

# VINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN/ESF#8

## PUBLIC HEALTH and MEDICAL SERVICES

**PRIMARY AGENCY:** Vinton County Health Department

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Vinton County Emergency Management Agency  
Vinton County Sheriff's Office  
Vinton County Emergency Medical Services  
Vinton County Local School District  
Vinton County Coroner  
Athens, Hocking, Vinton 317 Board  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
Ohio Department of Health  
Southeast and Southeast Central Regional Public Health  
Local Fire Departments  
Vinton County Elected Officials

### NON-GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Family Healthcare Inc.  
Gills Family Pharmacy  
Local Funeral Directors  
American Red Cross  
Tri-County Mental Health

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose

The Vinton County Health Department has the overall responsibility for protecting the public health of the residents of Vinton County and is identified as the lead agency for response to public health emergencies. The Vinton County Emergency Response Plan/Emergency Support Function-8 (ESF-8), Public Health and Medical Services, provides a mechanism for coordinated local assistance to supplement resources and implement protective actions in response to the public health needs resulting from emergency/disaster situations.

### B. Scope

The framework of this plan was developed using a modified functional approach which consists of a combined base Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and ESF-8, functional annexes, and general appendices. These are supplemented by implementing instructions which will be utilized to execute all or portions of the ERP in conjunction with the roles and responsibilities identified in the County Emergency Operations Plan. The Vinton County Health Department Emergency Response Plan utilizes an All Hazards planning and preparedness approach.

### C. Policies

#### 1. NIMS Adoption and Compliance Statement

Plans, exercises, & trainings are developed and structured to be consistent with local, regional, state, & federal regulations, standards, and policies and to comply with the National Response Plan (NRP), National Incident Management System (NIMS) – HSPD-5, and National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) contributing to the National Preparedness Goal - HSPD-8.

#### 2. ESF-8 Integration into County Emergency Operations Plan

# VINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN/ESF#8

The Vinton County Health Department Emergency Response Plan (ESF-8) is integrated as part of the Vinton County All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The Vinton County All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan is the single legal document that describes responsibilities of agencies and individuals for carrying out specific actions in or in preparation for an emergency or disaster in Vinton County. The Vinton County Health Department Emergency Response Plan (ERP) functions, as a part of the Vinton County EOP, to provide specific information for the preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery responsibilities of the Vinton County Health Department for public health-related disaster situations in Vinton County.

## 3. ESF-8 Agencies and Resources Coordination

ESF-8 is coordinated by the Vinton County Health Department at the local-level, by the Southeast Ohio Public Health/RMRS at the regional-level, and by the Ohio Department of Health at the state-level. Local Public Health Resources have been identified in advance of an emergency/disaster. Local ESF8 resource requests will be coordinated with the local EMA. State-level ESF-8 resources can be activated upon request from the local Emergency Management Agency (EMA) when local resources have been exhausted. (See Resource Management ANNEX VII and Resource Management Implementing Instructions)

## II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

### A. Situation

Vinton County is exposed to many hazards, all of which have the potential to disrupt the community, cause damage, and impact the public health. Possible hazards for Vinton County include, but are not limited to, floods, tornados/severe wind storms, severe winter storms, earthquakes, landslides/subsidence, wild fires, power outages, human infectious disease, HAZMAT spills, power outages, civil disturbances, and terrorism. Vinton County is a rural, medically underserved county with limited resources for emergency preparedness and response activities. (See Public Health and Medical Annex & Implementing Instructions).

### B. Assumptions

Disasters:

1. May occur at any time with little or no warning.
2. Require significant information-sharing at the unclassified and classified levels across multiple jurisdictions and between public and private sectors.
3. Involve single or multiple geographic areas.
4. May have significant county and state impact and/or require significant county and state information sharing, resource coordination, and/or assistance.
5. Can span the spectrum of incident management to include prevention, protection, response, and recovery.
6. Involve multiple, highly varied hazards or threats.
7. May result in numerous casualties; fatalities; displaced people; property loss; disruption of normal life support systems, essential public services, and basic infrastructure; and significant damage to the environment.
8. Impact critical infrastructure across sectors.
9. May overwhelm capabilities of County and State Governments, and private sector infrastructure owners and operators.
10. Attract an influx of spontaneous volunteers and supplies.
11. May require short-notice asset coordination and response.
12. May require prolonged, sustained incident management activities.

