



Interoperable Communications Drill #1

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Office of Health Emergency Preparedness**

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Informational Webinar

Background of IOC Drills

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CDC have identified biannual **Interoperable Communications Drills** as priority exercises for public health and healthcare facilities for 2020-2021.
- Communications systems should be implemented **based on State and local plans and conditions.**

Briefing Objectives

- Understand the background and rationale for the IOC Drills
- Understand the capabilities and the objectives of the exercise

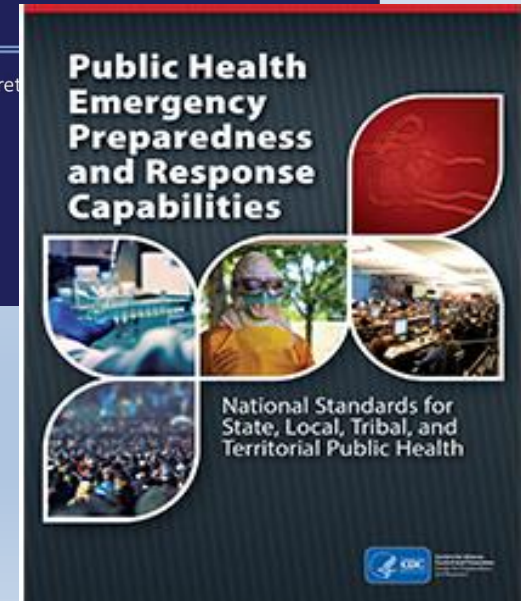
Capability To Be Tested

Capabilities

- **Interoperable Communications Drills**
 - Information Sharing

2017-2022 Health Care
Preparedness and Response
Capabilities

Office of the Assistant Secretary

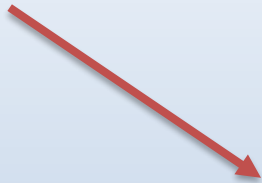


Overview of Required Exercise

Exercise Overview

- Conduct two (2) annual *Interoperable Communications Drills* that:
 - Help Health Emergency Preparedness Coalitions (HEPC) partners ensure that they have redundant forms of communication among their members.
 - Refer to having multiple back-up communication modalities, and are critical to emergency preparedness planning.
 - Cell phones, satellite phones, HAM radios, VOIP, HCS
 - Landlines and fax machines **cannot** be used





Interoperable Communications

Interoperable Communications Drills - Final Objectives

- Demonstrate the ability to use a primary and back-up communications system (internet – including VOIP, radio, cellular, and satellite) to communicate with coalition partners (LHD, hospitals, EMS, EM, and other partners).
- Complete the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS) Health Emergency Response Data System (HERDS) survey within the timeframe outlined in the IHANS alert.

Exercise Participants

- Hospitals (already completing daily HERDS surveys)
- Nursing Homes (already completing daily HERDS surveys)
- Community Health Centers
- Adult Care Facilities
- Home Care
- Local Health Departments
- Hospice
- Emergency Managers
- EMS



Exercise Conduct

Exercise Roles

- Controller
- Evaluator
-  Player/Participant
- Observers (optional)



Exercise Communications

- The primary means of communications will be cell phone
 - Text, VOIP, email, radios also can be used
- Similar to previous IOC drills
 - IHANS alert, text, cell phone alerts
 - Direct recipient to email to access the link to the HERDS survey
 - Complete and submit survey

Pre-IOC Drill Checklist for Regional Offices

- Determine roles for each org type who will receive IHANS alert
- Develop lists by org type
- Identify other mechanisms for response for partners who do not have HCS accounts
 - Survey Monkey
 - Email response
 - Other

IOC Exercise Algorithm

0900 STARTEX

- NYSDOH OHEP Central Office (CO) sends email to Regional Offices (ROs), including message for an IOC Drill alert (voice alert to text, cell and email). **Please include John Kushner and Pat Anders on your alert.**

*Regional IHANS IT available **ONLY** for technical assistance.*

9:00 – 10:00 am	CD to send alert
10:00 – 11:00 am	CNY to send alert
11:00 – 12:00 pm	WNY to send alert
12:00 – 1:00 pm	MARO to send alert to both LHV and LI
2:00 – 3:00 pm	OHEP to send alert to NYC

- ROs send IHANS alert to coalition members via **phone, text, and email**, directing partners to HERDS survey on HCS with name of drill survey (IOC Drill # 1 2020).
- Phone and text alerts will direct partners to check their emails.
- Email alert will direct all HEPC members to complete HERDS survey within 2 hours.
- If coalition members do not have access to HCS, ROs determine different mechanism to get message out.
- **Any problems completing the IHANS alert, call RO IHANS IT for support.**



Within 3 hours

- ROs collect responses to HERDS Survey
- RO reports back to CO the number/types of partners reached

Element of Completion

- **LHDs** – complete and submit HERDS survey and provide IHANS Completion Report with end of quarter reporting (***BPR-2: HEPC IOC Drill #1***)
- **Hospitals** – complete and submit HERDS survey within timeframe indicated in IHANS notification
- **HEPCs** – report of completion status, # and types of coalition partners reached to Pat Anders.

Final Reminders

- Safety comes first. Use the phrase **“real-world emergency”** should an emergency occur
- Know your role and responsibilities
- Understand the scenario
- Do not prompt or get in the way of players
- Contact the Exercise Director and/or Senior Controller with any problems or questions

Questions?

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