

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

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12th November 2008

Guide to the National CDEM Plan Review
Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management
PO Box 5010
WELLINGTON

Submission from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service to the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and the preparation of a new National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan

1. Thank you for the opportunity for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service to provide a submission to the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management and the preparation of a new National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan. ARPMS would like to be heard at a submissions hearing.
2. This submission represents the views of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPMS). ARPMS provides public health services for the three district health boards in the Auckland region (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards), with the primary governance mechanism resting with Auckland District Health Board. Please refer to Appendix 1 for more information on ARPMS. This submission represents the views of ARPMS and does not necessarily represent the views of the three District Health Boards.
3. ARPMS understands that all submissions will be available under the Official Information Act 1982, except if grounds set out under the Act apply.
4. The primary contact point for this submission is:

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the proposed plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Booth', written in a cursive style.

Frank Booth
Service Manager
Auckland Regional Public Health Service

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sunil Kushor', written in a cursive style.

Sunil Kushor
Manager Healthy Environment Team
Manager Emergency Management
Auckland Regional Public Health Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Denise Barnfather', written in a cursive style.

Dr Denise Barnfather
Medical Officer of Health
Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Feedback requirement

We request specific feedback to be identified by Guide section and first line number. Please note that the wording in the grey boxes of the Guide, are extracts from the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan Order 2005. We are not asking for comment on that wording at this time.

Section No	Line No	Existing Wording	Recommended Changes	Reason for Change
1	68	DHB means district health board, and includes hospital and health services (including ambulance services)	Health Service includes DHB, hospital, PHU, Ambulance and PHO.	Is a more holistic and broader reference to health services and recognises the variations and uniqueness of services while still being part of a health service.
1	73	Emergencies	Include section 4 definitions	Given this is core to the legislation providing the definition here instead of referencing to section 4 could improve the reading of the document
1	345	Biosecurity emergencies are managed by BioSecurity NZ	Biosecurity emergencies are managed by BioSecurity NZ, and by the Ministry of Health (in the instance of vectors carrying human diseases such as rats and exotic mosquitoes)	Ministry of Health have a lead role in some biosecurity emergencies
1		Add definition	<p>"Health Emergency" Is any situation in the health sector or community that gives rise to illness or casualties to which the health services cannot respond to within normal resources and are either overwhelmed or have the potential to be overwhelmed.</p> <p>Health Emergency Plan (HEP)</p> <p>National Health emergency Plan (NHEP)</p> <p>The New Zealand Influenza Pandemic Action Plan (NZIPAP)</p>	To link government departments and ensure emergency services understand the roles amongst themselves inclusion of the health emergency definition and linking into the document may assist. This could apply to other emergency services as well.

Section No	Line No	Existing Wording	Recommended Changes	Reason for Change
1		Add definition		To link government departments and ensure emergency services understand the roles amongst themselves inclusion of the health emergency definition and linking into the document may assist. This could apply to other emergency services as well.
2.1	28 -31	Examples of emergencies	Include in here other all hazards, ie. Pandemic, disease, radioactive, HASNO, Fire	To be consistent with all hazard approach and definition of an emergency. See NZ Hazards identify 17.
9.1	31	Hospitals, medical equipment, ambulances and the like may be damaged.	Hospitals, medical equipment, ambulances and the like may be damaged. In addition, in the event of a health-led pandemic emergency, many health staff are likely to be absent due to illness, further constraining resources.	To ensure understanding that a health emergency is likely to impact on health staff resources in a way that CD hazard emergencies may not. (e.g.: Pandemic)
9.3	124	Section refers to “health emergencies” and “emergencies”	Ensure “health emergencies” is defined and add in “emergencies”	Widen to also include all hazards as this is too restrictive only to health emergencies and some confusion as it uses “health emergencies” and “emergencies”.
9.3	162	(h)(i-iii)	Add (h)(iv) – hospital evacuation plans are prepared	Hospitals are best placed to prepare hospital evacuation plans in consultation with CD agencies.
9.4	163	Public Health Unit	Public Health Service	The term “Public Health Unit” appears to have been changed to “Public Health Services” as some DHBs no longer have discrete PHU’s (eg Regional Services working across several DHB’s)
9.5	175	Ambulance Services	Incorporate into 9.3	For consistency the ambulance service are considered as part of the “Health Services” so separation out here from DHBs can add complexity. Would include as a responsibility for DHBs.
9.6	197	DHB only	Add PHU are responsible for providing population and public health services in their districts.	Clarifies roles

