



Partnering for Preparedness San Francisco's Isolation & Quarantine Planning

#348

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Introduction

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) has commenced an extensive planning process to develop a comprehensive operational isolation and quarantine (I & Q) plan as part of the overall Infectious Disease Emergency Response (IDER) plan. As there are many legal, logistical and clinical challenges to implementing isolation or quarantine, a lawyer and an infection control nurse collaborated in the planning process. The project is supervised by a physician with infectious disease expertise.

Topics for Discussion

1. Identifying key partners and agencies
2. Educating the partners/agencies on I & Q
3. Determining each partner/agency's roles during an I & Q response
4. Creating an I & Q plan

1. Identifying Partner Agencies

- Brainstorm sessions on issues surrounding I & Q
- Categorize the issues into categories such as legal, logistics, safety, technical, medical, communication, and personnel/staffing
- Identify partners and agencies who may have a role and may assist with resolving the issues

- Reach out to potential partner organizations and begin a dialogue regarding their and the City's response to an infectious disease emergency

2. Education

- Meet with managers of the partners and agencies to address their issues and answer questions about clinical implications of I & Q as containment measures
- Educate the managers and workers on infection control measures on how to protect themselves from contracting an infectious disease
- Provide disease information and update via SFDPH website www.sfdph.org/cdcp

3. Determine Partner Agencies' Roles

- Determine the major roles these partner agencies play that are essential to the successful implementation of an I & Q plan
- Ascertain if the partner/agency has any existing plan and evaluate whether it complements the City's overall plan
- Ascertain the partner/agency's expectation of SFDPH in the event of an infectious disease emergency
- Discuss the overall SFDPH IDER plan and the I & Q strategies
- Discuss the partner/agency's role and expectation from SFDPH

- Collaborate with the partner/agency to determine mutually agreeable expectations and roles during an emergency
- Draft Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements as needed

4. Creating an I & Q plan

- Develop and organize a command/control structure for I and Q activities using ICS principles
- Develop an I and Q plan focusing on three main elements: clinical management, legal enforcement, and psycho-social support.
- Conduct trainings and tabletop exercises as appropriate

4.1. Clinical Management

- Create a template on clinical management of persons on isolation or quarantine
- Create Job Action Sheets for persons who work in the I & Q Group

4.2. Psycho-Social Support

- Identify facilities and the required management and support services that may be used for isolation and/or quarantine purposes
- Develop Memoranda of Understanding or Agreements with the agencies that can assist with support services such as mental

health, ambulance, food preparation and/or delivery, law enforcement, etc.

- Meet with special interest groups such as dependent care groups, animal care groups and advocates for the homeless to identify concerns of special-needs populations
- Meet with local chapters of disaster relief organizations such as the American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. Discuss their role in the event of a disaster

4.3. Legal Enforcement

- Develop legal enforcement procedures in consultation with the San Francisco City Attorney's office and the Court
- Develop templates of necessary documents including isolation and quarantine orders

Conclusion

- Development and cultivation of a broad network of collaborating agencies is necessary to develop a comprehensive and effective plan
- Continuous refinement of I and Q plan occurs as new suggestions and challenges arise from various partners and agencies
- Buy-in from partners and agencies are critical to the successful planning process