

INDICATORS/GOALS

★ statistically better than US ✗ statistically worse than US

Reduce the time it takes for the state public health agency –

- to activate designated personnel in response to a public health emergency

2020 Goal	60 min.
VT 2009	66 min.
US 2009	66 min.

- to issue official information about a public health emergency

2020 Goal	60 min.
VT data	not available
US data	not available

- to establish after-action reports and improvement plans following responses to public health emergencies and exercises

2020 Goal	40 days
VT 2008/09	60 days ✗
US 2009	46 days

Increase % of crisis and emergency risk messages to protect public health that demonstrate use of best practices * * *

• Prepared to Respond

Public health emergencies can affect the lives of all Vermonters. When responding to infectious disease outbreaks, natural or man-made disasters or environmental hazards, the Vermont Department of Health must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively, along with government, the health sector, and community partners.

One measure of preparedness is the ability to activate designated personnel within one hour of a recognized public health emergency.

• Prepared to Inform

Rapid release of accurate information can minimize rumors and incorrect information, and empower people to make good decisions and take positive actions to protect themselves and others. The structure and tone of risk communication messages is as important as timeliness. These messages differ from day-to-day health communication, and must be tailored to the event, using proven crisis and emergency risk communication principles.

• Prepared to Recover and Improve

After every real event and exercise, a review process is imperative to learn what we can do better in the future. The After Action Review/Improvement Process is structured to help assess strengths and areas for improvement soon after any response and recovery effort.

Vermont's Public Health Emergency Response

- **2000** Preparedness planning
- **2001** Sept. 11 attacks
- **2002** Anthrax threats
KI distribution
Smallpox vaccinations
- **2004** Pneumonic plague exercise (1 week)
Flu vaccine shortage
- **2005** Pandemic flu planning
Hurricane relief efforts
- **2006** Pandemic flu summits
Pandemic flu exercise (2 weeks)
Tire burn surveillance
- **2007** Pandemic flu exercises
KI distribution
- **2008** Hospital surge exercise
Flood response
Pandemic flu 'Take the Lead'
- **2009** H1N1 flu/vaccination clinics
Empire '09 dirty bomb ingestion pathway exercise (1 week)
- **2010** Vermont Yankee tritium leak
CatEx hurricane exercise (3 days)
- **2011** Spring flooding
Fukushima response
Hurricane Irene flooding
- **2012** Radiological emergency training/exercises (1 week)
Hurricane Sandy
Pertussis outbreak
Tdap vaccine clinics

* * * data and goal to be developed