



*"Health begins where you live, learn, work, and play."*

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## Lake County Public Health Agency

### Quarantine, Isolation, and Social Distancing Annex

#### OVERVIEW

This plan applies to communicable disease events requiring Quarantine and Isolation (Q&I) that may exceed day-to-day Department capabilities.

People can be infected with dangerous diseases in a number of ways. Some germs, like those causing malaria, are passed to humans by animals. Other germs, like those that cause botulism, are carried to people by contaminated food or water. Still others, like the ones causing measles, are passed directly from person to person. These diseases are called "contagious."

Contagious diseases that pose a health risk to people have always existed. While the spread of many of these diseases has been controlled through vaccination and other public health efforts, terrorist acts worldwide have raised concerns about the possibility of a biological attack. That makes it important for people to understand what can and would be done to protect the public from the spread of dangerous contagious diseases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the U.S. government agency responsible for identifying, tracking and controlling the spread of disease. With the help of the CDC, state and local health departments in this case Lake County Public Health Agency have created emergency preparedness and response plans. In addition to early detection, rapid diagnosis and treatment with antibiotics or antiviral, these plans use two main traditional strategies—quarantine and isolation. These are common health care practices to control the spread of a contagious disease by limiting people's exposure to it.

By Executive Order of the President, federal isolation and quarantine are authorized for these communicable diseases: • Cholera • Diphtheria • Infectious tuberculosis • Plague • Smallpox • Yellow fever • Viral hemorrhagic fevers • SARS • Flu that can cause a pandemic. The President can revise this list by Executive Order.

The duration and scope of quarantine measures would vary, depending on their purpose and what is known about the incubation period (how long it takes for symptoms to develop after exposure) of the disease-causing agent.

## OBJECTIVES

- I. Define terms
- II. Identify the process for implementing quarantine, isolation and social distancing
- III. Identify the legal authority to isolate, quarantine, and or institute social distancing for individuals, groups, facilities, animals, and food products
- IV. Address staff roles, responsibilities, and concept of operations for ESF 8, describe response actions that will happen, describe when the response actions will happen, and describe of under whose authority the actions will happen
- V. Address coordination of public health and medical services among those under isolation, quarantine, or social distancing. Describe any stress management strategies, programs, and crisis response for those under isolation, quarantine or social distancing
- VI. Describe the procedure and or/process for directing and controlling public information releases about those under isolation, quarantine, or social distancing strategies
- VII Additional Resources

## I TERMS

**Infectious** disease: a disease caused by a microorganism and therefore potentially infinitely transferable to new individuals. May or may not be communicable.

Example of non communicable is disease caused by toxins from food poisoning or infection caused by toxins in the environment, such as tetanus.

**Communicable** disease: an infectious disease that is contagious and which can be transmitted from one source to another by infectious bacteria or viral organisms.

**Contagious** disease: a very communicable disease capable of spreading rapidly from one person to another by contact or close proximity.

**Isolation** applies to persons who are known to be ill with a contagious disease and the separation of infected persons from others during the period of communicability.

**Quarantine** applies to those who have been exposed to a contagious disease but who may or may not become ill. The CDC applies the term "quarantine" to more than just people. They also use it to refer to any situation in which a building, conveyance, cargo or animal might also be thought to have been exposed to a dangerous contagious disease agent and is closed off or kept apart from others to prevent disease spread.

**Social distancing** is defined to include measures that increase the distance between individuals. These interventions can be applied to individuals, large groups or an entire community or region. They are designed to reduce personal interactions and thereby the risk of disease transmission.

## II IMPLEMENTATION

If people in a certain area were potentially exposed to a contagious disease, this is what would happen: State and local health authorities would let people know that they may have been exposed and would direct them to get medical attention, undergo diagnostic tests and stay at home, limiting their contact with people who have not been exposed to the disease. Only rarely would federal, state or local health authorities issue an "order" for quarantine and isolation.

However, both quarantine and isolation may be conducted on a voluntary basis or compelled on a mandatory basis through legal authority.

The Local Health Officer or designee, at his or her sole discretion, may initiate involuntary detention for purposes of isolation or quarantine if he or she:

1. Has first made reasonable efforts to obtain voluntary compliance with requests for medical examination, testing, treatment, counseling, vaccination, decontamination of persons or animals, isolation, quarantine, and inspection and closure of facilities, **or** determined that seeking voluntary compliance would create a risk of serious harm **and**
2. Has reason to believe that the person or group:
  - a. Is suspected to be, infected with, exposed to, or contaminated with a communicable disease or agent that could spread to or contaminate others if medical action is not taken; **and**
  - b. Would pose a serious and imminent risk to the health and safety of others if not detained for purposes of isolation or quarantine.

