Utah’s Statewide Virtual Ebola TTX

Twelfth Annual DPHP Meeting
October 25-27, 2016
NYC

Purpose

• Brag a little about our great state
• Introduce concept that turned into one of the most successful exercises we’ve conducted.

“IT’s NOT bragging IF YOU can back it up.”
Muhammad Ali

State of Utah

Statistics

• Population 2.5 million
• 29 Counties
• 13 LHDs
• 7 Tribes
• 54 hospitals
• 106 EMS Agencies
• Federal lands
• Urban/Rural

Excellent Partnerships!

Effective Partnerships

Principles for a Unified and Effective State and Local Public Health Partnership - 2013
Partnership Principles

Concept
- Looking for ways to:
  - involve more partners &
  - save money when conducting exercises.
- Learned concept from the FEMA Virtual TTX.
- Excellent buy in from our LHDs.
  - Part of planning process
  - Excitement to participate

Virtual TTX

UTAH PREPARED:
EBOLA VIRTUAL TABLETOP EXERCISE
AFTER ACTION REPORT

Catalyst
- Utah video conferencing infrastructure
  - Utah Education and Utah Telehealth Networks.
- Connected all the LHDs and several hospitals.
- Also used other connections
  - Teleconference
  - GoToMeeting

Video Conference Sites

VTTX Development & Structure
Joint Exercise Design Team

- State Health Department
  - Preparedness
  - Epidemiology
  - Laboratory
  - Healthcare Infection

- Local Health Departments
  - Regional healthcare coalition
  - 3 Emergency Response Coordinators

Ebola VTTX Focus

1. Plans & Guidance
   OBJECTIVE: Evaluate ebola preparedness and management plans at the local and state Level; identify gaps or inconsistencies.

2. Roles & Responsibilities
   OBJECTIVE: Identify overlap, confusion or discrepancies in players’ shared roles and responsibilities in an infectious disease event.

3. Communication & Information Sharing
   OBJECTIVE: Evaluate communication and information sharing methods across all levels.

Exercise Participants

Participating Organizations

Lead Up

- UTrain system utilized to track participation.
- Exercise document creation and distribution through UTrain contact lists.
- Testing with the video conference system with our IT team and theirs.
- Site test day before the exercise.

Hospital Exercise Before VTTX

"This is an Exercise"
Exercise Results

- Exercise tested:
  - communication technology
  - preparedness level of each health district
  - understanding the strengths and gaps in state Ebola preparedness plan

- Promoted outreach to local partners

Strengths

- Successful technology connection of multiple sites.
- Understanding of plans for handling an Ebola patient.
- Clarity of the local, state, and federal roles.
- Reaffirmed strength of local partnerships.
Areas for Improvement

• Establish a specific communication protocol for notification system.
• Ensure understanding of the plan at all levels.
• Clarify who takes the lead and when.
• Waste management process.
• Transportation needs in rural areas.

Follow up VTTX

• April 2016 follow up exercise for the initial response actions regarding a Person Under Investigation (PUI).
• Test activation of public health response teams and incident command activities.
• Coordination between LHDs, frontline health facilities and state health to determine need for patient movement and testing.
• Identify additional actions necessary to protect the health and safety of the public and the health care workforce.
• Test public information coordination across multiple jurisdictional levels.

Thank You!

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