

Communicable Disease Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

September 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes (by JMD on 12/8/11)

Members present:

Minerva Baumann, Kristian Chervenock, Benjamin Diven, Katrina Doolittle, JoAnne Dupre, Lorin Gobble, Lori McKee, Bonnie Ambrose (for Jeff Witte), Luis Vazquez (Office of Research)

- I. The quarterly meeting of the CDPC began at 3:06 pm. Katrina Doolittle explained the authority and the membership of the CDPC and the charter submission that is needed in order to be recognized as an official committee. In the recent update of the committee section in the NMSU policy manual, the CDPC was dropped from the official committee list. Several links depend on the activities of the CDPC. For example; the university policy specifies that all departments need to develop a CoOP to identify essential functions, but the policy does not specify that the CDPC has an essential role in it. The medical incident command is called out in the All Hazards Plan, which is an official university document referenced in the Emergency Preparedness Policy, but this also does not specify the role of the CDPC. Katrina Doolittle will continue to follow up with the new process to reinstate the CDPC as an official committee for coordinating these functions.
- II. The minutes of the March 8, 2011 CDPC meeting were accepted after reviewed by committee members and a unanimous vote for approval. The minutes are public record.
- III. Old Business
 - 1) Continuity of Operation Plans – updated by HRS
Updated CoOP submitted by Facilities & Services on June 27, 2011 and by Campus Health Center. Updated CoOP's are needed from DACC Health & Public Service, Health & Social Services, ICT, International and Border Programs, School of Nursing. Katrina Doolittle has focused on academic areas. Members were invited to contact people in each of their units to follow up on these plans

New submissions are needed from the following, pending determination of critical operations and contacts: Office of Research, Auxiliary Operations, and Provost Office.

Units that report to not have critical functions can be removed from the list.

Templates are available from the EH&S webpage to prepare for a long-range disaster situation, such as a public health issue like communicable disease, an extended water contamination, a building fire that has destructive effects with long-term consequences, any issue that must be dealt with by the department. This plan should identify where documents are stored, where electronic data is located, how to contact people, any reliance upon other departments or external groups, phone numbers and people in charge first and second level, and what areas of operation are critical to maintain. Some academic areas have self-identified as not having critical functions; courses can be suspended. Some functions that can't be suspended are feeding and housing students, and keeping buildings from freezing. Katrina Doolittle will provide the template by email upon request to anyone who has difficulty locating it.

2) Committee Charter:

In addition to the comments noted previously, Katrina Doolittle stated that she will send the final draft of the charter to the committee members for a final review and comments.

3) Foreign student travel protocol

Kristin Chervenock from International Programs reported that the travel forms have been updated with input from Campus Health. The International Travel form includes a section for recommendations to faculty, staff, and students to visit the Campus Health Center and talk with a travel nurse using Travix to get information on advisories and inoculations. The revised copies of the student form and the faculty form are ready to be released online, and can be reviewed by committee members. The forms for student and faculty travel are working well, capturing about 90% of travelers. Previously, the traditional Study Abroad program gathered information for students engaged in formal credit but the database was missing faculty and others who traveled for different reasons. The process is also helped by the coordination of funding, since it is now required for faculty and staff to submit these forms to receive reimbursements from accounts payable. The same wording used in the travel forms is being put into the pre-departure orientation exercises to reinforce these procedures as strong recommendations. Issues can be discussed in the future to decide if these or other procedures, such as for returning travelers, should be mandatory; e.g. for TB screening.

IV. New Business

1) Flu vaccinations – Lori McKee – HRS will soon distribute the memo about dates/times of the weeklong Medco clinic for flu and preventative vaccinations. Immunizations available are hepatitis A and B, meningitis, HPV for males as well as females, shingles for people over 60. Employees with insurance can sign up online with Southwest Pharmacy. Branch campuses will also have access to this program, through Southwest Pharmacy in Carlsbad and Grants, and through local pharmacy services in Alamogordo. For employees without insurance, Campus Health offers the flu vaccine at a reduced rate and it is available now. Campus Health sent letters to remind high-risk individuals, such as people with chronic health conditions, or asthma to get vaccinated within the next two weeks. The flu shot is a conjugated vaccine with H1N1. Dr. Benjamin Diven stated that not much H1N1 activity has been reported this year; cases will probably involve influenza A and B. Lori McKee reported that traditionally the spike in flu cases appears here in February each year.

2) TB screening update – Lori McKee – Campus Health conducted an outcomes assessment on foreign student TB screening efforts, and as a result has revised procedures. A program is now in place to screen incoming students; if this is not done in the first week of arrival on campus, the student is blocked from registration. This has enabled screening of about 98% of the students. Thirteen positive skin tests were noted, and one person with an abnormal chest x-ray was referred to NM Dept. of Health. The effectiveness of identifying and tracking these students to provide treatment will continue to be studied in the fall semester. An issue is that often no one knows when a student will arrive; no list of expected incoming names is available to Campus Health personnel, other than the Study Abroad students through International Programs. Campus Health personnel recommend that those with positive TB tests receive INH treatment. Dr. Benjamin Diven explained that

INH is a single antibiotic treatment effective for latent TB, taken once a day for 9 months, with minimal side effects. Active TB often requires multi-drug therapy for long periods of time, and is very expensive. The benefit for the foreign students after the INH treatment is that they have a very low rate of converting to the active form. Information has been translated into different languages to help international students with limited English. The student who was treated for active TB last year was not identified by an initial positive screening, so this may have been a latent case that converted when her immune system was weakened in some way.