## III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Activation Authority

# **VINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN/ESF#8**

The Vinton County Health Department ERP may only be activated under the authorization of the Health Commissioner or Health Department Administrator or by the identified Primary or Secondary Backup personnel to the Health Commissioner or Health Department Coordinator in the Continuity of Operations Plan (Appendix III).

The Emergency Response Plan may be activated, as deemed necessary by the Health Commissioner, Administrator, or identified backups, during a bioterrorism event, disaster, or public health emergency that is impacting, or has the potential to impact the health of the residents of Vinton County.

## **B. Typical Sequence of Emergency Activities**

1. Identify the threat
2. Notification
3. Assessment
4. Identify public health Resources
5. Creation of public health objectives
6. Identify response roles
7. Implement/execute the response to address the objectives
8. Monitor/assess the response
9. Demobilization
10. Recovery Operations
11. After Action Review
12. Review and Revise Plans

## **IV. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. Local Public Health Emergency Functions/Responsibilities:**

1. Assessment of county health and medical needs.
  - Assistance in assessing potable water and waste water/solid waste disposal issues and coordination to provide potable water and wastewater/solid water disposal equipment.
2. Public Health Surveillance
  - Surveillance and investigations to determine disease patterns and potential disease outbreaks and implement prevention strategies.
3. Monitoring of the availability and utilization of health systems' assets.
  - Supply, restock, and prioritize health-related equipment and supplies.
4. Provision of public health and medical related services, supplies, and personnel.
  - Provide logistical support for public health personnel in the field.
  - Provide pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and supplies as available (includes the coordination and tracking of medical resources and equipment).
  - Provide consultation for the decontamination of people, buildings, and the environment, when applicable.
  - Provide mass dispensing clinics for the prophylaxis of the entire county population, if necessary.
5. Identification of areas where public health problems could occur.
  - Public Health assessments of conditions at the site of the emergency to determine health needs and priorities.
6. Provision of medical related information releases and public health recommendations and related releases to the public.
7. Research and consultation on potential health hazards, medical problems, and appropriate levels of PPE, when applicable.
8. Coordination of behavioral health assistance.
9. Environmental sampling and analysis/collecting specimens for lab testing.
  - Coordination with ODH on specimen submission of possibly hazardous or contaminated substances throughout an emergency.

## VINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN/ESF#8

10. Zoonoses support.
11. Assistance and support for mass casualty and mass fatality incidents.
  - Assist with Triage Operations.
  - Assist in the identification of mass burial sites.
  - Provide guidance for the handling of infectious/contaminated bodies.
12. Coordination with other local, regional, state, and federal partners.
  - Assess and make recommendations concerning the public health needs of emergency responders.

### B. Support Agency Roles and Responsibilities:

| Agency                                    | Public Health Emergency Roles/Responsibilities  | Memorandum of Understanding/Agreements Established |
|---|---|--|
| Regional Public Health Agencies           | Provide “reciprocal emergency management aid and assistance in case of any hazard too great to be dealt with unassisted.”   | Yes  |
| Ohio Department of Health                 | Provide subject matter experts for consultation and guidance on emergency situations, provide laboratories for testing of samples, and provide available equipment/pharmaceuticals to local health departments for emergency response activities. | No   |
| Vinton County Emergency Management Agency | Resources acquisition and coordination  | No   |
| Red Cross                                 | Provide volunteer assistance or possibly food/refreshments for response personnel, if possible  | No   |
| Vinton County Sheriff’s Office            | Provide security for health department response activities/equipment/pharmaceuticals  | Signed POD Site Security Worksheet                 |
| Vinton County Local School District       | Provide school facilities for the use of POD (Point of Dispensing) operations   | Yes  |
| Vinton County EMS                         | Have staff on standby at POD sites for transport to medical facilities. Provide assistance to nursing staff for triage operations and possibly provision of vaccines or medications.  | No   |
| Family Healthcare                         | Provide medical staff for response activities, if possible.   | Yes  |
| Gills Family Pharmacy                     | Provide pharmaceutical handling assistance for POD operations, and/or assist in the distribution of government supplied pharmaceuticals to the public, if possible  | Yes  |
| Tri County Mental Health                  | May help coordinate mental health service activities in the county.   | Yes  |
| Vinton County Coroner                     | Provide information/assistance to the health department on the handling of the deceased during mass casualty events.  | No   |
| Ohio Environmental Protection Agency      | Provide information/assistance to the health department on the clean-up or decontamination of environments that pose risk to public health.   | No   |
| Ohio Department of Agriculture            | Provides information and/or assistance regarding agricultural food safety and animal health.  | No   |

# VINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN/ESF#8

## V. TRAINING AND EXERCISE

A Training and Exercise Plan has been developed and is updated annually to provide a timeline of training and exercising activities to take place throughout each PHEP Grant Fiscal Year cycle. The Training and Exercise Plan incorporates NIMS training requirements and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) guidelines.

### A. Training

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator is responsible for all Health Department Staff emergency response training and training documentation. The PHEP Coordinator ensures all new and current staff complete and maintain the appropriate level of NIMS and other emergency preparedness training for their identified emergency response roles.

Review of the Health Department emergency response plan is part of the orientation training for new core emergency response staff including the Administrator, Director of Nursing, Director of Environmental, the Public Health Supervisor, and the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Core emergency response staff must, additionally, review the emergency plans on an annual basis.

### B. Exercising

The health department conducts and participates in exercises, both locally and regionally, to test and validate plans, checklists, and response procedures and to evaluate the training and skills of response personnel. Corrective actions identified through the after action/corrective reporting process are addressed in future plan revisions and training & exercise programs.

## VI. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

### A. Development

The Vinton County ESF-8 Plan design and content is coordinated with other public health jurisdictional plans within the Southeast Region, the Southeast Ohio Public Health, Regional Medical Response System, and Hospital All Hazards Plan, and the Ohio Department of Health ESF-8 Plan.

The Vinton County ESF-8 Plan is to be kept current through an ongoing revision system. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Coordinator, in collaboration with the core emergency response staff and the Vinton County Board of Health, are responsible for ensuring that all necessary revisions to the plans are made and distributed to the necessary plan holders. Plan revisions may also be coordinated with the input from support agencies identified within this plan.

Plan holders are prohibited from making changes, revisions, or additions to individual copies of the plan. Revisions are to be made on one master copy maintained by the PHEP Coordinator and distributed to the proper plan holders.

Plan Holders include:

- Vinton County Health Department Core Emergency Response Staff (Health Department Administrator, Director of Nursing, Director of Environmental, Public Health Supervisor).
- Vinton County EMA
- Vinton County EMS
- Vinton County Sheriff's Office

# VINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN/ESF#8

## **B. Maintenance**

The Vinton County Health Department ESF-8 and accompanying Annexes, Appendices, and Implementing instructions will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis for content changes based on information gathered from exercises, trainings, and Federal/State guidelines. Updates to notifications and contact lists will be made as changes occur.

## **C. Availability of Emergency Response Plans to the Public**

Copies of the ESF-8 Plan and its accompanying Annexes, Appendices, and Implementing Instructions may be requested by the public. Requests for copies of the plans must be made to the PHEP Coordinator or the Health Department Administrator. Plan content will be released in accordance with Ohio Sunshine Laws and Vinton County Health Department Records Release Policy. Exempt plans or plan content will be reviewed by the PHI Coordinator and Administrator before release. Any ESF-8/Emergency Response Plan information provided to the public must be approved by the Health Department Administrator.

## **VII. AUTHORITY & REFERENCES**

### **A. Authority**

Ohio Revised Code, Section 3707

Board of Health Resolution #40-04

Model State Emergency Health Powers Act

### **B. References**

Ohio State Emergency Support Function-8

Bureau of Public Health Preparedness Planning Unit, All Hazard Emergency Response Plan Framework and Planning Guidance

## **VII. PROMULGATION DOCUMENT/SIGNATURE PAGE**

The Vinton County Board of Health approves this document as the official All-Hazards Plan for the Vinton County Health Department.

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Vicki Boring, President, Board of Health

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Date