

# PREPARING FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASE EMERGENCIES

Community practitioners should be personally and professionally prepared to respond to a variety of infectious disease emergencies. The following are suggestions to help with this process.

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## FAMILY PLAN

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Ensure that your family is well.

- Create and practice a family disaster plan. For more information see:
  - SF OES, Household Family Plan: [www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org)
  - Red Cross, Your Family Disaster Plan: [www.prepare.org/basic/DisasterPlan.pdf](http://www.prepare.org/basic/DisasterPlan.pdf)
- Place fully stocked disaster kits in your home and car with a three-day supply of food and water.
  - Red Cross, Emergency supply Kit Guide: [www.prepare.org/basic/SuppliesKit.pdf](http://www.prepare.org/basic/SuppliesKit.pdf)
- Encourage staff to develop and practice family disaster plans.



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## CLINIC & OFFICE PLAN

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Take steps to ensure the safety and well being of your staff. For suggestions and resources, see the *Clinic and Office Disaster & Emergency Planning* section in this *Guide*.

- Provide personal emergency kits and emergency contact numbers to staff.
- Make a telephone tree to notify staff in an emergency
- Develop and practice your clinic or office disaster and evacuation plan.
- Know the expected clinic/office emergency roles and responsibilities (including who assists patients and who will account for them when leaving the building).
- Know clinician roles and responsibilities in a community disaster. See the *Roles and Responsibilities* section.
- Identify items that should be taken in an evacuation (medicine, backup data, etc.)

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## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

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Know where to obtain reliable San Francisco specific information.



- Visit and bookmark the Communicable Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.sfcdep.org](http://www.sfcdep.org).
- Register for Health Alerts. See instructions in the appendix.
- Note the radio stations that will provide emergency information:

**KCBS 740 AM, KGO 810 AM, KNBR 680 AM, KQED 88.5 FM, KSJO 92.3 FM**

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## LEARN ABOUT INFECTIOUS DISEASE EMERGENCY

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Know the details of infectious disease emergencies.



- Know what to report. See the *What to Report* section containing:
  - List of diseases clinicians are legally required to report
  - List of unusual conditions for which we request reports
- Review the potential bioterrorism related syndromes and the biological threat diseases (e.g., anthrax, avian influenza, botulism, brucellosis, plague, smallpox, tularemia, viral hemorrhagic fevers):
  - See the Bioterrorism Syndromes poster
  - See information in the *High Priority Diseases* section
- Maintain a reasonable index of suspicion
- Become knowledgeable and train staff on infection control measures. See *Infection Control Guidelines*.

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## REPORT TO SFDPH ON A ROUTINE BASIS

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Routinely use components of your response plan. Informing SFDPH about diagnosed or suspected cases of reportable communicable diseases assists SFDPH disease control interventions and improves the ability to communicate with SFDPH in emergencies.

- Review and post:
  - List of diseases clinicians are legally required to report
  - List of unusual conditions for which we request reports
- Place SFDPH contact information in rolodex files
- Place SFDPH stickers on or near primary phones