## III AUTHORITY

### 1. Isolation and Quarantine:

- a. CDPHE has statutory authority to “establish, maintain and enforce isolation and quarantine... and to exercise such physical control over property and the persons of the people within this state...” C.R.S. 25-1.5-102(1)(c)
- b. Local Health departments have the same authority. C.R.S. 25-1-506(c).
- c. **Public Health Agencies** have the authority to:
  - i. establish quarantine “ground” (C.R.S. 25-1-631);

- ii. establish “joint quarantine ground” (C.R.S. 25-1-632);
- iii. apply Quarantine regulations (C.R.S. 25-1-633);
- iv. expenses of quarantine (C.R.S. 25-1-634);
- v. removal of diseased from county jail (C.R.S. 25-1-635);
- vi. order of removal returned to court (C.R.S. 25-1-636);
- vii. removal of infected from a hospital (C.R.S. 25-1-637);
- viii. permit for removal (of article or sick person) (C.R.S. 25-1-638);
- ix. care of infected persons (with respect to their isolation) (C.R.S. 25-1-639);
- x. home quarantine (C.R.S. 25-1-640);
- xi. establish “quarantine” hospital (C.R.S. 25-1-641);

**Quarantine Enforcement Sequence:**

- b. Verbal order requesting voluntary compliance.
- c. Written administrative order given to specific individuals to stay in a specific place for a period of time.
- d. If a person does not comply with written order, then health officials may seek a court order requiring compliance. C.R.S. 25-1-112 and 512
- e. Disobeying a health department order is also a misdemeanor criminal offense. C.R.S. 25-1-114(4) and 514(4)

**GEEERC:** C.R.S. § 24-32-2104(8), C.R.S. § 24-32-2104(7), C.R.S. § 24-32-2104(7)(a), C.R.S. § 24-32-2104(8)(e)

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Lake County Public Health Agency will be responsible for the following activities:
  - a. Lake County Public Health Agency will be the lead agency in the management of a communicable disease outbreak.
  - b. The Local Health Officer will assess the public health threat, evaluate potential consequences based on established criteria, and determine whether isolation and/or quarantine are necessary in any given outbreak situation.
  - c. The Local Health Officer may initiate the isolation or quarantine of individuals as a protective action to limit the spread of infectious agents or contaminants to others.

d. When possible, Lake County Public Health Agency will seek the cooperation and compliance of infected or exposed individuals in abiding by I&Q requests. However, under specific circumstances, Public Health may immediately order or seek a court order to detain infected or exposed individuals and place them in isolation or quarantine.

e. In all cases where I&Q is considered, Lake County Public Health Agency will address the basic needs of individuals placed in I&Q including but not limited to food, clothing, shelter, medical care, communication with family members, legal counsel and others, if needed.

f. Lake County Public Health Agency will implement local and regional surveillance and disease and health management services that comply with clinical protocols and federal, state, regional and local regulations, laws and guidelines.

g. Lake County Public Health Agency will be the lead clinical and administrative manager of any non-hospital isolation or quarantine facilities that are established.

2. Local Law Enforcement agencies will be responsible for the following activities:

a. Assist with service of Notice of Civil Detention to clients, if needed.

b. Provide escort for individuals requiring transportation for purposes of involuntary isolation or quarantine, if needed (note: transportation of infectious individuals will be managed by local Emergency Medical Service providers through coordination with Lake County Public Health Agency ).

c. Execute arrest warrants related to I&Q cases.

## **V. HEALTH and MEDICAL SERVICES**

1. Lake County Public Health Agency and community based organizations will be responsible for the following activities:

a. Coordinate with the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, other social service providers, and businesses to provide food, shelter, and clothing on an emergency basis.

b. Coordinate with local community-based organizations, Zone jurisdictions, or public utilities to ensure the ongoing provision of basic utilities (water, electricity, garbage collection, and heating or air-conditioning) to residences of persons isolated or quarantined.

c. Coordinate with local community-based organizations, other social service providers, and local businesses to provide basic supplies (clothing, food, and laundry services) to individuals who are isolated or quarantined.

d. Coordinate access to telephone services for individuals who are isolated or quarantined, if needed.

e. Provide access to mental health and other psychological support. Coordinate with West Central and local specialty providers, if needed.

f. Arrange with child care resources for childcare or elder care, if needed.

g. Arrange transportation with St. Vincent's Emergency Services if needed to provide isolated or quarantined individuals with access to medical treatment or other critical services.

h. Coordinate with Department of Health and Human Services and local sources to provide temporary financial assistance for persons isolated or quarantined, if needed.

i. Coordinate with local social service providers to provide faith-based services and social amenities, as possible [television, radio, Internet access, and reading materials].

## **VII PUBLIC INFORMATION**

1. The Lake County Public Health Agency Public Information Officer will:

a. Assess the information needs of health care providers.

b. Assess the information needs of the general public.

c. Identify any logistical constraints to effective communications, such as communications staffing and equipment needs, and public information call center staffing and capacity.

d. Intensify public education efforts about the hazard, and steps that can be taken to reduce exposure to infection. Information may be disseminated via web site postings, newspaper editorials, flyers, and if needed television and radio broadcasts.

e. Coordinate with CDC, the CDPHE, and health departments in adjacent counties to develop common health messages and education materials.

f. All policies and procedures to assure the care of protected health information (PHI) apply. Policies and procedures recognize that LCPHA may make necessary disclosures to protect public health when it is acting as the Public Health Authority.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/epr/qandi.html>