- 3) Influenza at NMSU update – Lori McKee - No flu update. The provost has sent emails about meningitis. This university does not require vaccinations and has no way to track compliance. Discussions will continue between the provost, Campus Health, and Housing to determine if a policy should be initiated. Students in housing can have an increased risk due to the closer living environment, but this is a difficult policy to mandate for housing only. A problem is that there are two forms of meningitis, and the vaccination does not necessarily prevent all types. If the university decides to mandate a program, the Health Center would need at least one FTE to track compliance and documentation. Some peer institutions and private institutions have immunization requirements for meningitis and also for MMR, TDaP; but this is a huge task for a department to track. At NM Tech and UNM, a letter is sent advising students, but no mandatory program is done. Representatives from those schools say that records will be checked if they have an outbreak. From a statewide perspective, our approach is not different. Campus Health has not seen any incidents of bacterial meningitis, although eastern universities have had many more cases. Upcoming discussions will focus on how we would manage an outbreak, and if vaccination should be required for all student housing, including family and residential. Many students from public schools are up-to-date, having been vaccinated at age 11-12 years old and the immunity is good for 10 years. Non-traditional students may not be vaccinated. This may become a topic to consider in the future. The vaccine is more expensive than TB, and mandating vaccines will add to the cost of education expenses.
- 4) Emergency preparedness – Links are provided to the websites for the [Power Outage guide](#) and [Hazardous Weather plan](#). The Emergency Preparedness website, created by Minerva Baumann, is good for students, families, departments, employees. These two links were provided to the committee to show that these relevant topics have been updated on the site. New information will be added on a continuing basis as needs arise.
- 5) Emergency Notification Test- Katrina Doolittle asked for comments from committee members about the siren testing on Sept 7. The siren sound lasted for about 3 minutes. Several members said that they never hear the siren, although they do get the messages, text and phone call. A considerable delay was noted between the time of the siren sound and the text message. Katrina Doolittle said the sound is intended to be heard outside, not in buildings. The purpose of the siren is to provide notice to take shelter and seek more information from another place, like the website or the text message. Lori McKee added that the siren is a weather warning, not a warning of active shooter or other emergency situation. Lori McKee asked if emergency warnings and information could be linked to the TV feeds around campus. Katrina Doolittle said this would be discussed at the emergency

planning meeting. The siren system takes maintenance, batteries, software, expenses, so the feedback about its effectiveness is important for evaluation. Several members noted that reminders were sent about this test, but people did not understand that the test should be used as an opportunity to practice for a crisis by posting notices and taking other actions to demonstrate preparedness. Lori McKee suggested future announcements should emphasize this by changing the wording from “Testing” to “Drill” to emphasize that this is a moment to teach people their roles during an emergency, otherwise the sirens may be ignored on occasions when they are needed. Katrina Doolittle noted that practice during drills is needed to identify problem areas, such as alarms and emergency lights that don’t work, doors that don’t open.

6) Items from members

Bonnie Ambrose - DOH is noting cases of *Listeria* in cantaloupe grown in CO, sold in multiple stores. The cases are specific to a brand, although several members said that a label or sticker is not always present and people don’t know if these bacteria can be removed by washing the outside of the fruit. Katrina Doolittle asked for notice to be sent to her or David Shearer at EH&S to put on the Twitter news and EH&S website. Lori McKee asked Bonnie Ambrose to also send reports to Campus Health about local foodborne outbreaks, so students who come in sick can be identified. Members commented that many people do not wash the outer surfaces of fruit that is to be cut or peeled. JoAnne Dupre stated that *Listeria* is one of the few bacterial pathogens in food that continues to grow at refrigeration temperatures. The bacteria is ingested with the food, and only a small number of cells are needed to cause listeriosis. The illness is particularly dangerous for fetuses, so pregnant women should avoid foods that are associated with *Listeria*. Elderly, immune compromised and young children also have increased risk. Several committee members noted that this outbreak has not been reported in the public health notices yet.

- V. Next meeting – scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 3 pm. Meeting is tentative, depending on agenda items. If the December meeting is skipped, the next regular meeting in February will include a flu update. Campus Health will continue surveillance and monitoring. The Campus Health website has cold and flu tips; Benjamin Diven can also send reminders about coughing, tissue use, and hand sanitizers. Katrina Doolittle noted that this information is helpful, because people in the departments see the notices and buy tissue and supplies.
- VI. The CDPC meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm
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