Section No	Line No	Existing Wording	Recommended Changes	Reason for Change
	198	DHBs are supported by ...	DHB's and PHU's are supported by the ...	Clarifies and acknowledges different roles
9.7	200	The Ministry of Health works with the sector through Regional Emergency 202 Management Advisors located in the four health sector regions (Northern, Midland, 203 Central and Southern) as well as an Emergency Management Team in Wellington.	Add National Health Structure with 4 x HCEGs and include in the definitions	This section could be expanded to add in the four regions structure and the Health Coordinating Emergency Group (HCEG). This would share the structure with other emergency services and provided for consistency.
9.8.1	254	An affected DHB may, with the agreement of other DHBs in its region, activate their regional HEP.	An affected DHB may, with the agreement of the regional health emergency planning group, activate their regional HEP.	The regional health emergency planning group is responsible for activating regional health plans. The regional group involves members in addition to DHB reps e.g. public health, ambulance, CD etc.
10.1	52	Public health and safety (hospitals/ambulance)	Public health and safety (e.g.: Public Health Services, Hospitals)	In the event of an emergency affecting public health (pandemic, volcano, EQ etc), public health services need priority restoration of functioning due to their pivotal roles in such emergencies. Public health services and premises are often distinct from hospitals.
10.2.3	134	Water Sector	Addition: A business continuity plan or emergency supply plan is to be developed in conjunction with the relevant public health service. Could alternatively be added into 10.4.2 line 362	To ensure integration with emergency planning
10.4.3	432 445 464	Key utility players and business as usual arrangements	Addition Water to regional	Water supplies are increasingly being provided on a regional basis and this has not been acknowledged.

Section No	Line No	Existing Wording	Recommended Changes	Reason for Change
11.3	105	Health: Government health agencies, including district health boards and ambulance services, operate a cluster in support of civil defence emergency management.	Health: Government health agencies, including district health boards, public health services, and ambulance services, operate a cluster in support of civil defence emergency management.	Invariably health has all three health reps – DHB, Public Health and Ambulance as each offers unique skills in unique areas of responsibility.
Table 19.1	104	<p><i>Types of warnings issued via the national warning system</i></p> <p><i>National Advisory – (Type of Hazard): Cancellation Message</i> No</p> <p><i>National Warning – (Type of Hazard): Cancellation Message</i> No</p>	<p>Acknowledgement of receipt required?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	If acknowledgement of message activation then the stand down should also be acknowledged.

Appendix 1 - Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) provides public health services for the three district health boards (DHBs) in the Auckland region (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards), with the primary governance mechanism for the Service resting with Auckland District Health Board.

ARPHS has a statutory obligation under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 to improve, promote and protect the health of people and communities in the Auckland region. The Medical Officer of Health has an enforcement and regulatory role under the Health Act 1956 and other legislative designations to protect the health of the community.

ARPHS' primary concern is to improve population health rather than deliver personal health services. It actively seeks to influence any initiatives or proposals that may affect population health in the Auckland region to maximise their positive impact and minimise possible negative effects on population health.

The Auckland region faces a number of public health challenges through changing demographics, increasingly diverse communities, increasing incidence of lifestyle-related health conditions such as obesity and type 2 diabetes, outstanding infrastructure needs, the balancing of transport needs, and the reconciliation of urban design and urban intensification issues.

Policy to effect health gain is often marginalised to medical care. Health, however, is influenced by a broad range of policy decisions and is therefore a multi-sector responsibility and not solely the responsibility of the health sector. Statutes such as the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act, Local Government Act, Resource Management Act and Building Act (amongst many others) all have elements designed to deliver outcomes promoting, protecting and maintaining the health of the community. Planning and policy decisions by central government, local government, non-government agencies and the commercial sector can have a large impact on health outcomes. ARPHS, therefore, has a role to play in policy advocacy. Population health and wellbeing can be improved if policy decision makers are considering long term outcomes. ARPHS aims to influence public policy to create a supportive environment for the communities of Auckland.