have little or no protection against the new virus, and if the virus can spread easily from person to person, a pandemic (worldwide spread) may occur.

Antiserum

The blood fluid remaining after blood cells, fibrinogen, and fibrin are removed and also contains antibodies; immune serum

Antiviral

A medication that destroys or inhibits the growth and reproduction of viruses. Commonly used for influenza.

Aseptic

Preventing infection; free or freed of pathogens by use of disinfectants, filtration, etc

Bacteria

Small, free-living microscopic organisms that reproduce by simple division; the diseases they produce often respond to treatment with antibiotics

Biohazard

A biological agent (e.g., an infectious organism) or condition (e.g., insecure laboratory procedure) that constitutes a hazard to humans or the environment

Biological Agent

A microorganism that causes disease in humans, plants, or animals or causes the deterioration of material

Casual Contact

A person who has been within the proximity of an infected human or animal (e.g., sharing an airplane, bus, or taxi) but has not been in contact with body fluids or excretions

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Located in Atlanta, GA, the CDC is an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services of the federal government. The CDC serves as the national focus for developing and applying disease prevention and control, environmental health, and health promotion and education activities designed to improve the health of people of the United States.

Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)

The Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) is a pilot program to aid cities in increasing their capacity to deliver medicines and medical supplies during a large-scale public health emergency such as a bioterrorism attack or a nuclear accident. The Cities Readiness Initiative will help save lives through timely delivery of medicines and medical supplies during a large-scale public health emergency. It will enable cities to deliver medicines and medical supplies to their populations within a timeframe, which will make an appreciable health difference in the event of a bioterrorism attack.

Citizen Corps

A federal program to establish and fund local councils to train citizens on crime, terrorism, and natural disaster risks to supplement the needs of first responders.

Communicable

Capable of being transmitted from human to human, animal to animal, animal to human, or human to animal

Contagion

The spread of disease from one person to another

Delivery Point

Site where SNS supplies are delivered: Includes dispensing sites, hospitals, first responders, etc.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

DHHS is New Hampshire's principal agency for protecting the health of New Hampshire residents and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. DHHS includes many programs, covering a wide spectrum of activities.

Division of Public Health Services (DPHS)

DPHS is a Division within Department of Health and Human Services, State of New Hampshire

Droplet Precautions

Designed to reduce the risk of droplet transmission of infectious disease agents. They include the use of gloves, gowns, surgical or other masks, and goggles or face shield.

Droplet Transmission

Occurs when droplets containing infectious agents generated by an infectious person are propelled a short distance through the air by coughing, sneezing, or talking.

Epidemic

The condition in which a disease spreads rapidly through a community in which that disease is not normally present

ESAR-VHP

Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals - A nationwide system of pre-credentialing health professionals who may be interested in volunteering in a public health emergency.

Head of Household (HoH) Model

In the Head of Household model, an adult member of a household is designated to pick up oral medications at the POD for the entire household.

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act is a US regulation that gives patients greater access to their own medical records and more control over how their personally identifiable health information is used. The regulation also addresses the obligations of healthcare providers and health plans to protect health information.

Host

Organism that serves as a home to, and often as a food supply for, a parasite, such as a virus

Hot Agent

An extremely lethal infectious microorganism that is potentially airborne

Hot Zone

An area that contains lethal, infectious organisms

ILI

Influenza-like illness - Defined as 1) a fever 100.4 °F and 2) cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause.

Immunity

- a. Resistance usually associated with the presence of antibodies or cells that effectively resist the effects of an infectious disease organism or toxin.
- b. A condition of being able to resist a particular disease, especially through preventing growth and development of a pathogenic microorganism or by counteracting the effects of its products

Immunization

Administration of a non-toxic antigen to confer active immunity or an antibody to confer passive immunity to a person or animal, rendering the receiver insusceptible to the toxic effects of a pathogen or toxin

Immunogen

An antigen that provokes an immune response

Influenza

A highly infectious viral disease that affects the respiratory tract; when inhaled, the virus attacks the cells in the upper part of the respiratory system and causes symptoms such as fatigue, fever and chills, a hacking cough, and body aches. Influenza can also lead to other, more serious infections

Influenza Virus

Influenza virus belongs to the family Orthomyxoviridea, which includes three genera: *Influenza virus A*, *Influenza virus B*, and *Influenza virus C*. Antigenic variants are classified based on their surface antigens (hemagglutinin and neuraminidase) as H1N1, H2N2, etc. The incubation period is usually three days and usually lasts for 3 to 10 days. It is marked by inflammation of the nasal mucosa, pharynx, and conjunctiva; headache; myalgia; and often fever, chills, and prostration

Inoculation

Introduction into the body of the causative organism of a disease

Investigational New Drug (IND)

An Investigational New Drug is a vaccine or medication that has been approved by the FDA for use within strict controlled guidelines

Isolation

The separation of persons who have a specific infectious illness from those who are healthy.

