

Health Security: Strengthening the Nation's Response to Disease Threats

Strong healthcare and public health infrastructure is indispensable to mounting an effective emergency public health response to emerging infectious disease threats, such as Ebola, Zika, and MERS-CoV. The following policies will help support the resilience of this infrastructure.

There are more than 3,000 counties in the United States, and health security requires that they are all prepared to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to threats.

In such a connected world, health security must be a global effort. We believe in collaborative efforts to build local disease surveillance and response capacity around the world. Mitigating disease risk involves monitoring threats from abroad, which may be imported into (and out of) the United States. We must also support the research and development pipeline to create medical countermeasures to respond to new and emerging threats.

HEALTHCARE READY POLICY POSITIONS



Healthcare and public health infrastructure should be supported by coordinated and flexible funding that can be shifted as needed to provide research and surveillance of current infectious disease threats.



Ensure the research and development of medical countermeasures, especially non-commercially viable products that meet the needs of providers and public health authorities.



Development and execution of biosecurity plans should include a diverse group of representatives, including those from all sectors and levels of government and the private sector.



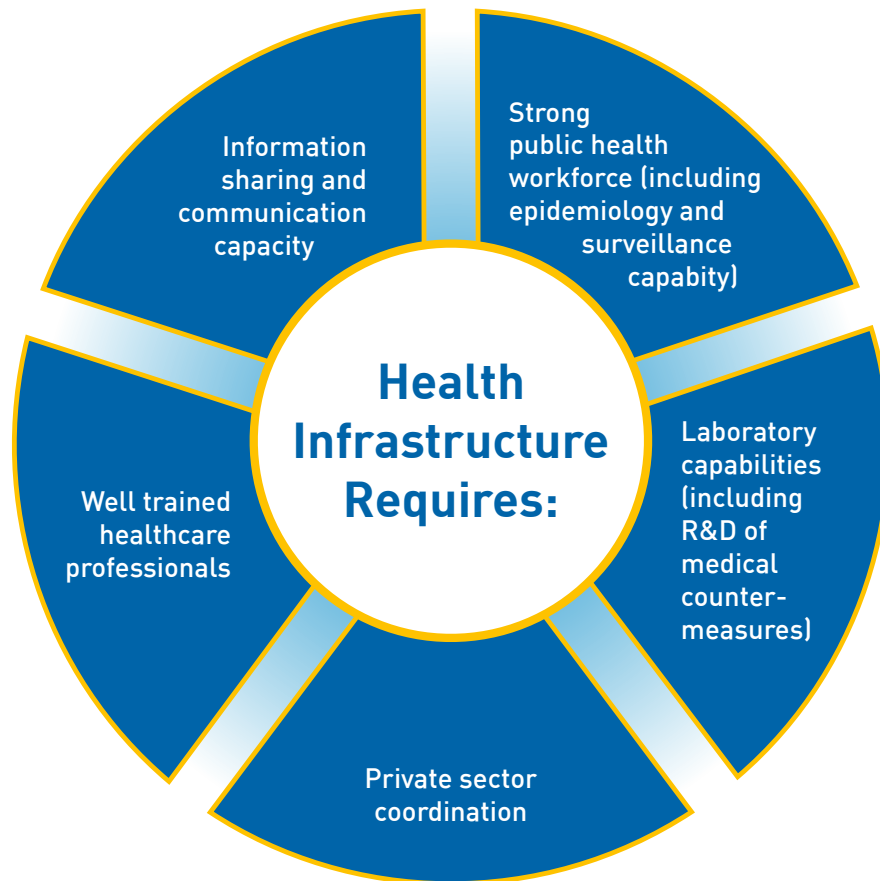
Public health infrastructure includes a strong workforce and well-equipped facilities with rapid response capabilities at the community/local, state, tribal and federal levels. Community infrastructure is a fundamental component of public health infrastructure, as the health system builds on the resources present at the local level.

Public health infrastructure is interconnected with healthcare, which ensures that patients (and communities as a whole) are able to receive care and connect to the health resources that are vital to sustain health – especially in the face of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear threats. Keeping communities safe requires communication and coordination from a range of experts in the government and private sector.

Prevent

Detect

Respond



References

Blue Ribbon Study Panel on Biodefense report: A National Blueprint for Biodefense: Leadership and Major Reform Needed to Optimize Efforts (<http://www.biodefensereport.org/>, accessed September 2016)
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