Redefining Risk to Improve State and Local MCM Operational Readiness

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Improving MCM Operational Readiness

- CDC is proposing to modify its risk-based approach for MCM preparedness planning and operational readiness based on input from a wide range of stakeholders, including:
  - DPHP Executive Committee
  - Internal and External MCM subject matter experts
  - Office of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
  - Department of Homeland Security
What We Learned

- Based on state and local jurisdictional risk assessments (JRAs), the threat of an anthrax attack or other similar event requiring rapid distribution of MCMs is not considered a priority threat for many jurisdictions.

- The threat of an emerging infectious disease outbreak is considered a greater concern for most jurisdictions.

- Limited resources should be targeted more appropriately and aligned with this view.
Proposed Changes to MCM Risk-based Approach

- Maintain base planning for both an intentional release of a Category A agent such as anthrax and an emerging infectious disease such as pandemic influenza.

- Maintain baseline operational capacity for both scenarios.

- Demonstrate full operational readiness for one scenario.
Determination of Operational Focus: Anthrax versus Emerging Infectious Diseases

- CDC reviewed various national strategic and risk-based initiatives to determine potential criteria for inclusion:
  - Threat
  - Vulnerability
  - Consequence
  - Population
  - Population density
  - Jurisdictional preference (opt in)
    - Jurisdictional risk assessments
    - Political considerations
    - BioWatch designation
Way Forward: How to Implement Proposed Changes

- Feedback on proposed strategy?
- Other inclusion criteria?
- Considerations for defining realistic planning requirements and evaluation standards?
Thank you

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.