Joint Information Center/Joint Public Information Center (JIC/JPIC)

The Joint Information Center is a communications center to handle all communications and media issues set up by the state emergency operations center in the event of a large scale emergency in New Hampshire.

Liaison Officer (LO)

The Liaison Officer is a member of the Command Staff responsible for coordinating with representatives from cooperating and assisting agencies

LEOP (or EOP)

Local Emergency Operations Plan - A plan done at the municipal level that describes how people and property will be protected in disaster and disaster threat situations; details who is responsible for carrying out specific actions; identifies the personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available for use in the disaster; and outlines how all actions will be coordinated.

Managed Inventory (MI)

Managed Inventory is the inventory within the Strategic National Stockpile Program that is maintained and warehoused by the vendors.

Mass Prophylaxis

A measure taken for the prevention of a disease or condition on a large scale.

Medical Reserve Corps

A Citizen Corps program that provides training in emergency preparedness and basic response to practicing and retired medical personnel.

Memorandum of Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MOA/MOU)

A Memorandum of Understanding is an agreement document between two or more organizations or agencies prescribing reciprocal assistance to be provided upon request, and laying out the guidelines under which this assistance will operate.

Microorganism

Any organism of microscopic dimensions; microorganisms multiply once they enter the body, overcoming the body's natural defenses and producing disease

Morbidity

The incidence or prevalence of a disease or of all diseases in a population

Mortality Rate

A rate expressing the number of deaths in a population at risk

Myalgia

Muscular pain

NEHC

Neighborhood Emergency Help Center – an out-patient center

Off Label Drug

Off label drugs are FDA-approved medication that is being used in a manner other than its intended (labeled) use.

Organism

A complex structure of interdependent and subordinate elements whose relations and properties are largely determined by their function in the whole

Oseltanamavir

An antiviral drug used in the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza A and influenza B; also known as Tamiflu

Outbreak

A sudden increase in the number of cases of a specific disease or clinical symptom.

Pandemic

A global outbreak of disease that occurs when a new virus appears or “emerges” in the human population, causes serious illness in people, and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide

Passive Immunity

Providing temporary protection from disease through the administration of exogenously produced antibody (i.e., transplacental transmission of antibodies to the fetus or the injection of immunoglobulin for preventative purposes)

Pathogen

Biological agents that are disease-producing microorganisms, such as bacteria, mycoplasma, rickettsia, fungi, or viruses

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment is equipment designed to reduce the risk of disease transmission between patients and medical personnel. In the POD environment these typically may involve gloves, eye protection, gowns and masks.

Point of Dispensing (POD)

A Point of Dispensing (POD) is a facility that is set up to dispense and distribute medications from local supplies or from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). The goal of the POD is to quickly dispense pills or administer shots to relatively healthy individuals and decrease the numbers of individuals who may get ill.

Prophylaxis

The administration of a drug or therapy for prevention of or protective treatment for a disease

Public Health Network (PHN)

The Public Health Networks are New Hampshire supported local points of contact designed to coordinate the planning and usage of local health resources.

Push-Pack

The Push Pack portion of the SNS consists of medical material that can be delivered to anywhere in the Continental United States within 12 hours. There are 12 Push Packages pre-positioned at strategic locations nationwide.

Quarantine

The separation and restriction of movement of persons who, while not ill yet, have been exposed to an infectious agent and therefore may become infectious.

Relenza

An antiviral used in the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza A

Rimantadine

An antiviral used in the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza A

Receipt, Store and Stage warehouse (RSS)

The Receipt, Store and Stage warehouse is where the SNS supplies are received in the state, divided up, and then shipped to affected regions.

Staging

Staging is the positioning of the assets or personnel at the designated facility in such a way that it can be easily delivered to dispensing sites.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

A set of instructions constituting a directive, covering those features of operations that lend themselves to a definite, step-by-step process of accomplishment. SOPs supplement EOPs by detailing and specifying how tasks assigned in the EOP are to be carried out.

Standard Precautions

The basis level of infection control focusing on proper hand hygiene and include the use of PPE to serve as protective barriers and appropriate handling of clinical waste.

Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)

(Formerly National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, NPS) The SNS is a national repository of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, which may be needed in the event of a biological or chemical terrorist incident to supplement and re-supply State and Local Public Health Agencies and hospitals.

Surge Capacity

The ability to increase operations to treat a much larger volume of cases than usual.

Tamiflu

An antiviral used in the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza A

Triage

A system used by medical or emergency personnel to determine to severity of a person's illness or injury.

Vaccine

A suspension of attenuated live or killed microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, or rickettsiae), or fractions thereof, administered to induce immunity and thereby prevent infectious disease

Virus

Any of a large group of submicroscopic agents infecting plants, animals, and bacteria and unable to reproduce outside the tissues of the host